

# Lions and Tigers

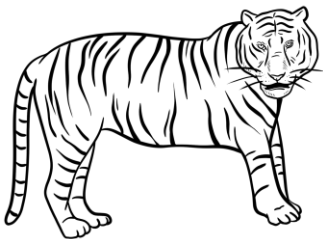
Level 5

Lions and tigers both belong to the cat family, known as Felidae. There are several similarities and differences between the two species.

Lions are taller than tigers, yet tigers are almost twice as long. Tigers are also stronger and heavier than lions. Male lions are recognisable from female lions due to their dark brown mane. A lion's fur is a solid yellow-gold colour, which helps them to blend in with their surroundings. Tigers do not have manes, but they do have stripes along their orange fur. These black stripes help them camouflage. The pattern of each tiger is unique, meaning it is possible to identify and track different individuals. This can be helpful for wildlife biologists who are studying tigers and their environments.



Lions and tigers are both carnivores and prefer to hunt at night. Unlike other cats, lions live and hunt in groups. These groups are called prides. A pride is a family unit and can number anywhere from 2 to 40 lions. The size of the prides varies according to the availability of food and water. Lions have two main methods of hunting: they can stalk their prey and then pounce, or they can work with other lions to simply corner their prey. In contrast, tigers are solitary animals. They live and hunt alone. A tiger hunts its prey by stalking it quietly before pouncing. The tiger will usually lunge at the neck of its prey in order to suffocate it.



Most lions live in Sub-Saharan Africa, whereas most tigers live in the tropical regions of Asia. Lions and tigers inhabit a variety of environments. Lions are commonly found in savannas and wide-open plains. Habitats of tigers include grasslands, savannas, rainforests and even swamps. The litter of a female tiger usually consists of two or three cubs, while the litter of a female lions is usually between one and four.

Although lions and tigers are both apex predators, meaning they are at the top of the food chain, they face threats from humans. Hunting, along with habitat destruction and fragmentation have led to a decline in the number of both species in the wild. Tigers are currently considered 'endangered', while lions are listed as 'vulnerable'.

**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

**India is the only country in  
the world to have both  
lions and tigers in the wild.**



# Questions

Lions and Tigers – Level 5

1. To which family do lions and tigers belong? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is a 'solitary' animal? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What does the word 'lunge' mean? \_\_\_\_\_

4. How might a tiger's stripes be useful to a biologist?

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5. What factors affect the size of a pride?

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6. Explain how these factors might affect the size of a pride.

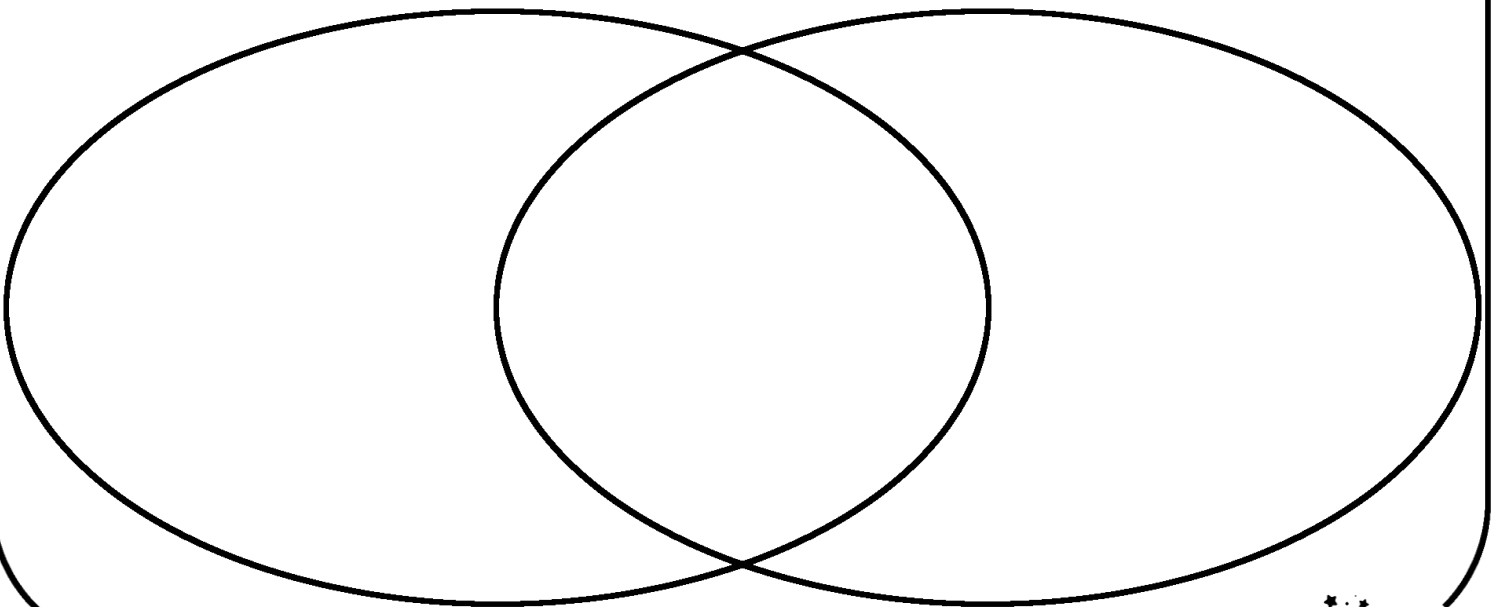
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7. Compare and contrast lions and tigers by listing similarities and differences on the Venn diagram.



# Answers

1. To which family do lions and tigers belong? **The cat family (Felidae).**
2. What is a 'solitary' animal? **It is an animal that lives by itself.**
3. What does the word 'lunge' mean? **Lunge means move towards something quickly.**
4. How might a tiger's stripes be useful to a biologist?  
**A biologist could use a tiger's stripes to keep track of individual tigers. They could study the behaviour and movements more easily.**
5. What factors affect the size of a pride?  
**The size of a pride is affected by how much food and water is available.**
6. Explain how these factors might affect the size of a pride.  
**If there are not many prey animals in a particular area, there would not be enough food to support a large number of animals in a pride. Similarly, if there was not much water, a pride could not be too large.**
7. Compare and contrast lions and tigers by listing similarities and differences on the Venn diagram.

