

A close-up photograph of a lion's face, showing its eyes, nose, and whiskers. The lion has a thick, golden-brown mane and is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression.

# ALL ABOUT LIONS

Roar, leap, and rest with the kings and queens of the grasslands!

A NONFICTION UNIT

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## MEET THE LIONS!

*Roarrrr!* That mighty sound means a lion is near! **Lions** are strong, powerful cats that live in groups called **prides**. They are known as the “kings of the jungle,” but they actually live in wide, grassy plains.





## WHAT LIONS ARE LIKE

Lions are **mammals** and part of the cat family, just like tigers and leopards. They have sharp teeth, strong jaws, and long tails that help them balance. Male lions have thick **manes** around their necks, while females, called lionesses, do not.





## WHERE LIONS LIVE

Most lions live in Africa, in places called **savannas**—large areas with grass, **bushes**, and few trees. A small group of lions also lives in India, in the Gir Forest. They rest under trees during the day and are more active when it's cool.

## FAMILY LIFE IN THE PRIDE

Lions live together in family groups called prides. A **pride** usually has several lionesses, their cubs, and one or two males. Lionesses do most of the hunting, while males protect the pride and mark their **territory**.



## FROM CUB TO LION

A mother lion gives birth to two to four **cubs** at a time. The cubs are born with spots that help them hide in the grass. As they grow, they learn to hunt and play-fight to practice their skills.



## HOW LIONS HUNT

Lions hunt by working together. They sneak close to their prey—usually zebras, antelopes, or buffalo—and then leap! Lionesses use teamwork to chase and surround their food before sharing it with the **pride**.





## DINNERTIME FOR LIONS

Lions are **carnivores**, which means they eat meat. They hunt other animals for food and take turns eating. After a big meal, a lion might rest for hours before hunting again!





## REST AND PLAY

Lions love to rest! They can sleep or nap for up to 20 hours a day. **Cubs** spend lots of time playing—they chase tails, roll around, and pounce on each other. Playing helps young lions grow strong and ready for life in the wild.



## DID YOU KNOW?

- A lion's roar can be heard up to 8 kilometers (5 miles) away!
- No two lion manes are the same—darker manes usually mean stronger lions.
- Lions are the only cats that live in large family groups.

# QUESTION TIME!

1. (True or False) Lions are herbivores.
2. (True or False) Lionesses do most of the hunting.
3. (True or False) Lions live in groups called prides.
4. (Fact or Opinion) Lions have sharp teeth.
5. (Fact or Opinion) Lions are the most beautiful animals in the world.
6. How do lions work together to hunt?
7. Where do most lions live?
8. What do lions eat?
9. How do lion cubs learn to hunt?
10. Why do lions rest so much?



# ANSWERS



1. False. Lions are carnivores—they eat meat.
2. True. Lionesses do most of the hunting.
3. True. Lions live in family groups called prides.
4. Fact. Lions really do have sharp teeth.
5. Opinion. “Lions are the most beautiful animals in the world” is what someone thinks or feels.
6. They sneak up and chase their prey together as a team.
7. Most lions live in the African savannas, and a few live in India.
8. They eat meat from animals like zebras and antelopes.
9. They practice by play-fighting and watching their mothers hunt.
10. Because they use lots of energy hunting, lions need plenty of rest.

# GLOSSARY

**Bush** – a small plant with many branches, often found in the wild

**Carnivore** – an animal that eats only meat

**Cub** – a baby lion

**Mammal** – an animal that has hair or fur, drinks milk from its mother when it is a baby, and breathes air

**Mane** – the thick hair around a male lion's neck

**Pride** – a family group of lions that live and hunt together

**Savanna** – a wide, grassy plain with few trees

**Territory** – an area that an animal defends as its home



## FUN WITH LIONS

*Q: Why did the lion eat the tightrope walker?*

*A: He wanted a well-balanced meal!*