Tigers

Tigers are mammals that live in the jungles and forests of a continent called Asia. Their orange and black coloring helps them to camouflage in the wild. This is very important because without the ability to blend in, they would not be able to hide and hunt. If they can’t hide and hunt, they can’t survive.

A baby tiger, or a cub, is taught how to survive by its mother. In the wild, a cub has a bond with its mother and lives with her until it is 2 years old. When the cub is ready to go off on its own, it uses its ability to camouflage and its excellent eyesight to catch its prey. Since tigers eat other animals, they are called predators. Their favorite animals to hunt include deer and boars. They only eat meat, which makes them carnivores.

When they are not hunting, tigers love to run and swim! They can swim for up to 20 miles and can run up to 40 miles per hour. When they are not going on adventures, they can sleep for up to 18 hours a day. However, they are never fully asleep. Instead, they take cat naps, which means they are always just a little bit awake in case a predator or prey comes by. They are also solitary in the wild, which means they prefer to be alone.

Unfortunately, the tiger is an endangered species, meaning they are a specific type of animal in danger of dying out. It is our job as caring and helpful humans to protect their habitat in the wild and keep them from going extinct. Groups of people all over the world are working on tiger conservation so that they can continue to live in the wild.

White tigers

While the tiger is a protected endangered species, the white tiger is not. This is because white tigers are not their own species. Instead, they have a special gene that makes them white. A gene is a code that says what kinds of traits an organism will have (such as if you will have black or blonde hair). The white tiger’s gene gives them a condition called leucism. Leucism makes their eyes blue and their coats white.

This white coat is a problem. Think about where tigers live: the jungles and forests of Asia. Under the orange sunset, the normal tiger blends in very well. On the other hand, the white tiger is easy to spot and would never get to eat because its prey would see it immediately. Because of the way white tigers look, they will never be able to survive in the wild and are only found in captivity. Even if a white cub were born in the wild, it’s mother would either abandon it or kill it because of its inability to camouflage. Remember, if a tiger can not camouflage, it can not survive.

In addition to a white tiger’s lifelong jail sentence, the making of white tigers is a problem because they are all born with health problems. Every single one of them is cross-eyed. This is not only painful, but it gives them poor eyesight. Since tigers must rely on their eyesight to hunt in the wild, a white tiger’s crossed eyes are another reason they would never be able to survive in the free world and must always be locked up.
You’re probably wondering why white tigers exist if they can not survive in the wild. The answer is that humans create them because people think they are beautiful and will pay money to see them.

It has been estimated that only 1 out of 30 white tigers is born perfect. The rest are thrown away. In the picture below is a “throwaway” white tiger named Kenny. He was purposefully made by humans and is an example of the health problems white tigers can face. Kenny’s owner decided he was not beautiful enough. He was sent to a sanctuary, or a safe place, where he died at the age of 10 from skin cancer. Just like humans with very light skin, tigers with white fur are more sensitive to the sun and can develop skin problems more easily.

Abuse

Sadly, because people like the way white tigers look, they are often abused. Many white tigers are created for zoos just so the zoos can make money. Another example of white tiger abuse is cub petting. Cub petting is when people play with baby tigers as if they were stuffed animals.

The way these cubs live is unnatural. Instead of staying with their mothers for two years and exploring the world around them, cubs used for petting are ripped from their mothers at birth. Since they are raised by humans, they imprint on them and don’t realize they were meant to be raised by tigers.

Throughout the day, cubs are constantly woken up to be touched and tugged on and hardly get any sleep. They don’t get the alone time that they prefer in the wild. On top of that, their owners bottle feed them to keep them small instead of giving them the proper diet of a carnivore. When the cubs become too big, their owners no longer have any use for them. They are dropped off at horrible roadside zoos where they are poorly cared for. Sometimes, they are killed.

People who offer cub petting often say they are doing it for “conservation” purposes. This is a lie. Conservation is about taking care of the animals in the wild. White tigers do not live in the wild and they are not endangered.
Vocabulary

1. **Camouflage**: an animal’s natural color or form that blends in with its surroundings
2. **Captivity**: when an animal is held inside a cage or prison
3. **Carnivore**: an animal that eats meat
4. **Conservation**: protecting the natural world, including its animals and their habitats
5. **Continent**: one of 7 large bodies of land in the world
6. **Endangered**: at risk of dying out
7. **Extinct**: a species of animal that no longer lives
8. **Gene**: a code that decides the traits of an animal when it is born
9. **Habitat**: the place where a plant or animal naturally lives
10. **Imprint**: when a young animal is raised by humans and thinks they are its parents
11. **Leucism**: the condition that gives a white tiger its white coat and blue eyes
12. **Mammal**: a warm-blooded animal that feeds on its mother’s milk as a baby
13. **Organism**: a living thing
14. **Predator**: an animal that hunts and eats other animals
15. **Prey**: an animal that is eaten by another animal
16. **Species**: a specific type of animal
Vocabulary: Match the word to its definition.

1. Camouflage  
a. An animal that hunts and eats other animals
2. Conservation  
b. At risk of dying out
3. Endangered  
c. The place where a plant or animal naturally lives
4. Extinct  
d. An animal that eats meat
5. Species  
e. An animal that is eaten by another animal
6. Predator  
f. A living thing
7. Prey  
g. A species of animal that no longer lives
8. Captivity  
h. A warm-blooded animal that feeds on its mother’s milk as a baby
9. Continent  
i. An animal’s natural color or form that blends in with its surroundings
j. When an animal is held inside a cage or prison
k. A specific type of animal
10. Carnivore  
l. A code that decides the traits of an animal when it is born (Hint: blue eyes)
m. One of 7 large bodies of land in the world (Hint: We live in North America!)
11. Gene  
n. Protecting the natural world, including its animals and their habitats
12. Organism  
o. When a young animal is raised by humans & thinks they are its parents (Hint: This happens when cubs are taken from their real mothers for cub petting.)
13. Habitat  
p. The condition that gives a white tiger its white coat and blue eyes
14. Mammal  
15. Imprint  
16. Leucism
Camouflage

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

Directions: Answer the following questions. Use the space at the bottom to show your work.

1. Around 7,000 tigers live in captivity in the USA. Around 3,890 tigers are left in the wild. Approximately how many more tigers live in captivity than in the wild? Round to the nearest thousand. ________________

2. Only 1 out of 30 white tigers is “perfect”. The other 29 are discarded. If 150 white tigers are born (or 5 groups of 30), how many are discarded? How many are kept?

   Discarded: ________________  
   Kept: ________________

3. Tigers can weigh up to 700 pounds. Divide that by your weight to see how many times bigger a tiger is than you:

   __________

4. Tigers can sleep for up to 18 hours a day. What fraction of their day is that? Write your answer as a fraction and a decimal.

   ________________
QUIZ

Directions: Answer the questions below.

1. Where do white tigers live?
   a. The snow
   b. Asia
   c. Captivity
   d. Africa

2. Circle all the reasons why white tigers can not be released into the wild:
   a. They do not know how to hunt because they were born in captivity
   b. They prefer to be in cages
   c. There is not enough space in the wild
   d. They can not camouflage and would not survive

3. Why is it a bad idea to pet or take pictures with a cub?
   a. The cub was stolen from its mother and family
   b. Tigers are dangerous, wild animals
   c. It’s abusive to the cubs
   d. All of the above

4. Which one of the following is an endangered species?
   a. Dog
   b. Tiger
   c. Cockroach
   d. White tiger

5. What is the purpose of conservation?
   a. To make money
   b. To protect animals that live in cages
   c. To protect a species in the wild
   d. To get rid of an animal

6. Why is making a white tiger a bad idea?

   _____________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________
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. ____________________

1. On which continent do tigers live?
2. Which ocean is to the east of their home?
3. 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- C
2- A & D
3- D
4- B
5- C
6- Making a white tiger is a bad idea because every white tiger is guaranteed to have health problems and it is unfair to intentionally breed an unhealthy animal. Also, they can not be released into the wild because of their imprinting on humans, inability to camouflage, and lack of training from their mothers on how to hunt.

Vocab:

1. I (i) 9. M
2. N 10. D
3. B 11. L
4. G 12. F
5. K 13. C
6. A 14. H
7. E 15. O

Math:

1. 3,000
2. 145 discarded; 5 kept
3. Varies; should be around 7
4. 18/24; 0.75
Map:

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:

Activity A: Map
- SS.5.G.1.Su.a: Recognize current and historical information using selected geographic tools, such as a map, globe, or satellite image.
- SS.4.G.1.In.d: Identify information provided on maps using the title, compass rose, cardinal and intermediate directions, symbols, and key/legend.

Activity B: Reading assignment & quiz
- LAFS.5.RI.1.AP.2a: Determine the main ideas of a text.
- SC.35.CS-CS.1.1: Identify the concepts illustrated by a simulation (e.g., ecosystem, predator/prey, and invasive species)
- SC.5.L.17.In.1: Identify features of common plants and animals that enable them to survive in different habitats (environments).
- LAFS.5.L.3.AP.4a: Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph or text; a word’s position in a sentence) to determine the meaning of unknown or multiple-meaning words.

Activity C: Vocab
- LAFS.5.L.3.AP.4d: Find the precise meaning of a word.
Activity D: Math
- MAFS.4.NBT.1.AP.3a: Use a hundreds chart or number line to round to any place (i.e., ones, tens, hundreds, thousands).
- MAFS.4.NBT.1.AP.2c: Understand the role of commas to read and write numerals between 1,000 and 1,000,000.
- MAFS.4.NBT.1.AP.2a: Compare multi-digit numbers.

Activity E: Coloring Sheet