

# The Mini Page®

**Next Week:**  
Summer reading

Issue 20, 2020

Founded by Betty Debnam

## Majestic Tigers



photo by Danny James Ford

### Mini Fact:

Tigers don't purr, but they make a kind of **chuffing** sound in their throats when they are happy.

If you were going to pick one of the most magnificent animals on Earth, what would you choose? The tiger would be many people's top choice.

In the last century, tigers have suffered a sharp drop in numbers. Today there are fewer than 3,900 tigers outside zoos. One hundred years ago, there were about 100,000.

There once were nine **subspecies**, or types, of tigers. Three of those types are already extinct.

### Awesome power

The tiger is the biggest cat in the world. Some male Siberian tigers can weigh as much as 570 pounds. They can stretch from 7 to 12 feet long.

It is the only big cat with stripes. The stripes help the tiger blend into forests and tall grasses. It hides in the vegetation, stalking its prey until it gets close enough to pounce.

Tigers have powerful teeth and claws. An adult tiger can kill an animal four times bigger than itself.

### Hunting habits

Tigers need to eat an amount of meat equal to about one deer a week. If there is a lot of prey in an area, tigers have smaller home ranges. For example, in some reserves in India, a tiger's home range can be as small as 20 square miles.

But in areas where prey is scarce, such as in the Russian Far East, tigers need much more space. One tiger may claim almost 800 square miles of land for itself.



photo by Gemma Carter

### Solitary animals

Each tiger has its own territory. It hunts alone. Tigers come together to mate, and then the male leaves.

The mom cares for the cubs on her own.

A mother tiger may have one to five cubs per litter, but often all but one or two die. Cubs stay with their mom for about two years.



photo by Mathias Appel

Tigers keep away from one another's territory. But there are bigger home ranges where tigers might meet up as they hunt.

Tigers mark their territory by spraying urine. They also have scent **glands** in their faces and feet. They rub their faces against trees to mark their area and let other tigers know where they are.

### Tigers and humans

People are the reason tigers are endangered. Humans have caused trouble for tigers in three ways:

- killing of tigers,
- overhunting of prey,
- habitat loss or habitat breakup.

**Killing tigers:** Sometimes people kill tigers because they are afraid or because the tigers are eating farm animals.

But the biggest reason people kill tigers is to get their body parts to sell. Many people in Asia believe eating tiger parts will give them some of the tiger's power. China is the largest market for tiger parts today.

**Poachers**, or people who hunt illegally, kill tigers to make a profit.

**Overhunting prey:** People eat the same foods tigers eat, such as deer and wild pigs, or **boar**. As people have spread into the tigers' habitat, they have killed most of the tigers' food for themselves.

Then hungry tigers have eaten cows and other livestock and scared people.

**Habitat loss:** People have destroyed much of the tigers' historical **habitat**.

They have cut down forests and constructed buildings within tiger habitat.



photo by Linda De Volder

## Resources



### On the Web:

- [panthera.org/cat/tiger](http://panthera.org/cat/tiger)
- [worldwildlife.org/species/tiger](http://worldwildlife.org/species/tiger)

### At the library:

- "Tigers: Amazing Pictures & Fun Facts on Animals in Nature" by Kay de Silva

The Mini Page® © 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of tigers are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



CHUFF, CLAWS, CUBS, ENDANGERED, EXTINCT, GLAND, HABITAT, HUMANS, LOSS, MEAT, OVERHUNTING, POACHER, POWERFUL, PREY, SPECIES, TEETH, TERRITORY, TIGER, WILD, ZOO.

T	D	W	P	G	N	I	T	N	U	H	R	E	V	O
C	E	H	I	R	P	T	S	E	I	C	E	P	S	W
U	R	A	Z	L	E	I	I	R	E	H	C	A	O	P
B	E	B	O	R	D	Y	D	N	A	L	G	E	C	L
S	G	I	O	M	P	K	S	W	A	L	C	D	H	T
D	N	T	C	N	I	T	X	E	R	R	A	Q	U	I
D	A	A	L	T	J	C	H	U	M	A	N	S	F	G
O	D	T	O	A	T	E	E	T	H	F	G	S	F	E
D	N	P	S	E	Y	R	O	T	I	R	R	E	T	R
O	E	B	S	M	B	P	O	W	E	R	F	U	L	A

## Cook's Corner

### Honey Cinnamon Carrots

#### You'll need:

- 3 cups baby carrots
- canola oil cooking spray
- salt and pepper
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar

- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 tablespoon butter, melted
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon



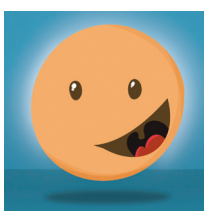
\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

#### What to do:

1. Cut carrots in half lengthwise.
2. Spray a rimmed baking pan with canola oil cooking spray. Spread carrots in a single layer on the pan. Spray carrots. Sprinkle carrots with salt and pepper to taste.
3. Broil for 10 to 11 minutes, stirring halfway through.
4. Meanwhile, combine remaining ingredients in a small bowl. Pour mixture over carrots and coat evenly.
5. Broil for 2 more minutes until carrots are tender. Serves 4.

## 7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.



1. result of a long beach day (7) \_\_\_\_\_
2. math question (7) \_\_\_\_\_
3. online diary (4) \_\_\_\_\_
4. place to grow plants (10) \_\_\_\_\_
5. country south of the U.S. (6) \_\_\_\_\_
6. Olympics competitor (7) \_\_\_\_\_
7. strings in your sneakers (9) \_\_\_\_\_

SUNB	ICO	USE	CES
SHO	BLEM	LETE	GREE
OG	NHO	BL	URN
ELA	ATH	PRO	MEX

Answers: sunburn, problem, blog, greenhouse, Mexico, athlete, shoelaces

The Mini Page® © 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

## Mini Jokes



**Tim:** Why did the tiger refuse to play cards with the other big cats?

**Toby:** Because they were cheetahs!

## Eco Note



The tiger is a **keystone species**. This means it is an animal that the whole ecosystem depends on. (A keystone is a stone at the top of an arch. It holds the other pieces in place.) If the tiger were to disappear, prey animals such as deer would increase. Too many deer can spread disease and eat crops. Environmental groups and national and local governments are working together to set up **preserves**, or protected areas, for tigers.

### For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about groups protecting animals.

**Teachers:** Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



Books from The Mini Page are wonderful resources and make great gifts! See all of our Mini Page products at [MiniPageBooks.com](http://MiniPageBooks.com), or call 800-642-6480 for more information. Mail payment to: Andrews McMeel Universal, Mini Page Books, 1130 Walnut, Kansas City, MO 64106. Include \$4.00 shipping and handling per order.

