

# IN BRIEF

**Machali the Tigress** was an amazing animal, and she inspired this pack about tigers and other endangered species. Pupils will even learn what they can do to help these magnificent creatures!



## 1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS

- If students don't recognise a word used in one of this month's stories, they should turn to the **Storytime Glossary**. It has handy definitions for the more unusual words in each tale!
- The **Class Discussion Sheet** asks questions about endangered species. More and more animals and plants are facing extinction every day – which ones are your students particularly concerned about, and what can they do to help them?
- The story extract on the **Reading Comprehension Sheet** contains examples of *alliteration*, *repetition* and even an *exclamation*! This exercise will introduce children to these concepts.
- How well do your pupils know Machali's story? Ask them to demonstrate their knowledge by putting the events on the **Story Sequencing Sheet** in the right order – they should feel free to go back and check the story if they're not sure of something.
- The tale of Machali has been retold many times in magazines, books and documentary films – and now your students can tell it in their own way, too! They should write about what happened to the tigress underneath the pictures on the **Storyboard** page...
- Machali was a very fierce and determined creature! Students can show how much they learned about her by turning to the **Character Sheet: Machali** page and answering all the questions... how many facts do they remember after reading the story?

Continued on page 2...

# 1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS CONTINUED

- We hope your students enjoyed reading about many different characters in this month's **Storytime!** The answers in the **Character Crossword** are all about the fun people and creatures that appeared in this issue, and kids should be able to work out the answers from the clues...
- The **Jungle Story Cards** are designed to stimulate children's imaginations! Each one shows a different place or beast that Machali could have encountered, and pupils can come up with their own animal story set in the wilderness by drawing one card at a time. The first card they draw is the main character, and then new cards are drawn to see what creatures or places they find on their travels!

# 2. SCIENCE LESSON IDEAS

- How much do your class know about tigers? The **Top 10 Tiger Quiz** page has 10 puzzling multi-choice questions about these magnificent beasts! Ask the children to discuss the answers to the questions (or possibly look them up!) We're sure that some of the facts will surprise you...
- Tigers are famous for being dangerous creatures – but they are facing dangers of their own! The **Tiger Threats!** page is about the challenges they have to deal with, and has suggestions for how kids can do their bit to help these animals survive.
- Tigers are not the only endangered species on Earth! Learn about animals and the risks they are menaced by on the **Creatures in Danger!** page.
- We hope that the **Tiger Threats!** page made kids aware of the plight of endangered tigers. The **Save Us!** sheet asks them to write a letter from the point of view of a tiger, telling humans about the dangers they must cope with and how they affect their lives.
- Tigers are the largest members of the cat family, and **Feline Family Fun!** lists some of their furry cousins! Can your class match up the names of the different cat species with their pictures and facts?

Continued on page 3...

### 3. MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- The **Inspiring Tiger Bookmarks!** can be printed and cut out for kids to use. (The bookmarks work best if you stick the page to some thin card before cutting them out...) Each one has a different motto on it that will remind children to be as strong and awesome as Machali, every time they open their book!

### 4. ART LESSON IDEAS

- Kids can unleash their inner tiger using the **Machali Mask!** It is designed to be printed and cut out – elastic should be attached to the holes on the sides of the mask so it can be worn. The masks could form the basis for an outside activity where pupils put them on and prowl around the playground as if they were tigers. They can use their imaginations to explore the world from a tiger's perspective!
- Did you know that every tiger has a unique pattern on its fur? The **Stripe Your Tiger!** sheet has a picture of a stripeless tiger for students to colour in their own way. Which colours will they use, and what creative patterns will they come up with?

# STORYTIME GLOSSARY

Look up any new words in this handy reference section!

## A Sky Full of Swallows (Page 6)

- ▷ **Meadow** – kind of grassy field
- ▷ **Clumsy** – not graceful
- ▷ **Emerald** – green-coloured
- ▷ **Drift across** – float gently across
- ▷ **Candy floss** – kind of soft, fluffy sweet
- ▷ **Windowsill** – ledge at bottom of window
- ▷ **Cosily** – in a warm and snug way
- ▷ **Tufts** – clumps of hair or fur
- ▷ **Nimble** – quick and graceful in movement
- ▷ **Marred** – damaged or scarred
- ▷ **Barbed wire** – fence wire with metal spikes
- ▷ **Murmured** – said quietly

## The Lion's Fear (Page 9)

- ▷ **Trembled** – shook
- ▷ **Stalked** – walked as if hunting
- ▷ **Offspring** – children
- ▷ **Tawny** – golden-brown
- ▷ **Gushed** – said in a very admiring way
- ▷ **Flattery** – compliments
- ▷ **Strutted** – walked proudly
- ▷ **Domain** – place he ruled
- ▷ **Terror** – extreme fear
- ▷ **Crowing** – loud calling of a rooster
- ▷ **Quivering** – shaking
- ▷ **Coward** – scared person
- ▷ **Sockets** – spaces for something to fit in
- ▷ **Stampeding** – charging in a wild way
- ▷ **Velvety** – like velvet

## The Baby Bunyip (Page 12)

- ▷ **Outback** – wilderness of Australia
- ▷ **Anthill** – tall nest built by ants
- ▷ **Boasted** – said in a proud way
- ▷ **Whirled** – spun around
- ▷ **Bulrushes** – kind of reed
- ▷ **Cast** – threw
- ▷ **Scaly** – covered with scales
- ▷ **Bunyip** – Australian water monster
- ▷ **Blustered** – said in a loud and brash way
- ▷ **Yelped** – shouted in a scared way
- ▷ **Rushing** – fast-moving
- ▷ **Eucalyptus tree** – kind of Australian tree
- ▷ **Fused** – joined
- ▷ **Surfaced** – came to the surface
- ▷ **Recede** – go back down
- ▷ **Refuge** – a safe place

## Machali The Tigress (Page 16)

- ▷ **Wildlife reserve** – area where animals live
- ▷ **Venture** – go
- ▷ **Prey** – animals we hunt
- ▷ **Territory** – place we control
- ▷ **Twitching** – making small movements
- ▷ **Meaningless** – without meaning
- ▷ **Frail** – weak
- ▷ **Undisputed** – with no disagreement
- ▷ **Lounge** – relax
- ▷ **Litters** – groups of young
- ▷ **Magnificent** – very impressive
- ▷ **Lurk** – hide

Continued on page 2...



# STORYTIME GLOSSARY

2 OF 2

- ▷ **Surged** – suddenly came
- ▷ **Toothy** – filled with teeth
- ▷ **Snarled** – said in an angry, growling way
- ▷ **Injuries** – hurt parts of her body
- ▷ **Fiercest** – most dangerous

## Sports Day For Hans! (Page 22)

- ▷ **Buzz** – ongoing noise
- ▷ **Goalkeeper** – player who protects goal
- ▷ **Thump** – sound of an impact
- ▷ **Sailed over** – went smoothly over
- ▷ **Bouncing** – going up into the air after hitting something
- ▷ **Dizzy** – off-balance and confused

## The Mansion of the Cats (Page 24)

- ▷ **Allergies** – sensitivities to certain things
- ▷ **Feline** – to do with cats
- ▷ **Leafy** – with lots of plants
- ▷ **Swept** – cleaned with a broom
- ▷ **Saute** – gently fry
- ▷ **Retrieved** – got back
- ▷ **Petted** – patted
- ▷ **Tomcat** – male cat
- ▷ **Nonsense** – foolishness
- ▷ **Gloated** – said in a greedy way
- ▷ **Mischievous** – trouble-causing
- ▷ **Staggered** – walked unsteadily
- ▷ **Drifted off** – gently went

## Minnikin (Page 32)

- ▷ **Seek my fortune** – find a way to become wealthy and successful
- ▷ **Identical to** – just the same as
- ▷ **Crossroads** – place where roads cross
- ▷ **Gleaming** – shining
- ▷ **Ear horn** – device to help with hearing
- ▷ **Dales** – valleys
- ▷ **Minions** – servants and soldiers
- ▷ **Intrigued** – very interested
- ▷ **Yank on** – pull on
- ▷ **Intruder** – unwelcome visitor
- ▷ **Lesser** – smaller
- ▷ **Quaffed** – quickly drank
- ▷ **Drowsily** – in a sleepy way
- ▷ **Clasped** – grabbed

## The Spider in the Cave (Page 39)

- ▷ **Settle** – end
- ▷ **Bully** – force and threaten
- ▷ **Overlord** – top ruler
- ▷ **Self-proclaimed** – named as something by himself, rather than by others
- ▷ **Retreat** – run away
- ▷ **Pursued** – chased
- ▷ **Cobweb** – silk net made by spider
- ▷ **Arachnid** – spider or spider-like creature
- ▷ **Struggle** – difficult challenge
- ▷ **Reeled in** – gathered in
- ▷ **Hurled** – threw
- ▷ **Treaty** – agreement between countries

# CLASS DISCUSSION SHEET

**LET'S TALK ABOUT...** **endangered species!** Machali the tigress was a Bengal tiger, which is threatened with extinction. This month, let's talk about tigers and other creatures that are in danger!

1. What things do wild animals need to survive and prosper?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What do you think it means when a species is described as *endangered*?  
How would you define it?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Which species do you think are endangered? How many can you name?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What dangers and threats do tigers and other endangered animals face?  
What do you think we could do to help them?  
\_\_\_\_\_

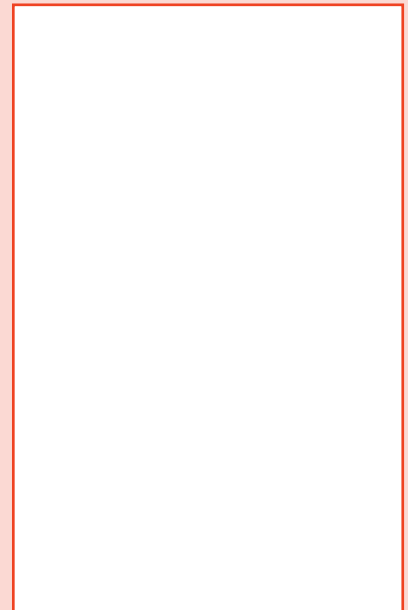
## SAVE MY FAVOURITE SPECIES!

What is your favourite endangered species?  
Write about it – and draw it on the right.

**My favourite endangered species is the:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Where can it be found?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What can we do to help save it?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# READING COMPREHENSION SHEET

Find an exclamation and examples of alliteration and repetition in this extract from the tale of the tigress!

66

"WOW! Then it is a great thing to be a tiger!" purred little Machali.

Her mother gave a gentle growl. "It is, but we must always stay strong. We fight for our prey, for our territory, and for our cubs. When we finally become weak, our time has passed. Do not be sad, for this is the way of the world."

99

1. In this passage, one character uses an *exclamation* to show that she is impressed. What do you think it is?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Can you spot two examples of *alliteration* in the second paragraph of the extract? (Alliteration is when two or more words begin with the same letter or sound.)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Some words are repeated three times in the second paragraph – what are they?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. In the second-to-last sentence is an *adverb* that tells you when something happens. Which word do you think it is?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## OPPOSITES ATTRACT!

Can you come up with opposites to all of these words? Here is an example to get you started...

**Strong: Weak**

Tall: \_\_\_\_\_

Slow: \_\_\_\_\_

Far: \_\_\_\_\_

Easy: \_\_\_\_\_

ANSWERS: 1. WOW! 2. Gentle growl and stay strong. 3. For our. 4. Finally. Opposites Attract! Short, fast, near and hard are possible answers.

# STORY SEQUENCING SHEET

Which order should these events from 'Machali the Tigress' be in?  
Write a '1' after the first one, a '2' after the second one, and so on...

Machali became known as the 'queen of Ranthambore'. She had eleven cubs, and taught them how to be as strong as she was.

The tigress and the crocodile fought fiercely in the river! After a long battle, Machali finally won and drove her foe away.

Machali's mother taught her that tigers are the mightiest animals in the park, and that she must be strong and have many cubs.

By this time, though, Machali had been injured in many fights, and one of her eyes was hurt! She slowly became weaker.

Machali's mother was proud of her for driving her sisters away. She went into the woods, leaving Machali in her new territory.

This battle made Machali famous! She was featured in magazines and books, and tourists came to Ranthambore to see her.

When she and her sisters grew up, they fought for territory. Machali won and took the best area beside a lake.

It was a mugger crocodile! It came out of the water and tried to snatch the cub, but Machali lunged at the huge reptile.

Many years ago, a Bengal tiger called Machali was born in Ranthambore National Park in India.

The tigress knew it was time for one of her cubs to drive her away and become the new queen of Ranthambore...

One day, as she was walking with her cubs past the river, one of the youngsters spotted something in the water...

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

# STORYBOARD

Tell the tale of Machali in your own way by writing about what happened to her underneath these colourful pictures!

1




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2




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3




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4




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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

## CHARACTER SHEET: MACHALI

Find out how much you learned about this terrific tigress by answering all of the questions below!



What would Machali say is the best thing about being a tiger?

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What do you think was Machali's most impressive achievement?

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Which three adjectives would you use to describe Machali?

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Draw the face of one of Machali's cubs here, with a cool pattern of stripes!



What did Machali like about her home?

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Machali was brave, but what do you think she might have been scared of?

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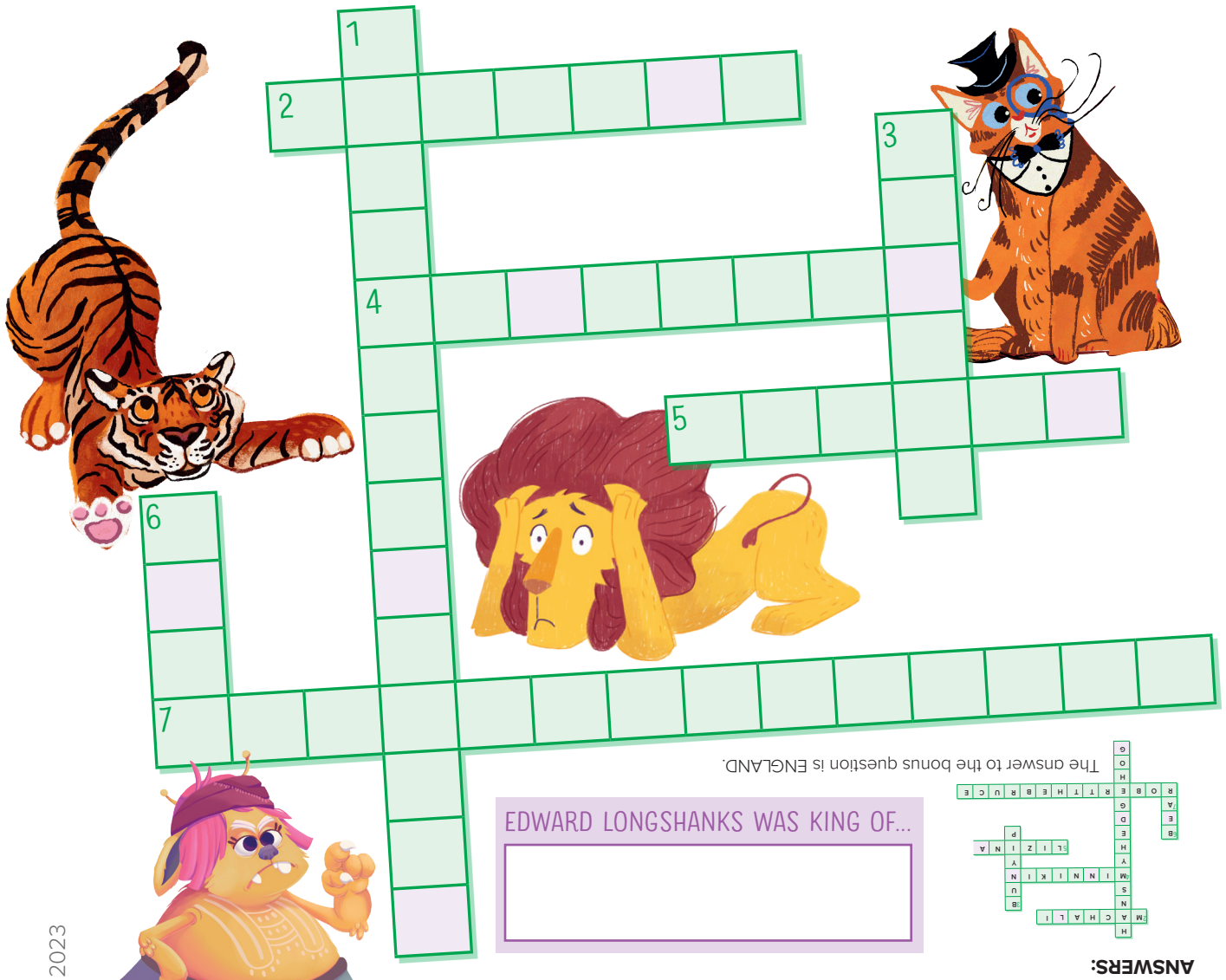
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NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_



# CHARACTER CROSSWORD

Use the names of characters from this month's issue of **Storytime** to complete this fun new crossword. Also, can you spell the name of a country using the letters in the coloured spaces?



## ACROSS

- 2.** I'm the queen of Ranthambore!
- 4.** My twin brother became a king!
- 5.** I'm the best at caring for cats!
- 7.** I declared myself to be the king of Scotland!

## DOWN

- 1.** I 'spiked' a ball during a game!
- 3.** I'm a baby and if you catch me, my mum will come after you!
- 6.** I'm furry, I live in the woods, and I love watching the sky!

# JUNGLE STORY CARDS

Cut out these cards and use them to create a fun jungle tale! Draw one card from the set to find out who your main character will be – and then draw extra cards one at a time to find out which places or creatures they find!



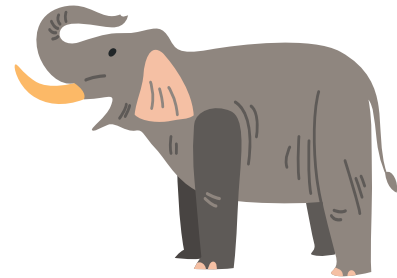
**TIGRESS**

**CROCODILE**



**ORANGUTAN**

**ELEPHANT**



**DESERT**



**JUNGLE**



**MOUNTAINS**



**RIVER**







## TOP 10 TIGER QUIZ!

Tigers are surprising creatures! Can you work out the correct answers to these multiple-choice questions? Which fact did you find most interesting?

1.

Which country has the largest number of tigers in the world?

- A. Australia
- B. India

2.

Which is the biggest cat among all felines?

- A. Lion
- B. Tiger

4.

How do tigers prefer to hunt?

- A. Alone
- B. In groups

3.

Do tigers like swimming and being in water?

- A. Yes
- B. No

5.

How fast can tigers run?

- A. Up to 40km/h
- B. Up to 65km/h

6.

Can tigers and lions have cubs together?

- A. Yes, they are called Tigons or Ligers!
- B. No, that's impossible!

7.

Are they noisy when moving around?

- A. Yes, because they weigh up to 250kg!
- B. No, because the padding on their feet helps them keep quiet.

8.

What does their pee smell like?

- A. Buttered popcorn!
- B. Sweaty socks!

9.

How often does a tiger eat?

- A. Only once every two days!
- B. Every day! They are always hungry!

10.

Do they always catch their prey?

- A. No, only one in ten times on average!
- B. Of course, they are great hunters!

## DID YOU KNOW?

There are nine types of tigers: Bengal, Caspian, Siberian, South China, Indochinese, Malayan, Javan, Bali and Sumatran!

ANSWERS: 1. B, 2. B, 3. A, 4. A, 5. B, 6. A, 7. B, 8. A, 9. A, 10. A.

## TIGER THREATS!

Tigers are among the most magnificent animals on Earth, but they also are endangered and may die out. Here are the threats they face... and things you can do to help them!



### HABITAT DESTRUCTION!

Each tiger needs about 25,000 acres of wilderness to hunt in! Unfortunately, a lot of their habitat is being destroyed by humans to make more farms or harvest timber. They have lost up to 95% of their former territory to people...

### POACHING!

Poaching is illegal hunting. Some people believe that tiger body parts can be used as medicine, and others want tiger teeth, claws or skins as trophies or decorations for their homes!

### CONFLICT WITH HUMANS!

When tigers lose their habitat and traditional prey, they sometimes attack farm animals or even humans – so humans try to get rid of the ‘dangerous’ tigers!

### CLIMATE CHANGE!

Our planet is getting warmer, and flooding and droughts can devastate the habitats of tigers and the animals they prey on, making things even more difficult for them!

### WHY ARE TIGERS IMPORTANT?

Hundreds of other endangered species live in tigers’ territory, so by protecting tigers, you are protecting other animals and plants as well! Tigers help keep an ecosystem healthy by controlling the numbers of plant-eating species and eating the weaker animals. Healthy tigers help keep the rest of the jungle, forest or grassland healthy, too!

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- ★ Support a charity that helps tigers, like the **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)**.
- ★ Use eco-friendly products certified by the **FSC**, which makes sure that forests are properly managed and that the animals that live in them are not exploited.
- ★ Let everyone know how awesome tigers are, so they find out how important it is to protect them!

# CREATURES IN DANGER

Tigers aren't the only endangered species! Check out these fact files on six threatened creatures – can you match each one with the right picture?

## A. ORANGUTANS

**Where they live:** Borneo and Sumatra

**Status:** **CRITICALLY ENDANGERED**

**Cool fact:** Orangutans are close relatives of humans. They have been known to use tools, and sometimes eat with their feet!

**They are threatened by** destruction of their forest homes, especially to make way for palm oil farms.

## B. RIGHT WHALES

**Where they live:** The North Atlantic Ocean

**Status:** **CRITICALLY ENDANGERED**

**Cool fact:** 45% of their body weight is a kind of fat called blubber, which protects them from the cold ocean water. They scoop up massive quantities of small sea creatures in their huge mouths!

**They are threatened by** being hit by ships, getting tangled in fishing lines, and accidentally eating microplastics. In the past, right whales were hunted for their blubber, but this is no longer allowed.

## C. BENGAL TIGERS

**Where they live:** India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, China

**Status:** **CRITICALLY ENDANGERED**

**Cool fact:** The Bengal tiger is the national symbol of two countries: India and Bangladesh!

**They are threatened by** poaching (illegal hunting) of their skins and bodies and destruction of their habitats, which brings them into conflict with humans.

## D. LEATHERBACK TURTLES

**Where they live:** Many seas and oceans around the world

**Status:** **VULNERABLE**

**Cool fact:** They are the largest turtles in the world!

**They are threatened by** getting caught in fishing nets and accidentally eating plastic rubbish in the sea, which can be fatal.

## E. POLAR BEARS

**Where they live:** Arctic areas of Europe, Asia and North America

**Status:** **VULNERABLE**

**Cool fact:** The fur of a polar bear isn't actually white – their skin is black and their fur is clear, but they look white when light strikes them!

**They are threatened by:** global warming, which is melting the ice and affecting the availability of prey. They are also harmed by pollution and oil drilling in the Arctic.

## F. KAKAPO

**Where they live:** Areas of the South Island of New Zealand

**Status:** **ALMOST EXTINCT**

**Cool fact:** These green parrots are the heaviest in the world and can't fly.

**They are threatened by** animals like cats, stoats and rats that were introduced to their home environment by humans. They eat the kakapo's chicks and eggs!



2



3



4



5



6



ANSWERS: A. 4, B. 3, C. 6, D. 5, E. 2, F. 1

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

# SAVE US!

You have read about endangered species and how to save them. Now, imagine that you are a tiger and tell humans about the threats you face and what they can do to help you!





## FELINE FAMILY FUN

Can you match the name, picture and fun fact for each of these members of the cat family?

I AM A....

CHEETAH

JAGUAR

TIGER

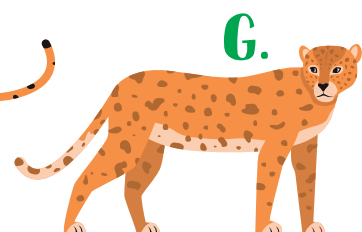
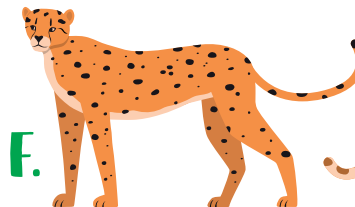
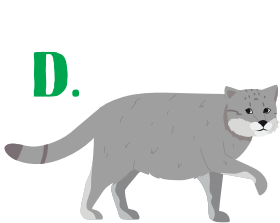
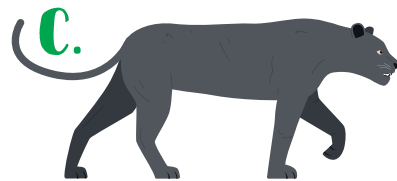
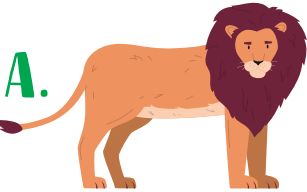
PUMA

LYNX

LION

HOUSE CAT

I LOOK LIKE THIS....



YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT....

1. I'm the biggest cat of all!

2. I'm easy to 'spot' with my big markings!

3. I don't have any spots or stripes on *my* fur!

4. I'm the fastest cat on the block.

5. The ruff of hair around my neck is my 'mane' attraction!

6. I'm a purr-fect pet!

7. I have tufts of hair above my ears and a stubby tail.

ANSWERS: Cheetah: F and 4, Jaguar: G and 2, Tiger: B and 1, Puma: C and 3, Lynx: E and 7, Lion: A and 5, House cat: D and 6.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

# INSPIRING TIGER BOOKMARKS!

Print and cut out these bookmarks so you will never forget where you're up to in your book. Read them to help bring out the tiger inside!



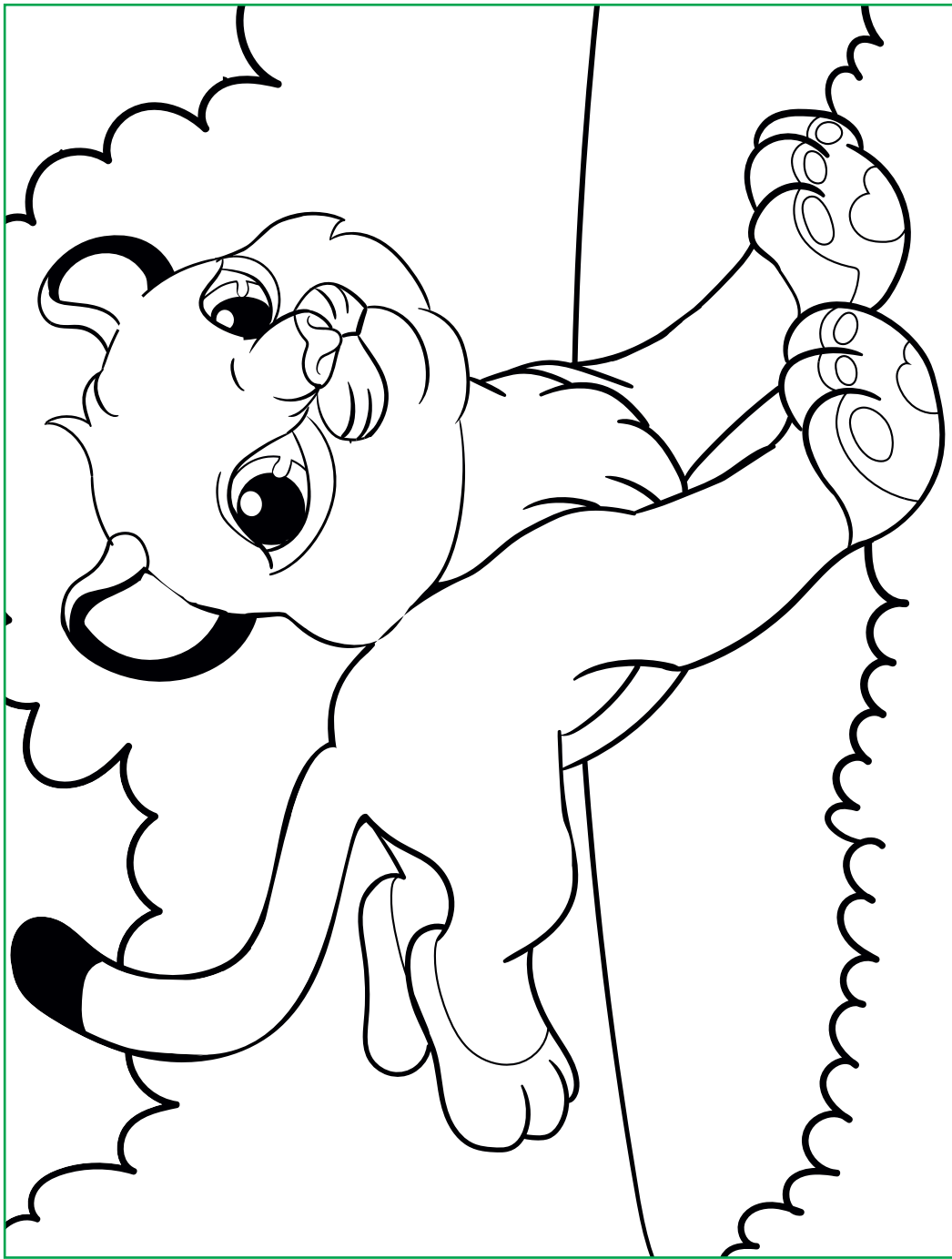
AWESOME ADVENTURES: MACHALI THE TIGRESS

**MACHALI MASK!**



AWESOME ADVENTURES: MACHALI THE TIGRESS

STRIPE YOUR TIGER!



DID YOU  
KNOW?

No two tigers have  
the same pattern  
of stripes on them  
– each set is as  
individual as your  
own fingerprints.  
So come up with a  
totally original design  
for your cute cub!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS \_\_\_\_\_