Wild & Free

Tigers in the wild were born with a special set of traits that make them excellent hunters and top predators. They use their orange and black fur to camouflage in the forests, swamps, and grasslands under the Asian sunset. Then, safely hidden from their prey and from other predators, tigers use their eyesight at night to search for their dinner. Once they find their prey, they can run up to 40 miles per hour to chase it down. That’s as fast as a car!

Since tigers only eat meat, they are called carnivores. They have sharp claws, giant teeth, and can weigh up to 700 pounds. They love to swim and can swim up to 20 miles. Unfortunately, tigers are an endangered species. This means that they are in danger of dying out in the wild. It is important that humans protect their habitat in Asia so they can be free and continue to do the things they love, like running and swimming.

White tigers in captivity

Have you ever gotten in trouble and been put in time out? That’s what it’s like for animals who live in captivity. Captivity is when an animal lives in a cage instead of in its natural habitat. An example of animals in captivity are the animals you see at the zoo.

You may have seen a white tiger at the zoo before and wondered where it came from. You have probably heard that they are an endangered species. This is not true. White tigers are not their own species. They are the same species as the other tigers and are made by two adult tigers who have a gene for white fur. A gene is a code that is passed down to a baby that says what kinds of traits it will have. For example, some of you inherited a gene for blonde hair while others of you have black, brown, or red hair.

The gene that makes tigers white also makes them sick. Every single white tiger is born with its eyes crossed. This is a problem because it affects their vision, and tigers rely on their vision to hunt. Tigers also rely on camouflage to hunt, but it is impossible for a white tiger to camouflage. They stand out too much.
White tigers are not found in the wild at all. Instead, they only live in captivity. Often, people who make white tigers in captivity abandon them if they think they are not beautiful enough. In the picture below is a white tiger named Kenny. His owner got rid of him. Luckily for Kenny, he got to live at a sanctuary, or safe place. He died at the age of 10 of skin cancer. It is common for cats with white fur to have skin problems since their fur does not protect them from the sun.

Abuse

We learned that white tigers who are not considered “pretty” enough are abandoned by their owners and dropped off somewhere else. So what happens to the white tigers that people think are beautiful?

I want you to imagine being stolen from your family - your mom, your dad, your siblings, and your pets. Nobody tells you where you are going. You are forced to take pictures with strangers all day and let people touch you. You hardly get any food because your owners want you to stay small, and right when you finally fall asleep, you are woken up to take more pictures.

This is what happens to many of the “beautiful” white tiger cubs. Their owners think people will pay money to play with them, so they continue to make them. When the cubs grow up, their owners no longer want them. They are dropped off at roadside zoos where they are not well cared for. Some of them are killed.

Each tiger is born with its own set of thoughts, feelings, and desires. They do not want to be played with by humans and their feelings are hurt when they are stolen from their families. On top of this, tigers are dangerous animals and we should never touch them. They look best when they are orange and free in the wild, the way they were meant to be.
Tiger Math

Directions: Answer the questions about tigers. Use the number line to help you.

#1) If a human makes 50 white tigers and only 10 of them are considered pretty enough, how many are abandoned? ___________

#2) If 10 wild tigresses each have 2 babies, how many cubs do they have total? ___________

   Answer the following question using the >, <, or = symbol.

#3) There are about 4,000 tigers in the wild and about 7,000 tigers in captivity.

   4,000 wild tigers _______ 7,000 caged tigers

#4) 2 tigers had a swimming contest to see who could swim farther. Alex the tiger swam 15 miles. Jamie the tiger swam 20 miles. How many miles did they swim in all?

   _____________
Tiger Crossword Puzzle
Instructions: Use the clues to fill in the correct bold word from the reading.

Across:
5 - an animal that only eats meat
6 - a code that decides the traits of a baby
8 - a specific type of animal

Down:
1 - an animal’s permanent time-out
2 - an animal’s way of hiding
3 - an animal that eats other animals
4 - where an animal lives
7 - in danger of dying out
Reading Quiz

1. Where do tigers live in the wild?
   a. Asia
   b. Antarctica
   c. America
   d. The ocean

2. List three special traits that make tigers excellent hunters:

   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

3. Why can’t white tigers survive in the wild?

   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

4. Tigers are carnivores, which means they eat meat. Circle all of the following that can be a part of a tiger’s diet.
   a. French fries
   b. Human
   c. Boar
   d. Deer

5. What is the main idea of the section titled “White Tigers in Captivity”?
Camouflage

Directions: Color in the white tiger so he can better blend in with his surroundings.
Tiger Geography

Instructions: Answer the questions using this list of continents: Antarctica, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Europe, Australia

1. ____________________
2. ____________________
3. ____________________
4. ____________________
5. ____________________
6. ____________________
7. ____________________

On which continent do tigers live?

Which ocean is to the east of their home?

Which ocean is south of their home?
Teacher Key:

Reading assignment/lesson points:

• White tigers are not an endangered species.
• There is no conservation purpose to creating an animal that may only survive in captivity.
• It is unfair to make white tigers because they are born sick and will live in cages forever.
• Wild animals belong in their natural habitats.
• Playing with or taking photos with cubs is not good for the animals. It is also very dangerous for the people.

Activity Answer Key:

Quiz:
1. A
2. Excellent eyesight, camouflage, sharp claws, big teeth, fast runners
3. They are all born sick, and there are no doctors in the wild. Also, they can not camouflage. This means they can not hide from predators or sneak up on prey.
4. B, C, and D
5. White tigers do not live in the wild and are purposefully created by humans. They are not endangered, they are not their own species, and they are all born sick without the traits they need to be successful in the wild.

Crossword puzzle:
1-captivity; 2-camouflage; 3-predator; 4-habitat; 5-carnivore; 6-gene; 7-endangered; 8-species

Math worksheet:
1. 40 white tigers
2. 20 cubs
3. <
4. 35 miles

Tiger geography:
1-Asia; 2-Africa; 3- Europe; 4-Australia; 5-North America; 6-South America; 7-Antarctica
1. Asia; 2. Pacific Ocean; 3. Indian Ocean
Standards/Objectives:

Reading:
- **SC.2.L.16.Pa.1**: Recognize that offspring can be matched with their parents, such as a human baby with adult humans and a puppy with dogs.

Activity A: Quiz:
- **LAFS.2.RI.1.AP.1a**: Answer who, what, where, when, why and how questions from informational text.
- **LAFS.2.RI.1.AP.2a**: Identify the main topic of a multi-paragraph informational text.

Activity B: Map:
- **SS.3.G.1.In.c**: Recognize selected continents and oceans on a world map.
- **SS.3.G.1.In.b**: Identify elements on a map, such as key/legend, cardinal directions, and compass rose.
- **SS.3.G.1.Su.c**: Recognize a continent and an ocean on a map.

Activity C: Math:
- **MAFS.2.OA.1.AP.1a**: Solve addition and subtraction word problems within 100 using objects, drawings, or pictures.
- **MAFS.3.OA.3.AP.7a**: Fluently multiply and divide within 20.

Activity D: Crossword puzzle:
- **LAFS.2.L.3.AP.4c**: Use sentence context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

Activity E: Coloring Sheet