

Big Cats

1 Big cats live all around the world, but people don't see them very often. They have sharp claws and teeth. They can be dangerous to people but people are even more dangerous to them. Many people hunt big cats. We hunt spotted cats for their fur. We hunt tigers for their bones. We
5 use the bones in Chinese medicine. Some people even hunt big cats just for fun. Here are some of the most famous big cats.

Cheetahs

Cheetahs have long legs and thin bodies and they are the fastest land animals in the world. They can run at about 100 kilometres per hour. But they can only run this quickly for a very short time, because their bodies get too hot. Cheetahs used to live all over Africa, India and the Middle East. Now there are less than 8,000 cheetahs in
15 the world. Most of them live in Africa.



Lions

The lion is the loudest of all the big cats. You can hear a lion roar from about 8 kilometres away. Lions live in families called prides. A pride of lions can have between 3 and 40 lions in it, but there are usually around 15 lions in one pride. The female lions do most of the hunting. They usually hunt in the late evening or the early morning. They kill antelopes, gazelles, wildebeest, buffalos and zebras. You can find lions in Africa and Asia. You can find their cousin, the mountain lion, in America.



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Tigers

The biggest of the big cats is the tiger. They are known around the world for their power and strength. Tigers can weigh up to 220 kilograms. Most tigers come from India and they usually live alone. They are very good climbers and are good swimmers too. They can eat up to 30 kilograms of



meat in one night. 100 years ago, there were over 100,000 tigers in the wild. Now there are only 2,500. Many of them live in conservation parks.

EXERCISE A: Vocabulary

Match the words to the correct definitions.

claws

teeth

hunt

fur

thin

loud

antelope

climb

	To look for and kill something for food.
	Opposite of quiet. To have a lot of noise.
	A sharp nail on the foot of an animal.
	Opposite of fat. To have a very small quantity of fat/skin on the body.
	Bones in the mouth of an animal.
	An animal with four legs that is brown.
	Soft hair that covers the body of an animal.
	To go up something using power in the body.

EXERCISE B: Which Animal?

Read the definitions then decide which animal this describes in the text.

- 1) This animal is the fastest land animal in the world
- 2) You can hear this animal about 8km away
- 3) This animal can climb and swim very well
- 4) This animal is very thin with long legs
- 5) This animal is the biggest cat

EXERCISE C: Answer the Questions

Answer the following questions with the correct information.

- a) How fast can a cheetah run?
- b) What is a group of lions called?
- c) What time of day do lions usually hunt?
- d) How much do tigers weigh?
- e) Where do most tigers live now?

EXERCISE D: True or False

Are the following sentences true or false?

- 1) Cheetahs can run 100km/hour all the time.
- 2) There are millions of cheetahs around the world.
- 3) There are usually 15 lions in a pride.
- 4) Male lions do the hunting.
- 5) Lions hunt giraffes, elephants and zebras.
- 6) You cannot find lions in Africa.
- 7) Tigers live together in a family.
- 8) Tigers eat more than 30kg of meat in one night.
- 9) The number of tigers is bigger now than 100 years ago.