MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

BENGAL TIGER

Panthera tigris tigris

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · © **2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.**
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Fast facts

ANIMAL GROUP	Mammal; cat family
NATIVE REGION	India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan
HABITAT	Forests, grasslands and mangrove swamps
DIET	Deer, wild boar, gaur and nilgai
SIZE	About 8.5-10 feet from nose to tail
WEIGHT	Males 400-570 lb; females 220-350 lb
LIFESPAN	8-10 years wild; up to about 20 in care
STATUS	Endangered (IUCN)



Photo: Plumpton Park Zoo

Did you know?

- A white tiger is a color variant, not a separate subspecies.
- White tigers keep dark stripes and are not albinos.
- No two tigers have exactly the same stripe markings.
- Tigers are strong swimmers and can cross wide rivers.
- A mother raises her cubs until they learn to hunt.

Words to know

Carnivore: An animal that eats other animals.
Canine: A long, pointed tooth that helps grip prey.
Ambush: Waiting out of sight before attacking prey.
Cub: A young tiger.

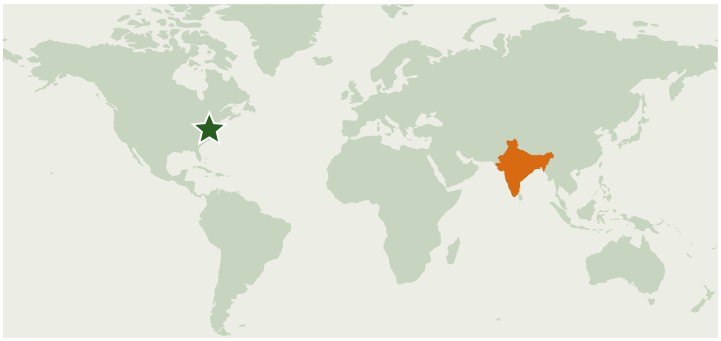
Think about it

1. Use evidence from the page to explain how stripes and strong jaws help an orange Bengal tiger survive.
2. Why is a white tiger not an albino?
3. What animals do Bengal tigers hunt?
4. How does a mother help her cubs become independent hunters?
5. How can researchers use stripes to tell two tigers apart?

Draw it

Draw a Bengal tiger. Label its stripes, strong jaws, canine teeth and paws. Explain how one labeled part helps it survive.

Where it lives in the wild



Lives in the wild ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

STANDARDS · GRADES 1–4 **WRITTEN FOR GRADES 3–5**

Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): **4-LS1-1 · 1-LS1-2**
Pennsylvania (STEELS): **3.1.4.A · 3.1.1.B**

Draw here

Learn more: https://plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/bengal-tiger/ · **Sources:** Smithsonian National Zoo; Animal Diversity Web; Xu et al. (2013)
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: 4-LS1-1 (3.1.4.A) · 1-LS1-2 (3.1.1.B)
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FIELD TRIP WORKSHEET · PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

BENGAL TIGER

Before and after your visit

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Before you visit · 5 minutes

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Predict: where in the wild does the Bengal tiger live?
Circle one (or more if it lives on more than one):

Africa | Asia | Australia | Europe | North America | South America

2. Predict: what does it eat?
☐ plants ☐ other animals ☐ both

3. Word hunt: find these words on page 1. Put a check by each one you already know.
☐ Carnivore ☐ Canine ☐ Ambush ☐ Cub

Pick one word and write what it means in your own words:

_____

_____

4. My question: one thing I want to find out when I see the Bengal tiger.

_____

_____

At the zoo · look closely

Watch for one minute. What is it doing?
☐ resting ☐ eating ☐ moving ☐ watching
☐ with others

Draw or describe one body part that helps it survive, and say how it helps.

Draw here

After your visit · talk it over

1. Check your prediction. Native region: India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. Was your guess right?
☐ yes ☐ no ☐ partly

2. Diet check. The fact sheet says: Deer, wild boar, gaur and nilgai. What did you learn about how it finds or eats food?

_____

_____

3. Discuss with a partner, then write your best answer.

• Why is a white tiger not an albino?

_____

_____

• What animals do Bengal tigers hunt?

_____

_____

4. Exit ticket.

One thing I learned: _____

One thing I still wonder: _____

ADJUST IT
Grades K–2: talk and draw instead of writing; read the questions aloud. **Grades 6–8:** add evidence from the fact sheet and the animal page to every answer.

Learn more: https://plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/bengal-tiger/ · Fact sheet page 1 has the fast facts, map and vocabulary this page refers to.
Grades 1–4 · Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): **4-LS1-1 · 1-LS1-2** · Pennsylvania (STEELS): **3.1.4.A · 3.1.1.B**

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