



Tigers

Tigers are the largest living species of cat in the world. They are strong and fast and lethal hunters. There are six different sub-species of tiger alive in the wild today, but their numbers are dwindling rapidly, and urgent action is needed to prevent many of them from becoming extinct. Three other subspecies have already been classified as extinct. Tigers have been around for just over 3 million years, but human activity means that could come to an end very soon.

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Tigers can live in a surprisingly large range of habitats. They are found in rain forests, grasslands, savannas and mangrove swamps. Unfortunately, human activity means that tiger habitats are being destroyed at an alarming rate. Over 90% of historical tiger lands have disappeared, meaning there is significantly less space for them to live in. Deforestation is one of the largest problems as this removes the tiger's natural homes. New road networks mean that the spaces where tigers can live are separated from each other. This is called fragmentation. It means that tigers cannot establish large enough territories to support themselves, along with dangers associated with crossing wide, busy roads. Because of all this, the World Wildlife Foundation estimate that there are only around 3,900 tigers left in the wild, across all six sub-species. At the end of the First World War, there were an estimated 100,000 tigers in the wild.

IS ANYTHING BEING DONE?

In November 2010, world leaders from countries that contain wild tigers met in St. Petersburg in Russia. The event was called the Global Tiger Summit and was organised to try to form a plan to save the tigers. Leaders from Bhutan, Nepal, Vietnam, Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Russia, Bangladesh, India, Thailand and Laos all came together and agreed to try to double the number of tigers in the wild by 2022. At the time, there were an estimated 3,200 tigers left in the wild. The historic forum managed to secure over 120 million US dollars for tiger preservation from the countries that attended. The World Wildlife Foundation agreed to spend 50 million US dollars on tiger conservation work. The Global Tiger Initiative and the Global Tiger Forum continue to work with the WWF to drive the issue forwards. The last count of tigers by the WWF was in 2016 when numbers were estimated at being near to 3,900. Over half of the tigers alive in the wild live in India.

CAN I HELP?

There are many things that you can do to help tiger conservation. Charities such as the World Wildlife Foundation rely on donations to keep up their amazing work. You can adopt a tiger (or any other animal in danger) through them, and that money will go directly towards conservation efforts.

Many zoos around the world are part of a global network that help to conserve species of endangered animals. Zoos such as ZSL in London have breeding programmes that help to boost numbers in the wild. By donating money to these zoos, you can help to continue that work.

Not everything needs to cost money, though. Spread awareness to people that you know about the plight of the tigers. One of the largest threats to tigers is poaching. Make sure that any products you buy aren't supporting the poaching industry, especially if you travel to any of the countries where tigers live. You can join organisations and sign petitions to your government to ask them to get more involved.

It's important to remember than any help is better than none at all.





1

Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
Tigers are not very good hunters		
Tiger numbers have risen since the First World War		
Zoos help to increase tiger populations		
Numbers have increased since 2010		

2 marks

2

Look at the section headed: **Can I Help?**

Which of the following **two** statements are **true**?

Tick **two**.

The WWF is a charity

All help costs money

Poaching is a big threat

Tigers can recover on their own

2 marks

3

Look at the section headed: **What is happening?**

Find and **copy one** word that is a synonym for considerably.

1 mark





4

a) What evidence is there that things might be improving?

1 mark

b) How can you help tigers? Give **two** options.

2 marks

5

...their numbers are dwindling rapidly

What does **dwindling** mean in this sentence?

1 mark

6

Why was it important that India attended the Global Tiger Summit?

1 mark



SATs Practice - Answers

1. **Give 1 mark for two correct answers and 2 marks for three or more.**

False

False

True

True

2. **Give 1 mark for each correct answer**

The WWF is a charity

Poaching is a big threat

3. Significantly

4. a) Numbers have increased since 2010

b) 1 mark for each answer (up to a maximum of 2) from:

Donate money to zoos

Spread awareness

Join an organisation

5. Getting smaller

6. Half of the tigers alive live in India