

Tiger Tale

What dangers do the big cats face?

Tigers rule! With their powerful bodies and sharp claws, the mighty cats run the jungle. However, the **felines** may not be large and in charge for long. A feline is a cat.



AP Images

World leaders are helping to protect this mighty kitty.

Wild tigers could soon become **extinct**, or gone completely, according to experts. **As of 2010, only about 3,200 of the big cats are left in the wild in the world.** That's a big change from 100 years ago. Back then, about 100,000 wild tigers roamed the planet.

One **threat**, or danger, the felines face is habitat loss. Tigers live in Asia. Loggers there cut down trees in the forests to make paper and other items people buy. Less forest means less room for the animals to roam and search for food. Another threat is **poaching**. That is illegal hunting. In China, tigers are poached for their fur and bones.

Officials are roaring to action to help save the big cats. Recently, world leaders met to discuss the felines' future. "[Saving the] tigers is a very important issue," says Suwit Khunkitti. He is an official from Thailand. That is a country in Asia where tigers live.



Leigh Haeger

The leaders' goal is to double the number of wild tigers within the next 12 years. They are putting together a plan to help protect the animals. One of their first steps is to make people aware of the dangers the cats face, explains Barney Long. He is a wildlife expert. Leaders also plan to come up with ways to stop poachers.

"If we can solve these problems, the future is very, very bright [for tigers]," Long told *WR News*.

Tiger Trivia

These big cats are some of the fastest, largest, and strongest felines in the wild. Read to learn more about tigers.



Animals Animals

Hungry Hunters

Running through the jungle makes tigers work up an appetite. They can eat up to 88 pounds of meat at a time.



One of a Kind

Each cat's stripes are unique, like human fingerprints. No two tigers have the same pattern.

iStock



Sleepyheads

Don't let their size fool you. Even adult tigers can sleep like babies. They spend up to 18 hours a day in dream land.

Corbis

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. What is the goal of the world leaders' plan to help the tigers?
 - A The goal is to stop poachers from killing tigers for their fur and bones.
 - B The goal is to help tigers move to forests that are not being cut down.
 - C The goal is to double the number of wild tigers in the next 12 years.
 - D The goal is to study the stripes of tigers and learn why they are unique.

2. In the passage, the author describes the problem of tigers being an endangered species. Which of the following solutions is described in the passage?
 - A One solution is to end the poaching of tigers.
 - B One solution is to teach tigers to climb trees.
 - C One solution is to feed tigers more meat.
 - D One solution is to let tigers sleep more.

3. The author implies that
 - A people are more of a threat to tigers than tigers are to people
 - B tigers will never become completely extinct
 - C people need to learn how to sleep like tigers do
 - D world leaders need to work together to create zoos for tigers

4. Read the following sentence: "[100 years ago,] 100,000 tigers roamed the planet."

In this sentence **roamed** means

 - A destroyed
 - B wandered
 - C lived
 - D disappeared

5. What would be another good title for this passage?
 - A How to Catch a Tiger
 - B Problems for Tigers
 - C World Leaders and Tigers
 - D Tigers and How They Hunt

6. What are two threats to tigers?

7. How might awareness among people of the problems facing tigers make a difference for tigers?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Loggers cut down trees in the forests where tigers live, _____ tigers are losing their homes.

- A however
- B so
- C but
- D because

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Over the next 12 years, world leaders want to help tigers by making people aware of the dangers tigers face.

Who? world leaders

(do) What? _____

How? _____

When? _____

10. Read the vocabulary word and definition below, and complete questions 10a, 10b, and 11.

Vocabulary Word: threat (threat): something that is a sign or indication of danger.

10a. Read the sentences below and underline the word **threat**.

1. Eating candy is a threat to your teeth.
2. It is a threat to your safety to cross the street without looking.
3. Many endangered species are under threat of becoming extinct.
4. The teacher told the students that there was no threat of rain tomorrow, so they should be prepared for the field trip.
5. A girl in my class made a threat by saying that if I didn't give her my lunch money, she would tell the teacher I cheated on a test.

10b. Which object is a bigger threat to one's safety?



11. Is a campfire a threat? Why or why not?

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 680

Featured Text Structure: Problem/Solution – the writer poses a problem and suggests possible solutions

Passage Summary: The passage gives an overview of the dangers tigers face as they are threatened by extinction, as well as actions world leaders are taking to curb those threats. It ends with a list of distinctive tiger attributes.

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6. What are two threats to tigers?

Suggested answer: One threat to tigers is that the forests they live in are being cut down for wood to make paper and other items. Another threat is that tigers are poached (hunted illegally). [paragraph #3]

7. How might awareness among people of the problems facing tigers make a difference for tigers?

Suggested answer: If more people were aware of the problems facing tigers, people might try to help them and work to solve the problems of logging and poaching. [paragraphs #3, 5]

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Loggers cut down trees in the forests where tigers live, _____ tigers are losing their homes.

- A however
- B so
- C but
- D because

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Over the next 12 years, world leaders want to help tigers by making people aware of the dangers tigers face.

Who? world leaders

(do) What? **want to help tigers**

How? **by making people aware of the dangers tigers face**

When? **over the next 12 years**

10. ReadWorks recommends that you teach this vocabulary word to the whole class out loud using the four steps listed below.

Vocabulary Word: threat

Step 1: Introduce the word

- a. Teacher writes the word on the board and divides it into syllables: (threat)
- b. Teacher says: "This word is threat. What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "threat."]

Step 2: Provide a child-friendly definition

- a. Teacher says: "Threat means something that is a sign or indication of danger."
- b. Teacher says: "In the text, the author states that tigers face some different threats, like logging and poaching and habitat loss. These things put tigers in danger. The word threat can also mean someone saying that something bad will happen to you if you don't do what he or she wants."
- c. Teacher says: "What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "threat."]

Step 3: Practice the word

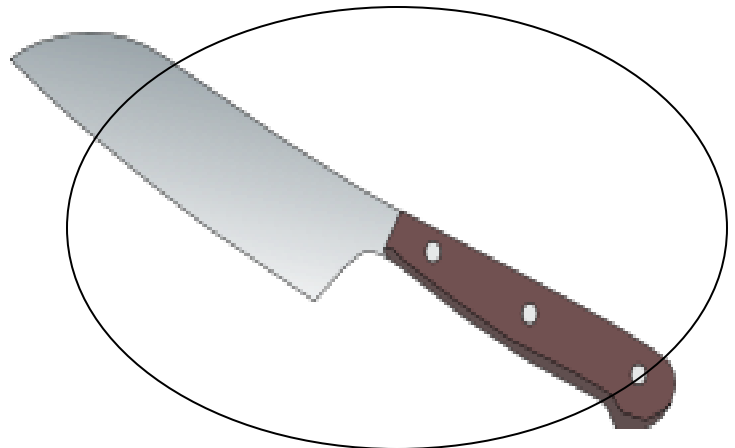
Teacher provides examples and additional opportunities to repeat the word. Read the first sentence out loud to your students. Begin reading it again and when you come to the vocabulary word, prompt students to say the vocabulary word out loud. Then, finish reading the sentence out loud to your students.

- 10a.**
1. Eating candy is a threat to your teeth.
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 4. The teacher told the students that there was no threat of rain tomorrow, so they should be prepared for the field trip.
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Step 4: Check for student understanding

This step can be completed as a whole class activity or as an independent practice.

- 10b.** Which object is a bigger threat to one's safety?



- 11.** Is a campfire a threat? Why or why not?

Suggested answer: The student could answer that as long as people behave safely around a campfire, it is no threat. If not, it could be a threat.

Suggested Additional Vocabulary: unique, expert