

Name: _____
Date: _____

Subject: Year 6 Literacy
Unit: Lion

Lion

Quick facts

Diet: Carnivore

Life span in the wild: 14 years

Size: Length - 1.5 – 2.4 m (males)

Height - 1.2 m (males)

Weight: 120 - 191 kg

Group name: Pride

Status: Vulnerable



Lions (*Panthera leo*) are the only big cats that live in large groups, called prides, which can be made up of 3 to 30 lions. The older lionesses of the group will stay together for life but the male lions will only stay for a few months or years.

These powerful predators have razor-sharp teeth and claws, muscular bodies and excellent senses. They can run at very high speeds of 30 mph for short distances and can jump 10 m forward and 3 m high. They are the second largest cat after the tiger. Female lions do most of the hunting. They hunt zebra, antelopes, wildebeests, giraffes, buffalo and wild hogs. When food is scarce lions will also attack elephants if they have to. They spend 90% of their time sleeping. They are good climbers and often rest in trees. Hunting usually takes place during the night hours until dawn. Lions will often fight over their food but will lick each other's wounds when they have finished eating. A lioness gives birth to a litter of two to four cubs. They are born blind until their eyes open which takes 2 – 3 weeks. Cubs spend most of their time playing and learning survival skills that they will need as they grow up.

In the wild, African lions can live up to 14 years of age but in captivity can live longer than 20 years.

They can be found in parts of sub-Saharan Africa and inhabit grassy plains, open woodlands, savannas, and scrubland.

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Answer the following questions:

1. What do we call a group of lions?

2. What is the scientific name for a lion?

3. What is the largest member of the cat family?

4. Lions can run at high speeds of....

a 10 mph

c 30 mph

b 15 mph

d 20 mph

5. How many cubs are there in a litter?

6. Name three animals that a lion will hunt.

7. How much time does a lion spend sleeping?

8. How long does a lion live for in captivity?
