

# Zoo Keepers

## Tiger

### Instructor Notes

#### General Facts about Tigers

**Class:** Mammalia  
**Order:** Carnivora  
**Family:** Felidae  
**Genus:** *Panthera*  
**Species:** *tigris*  
**Sub-species:** 6

**Length:** 5 - 10 feet

**Tail Length:** 2 - 4 feet

**Weight:** 165 - 716 lbs

Male tigers are bigger than female tigers.

**Lifespan:** 14 - 18 years old in the wild; up to 30 years in managed care.

**Babies:** 2 - 3 babies at birth, but can have up to 7 at a time.

**Habitat:** flooded mangrove forests, arid forests, tropical forests, jungles and snowy areas.

**Diet:** Some of their favorite meals include pigs, deer, rhinoceroses, and even small elephants.

#### Fun Facts

- Like human fingerprints, every tiger has a unique pattern of stripes that can be used to identify it.
- A tiger's canine teeth are 3 inches long.
- A tiger's night vision is 6 times better than a human's.
- Unlike most members of the cat family, tigers seem to enjoy water and swim well.
- Run up to 40 mph.
- A tiger's roar can be heard up to 2 miles away.
- The tiger has a patch of white fur on each ear. During an aggressive encounter, the

tiger turns its ears to flash the white spots as a warning.

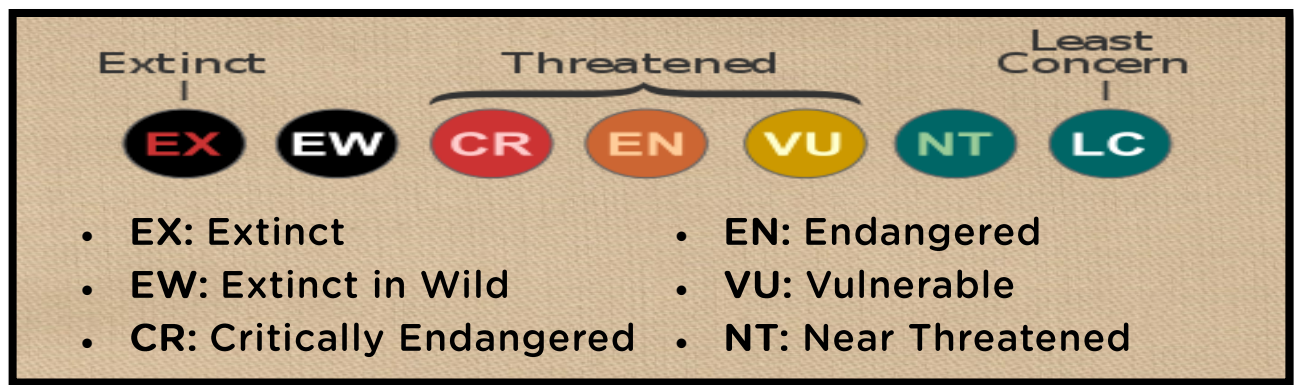
- **Retractable Claws:** The tiger uses its claws and big paws for attacking.
- **Long Tail:** The tiger uses its tail for balance during an attack.
- Their unique stripes and colors help them blend into the forests, grassy and snow areas where they live and hunt.

#### Conservation

- We've lost 96% of wild tigers in the last century.
- A century ago, there were 100,000 tigers on the planet. Today, there are less than 4,000.
- Tigers are threatened by growing human populations, loss of habitat, and illegal hunting.
- Discovery Communications is working with World Wildlife Fund to support a worldwide effort to double the number of tigers in the wild by 2022.
- By conserving a million acres of protected land on the border of India, this effort aims to ensure a healthy habitat for future generations of tigers.

#### How to Care for Tigers at the Zoo

- **Habitat:** Large & secure. Lots of trees and grass. Source of water. Den.
- **Food:** meat, eggs, milk.
- **Cleaning and maintenance:** Clean up animal waste. Ensure enclosure is safe and secure.
- **Animal care:** make sure the tigers are healthy. Check for signs of disease or distress.



## Tiger Webcams:

Meet live tigers!

<https://www.zoo.org/tigercam>

<http://kids.sandiegozoo.org/videos/livecam/tiger-cam>

<https://explore.org/livecams/big-cat-rescue/big-cat-rescue-tiger-lake>

## Crafts & STEM Activities

### Art

#### Marbling

Allow students to create their own tiger masterpieces through marbling.

#### Tiger Masks

Have students construct their own tiger masks with a variety of materials. Masks can be as simple or complex as needed for students' ability level.

### LEGO Tigers & Habitats

Allow students to create their own tigers and habitats using Legos and other building materials.

### Tiger Habitats

#### Supplies:

- Some type of container (boxes, bowls, etc.)
- Habitat supplies such as fake plants, rocks, sand, paper, clay, etc.

Have students contrast their own tiger habitat out of materials you supply or allow the students to collect their own materials from outside to create a habitat.

### Origami

Allow students to create their own origami projects. Learning origami helps with behavioral skills, cooperative learning, cognitive development, and multi-cultural awareness.

