

# Animals of the World: Mammals



## THE LION, KING OF THE SAVANNAH



Lions are considered the kings of the savannah. These strong, aggressive creatures are one of the most well-known animals on the entire planet.

Its scientific name is Panthera Leo and belongs to the cat family. They are carnivorous animals, feeding mainly on zebras, buffalos, and gazelles, but also eat other smaller animals. What they eat depends on the animals where they live.



They hunt for food in packs. There can be up to 3 adult males and numerous lionesses with their cubs and can have anywhere from 3 to 40 lions in a pack. The lionesses are in charge of hunting because they are more agile and faster. Also, they

camouflage better in the undergrowth since they do not have the big mane that characterizes the male lion. The males defend the pack's territory and protect the family.

When a lion gets angry and roars, it is so loud it can be heard 8 km away, about 5 miles. They start developing that powerful roar at the age of two.



When lions finish eating, they rest and doze under the shade of trees. They sleep up to 16 hours a day.

An interesting fact is that lions are the only felines that live in packs. Also, it is the second-largest cat behind the tiger.

Lions live in the savannahs and grasslands, but they can be found living in wooded areas at times.



Young lions live with the adults until they are about two years old. Then, they leave the pack and the males look to establish a new pack. When a lion gets old and loses his strength, he will leave the pack and go far away to die.



Normally, lions have a brown skin color. A few lions have a whitish skin color. The whitish skin color is caused by a genetic mutation. The skin color of lions becomes darker as they age.

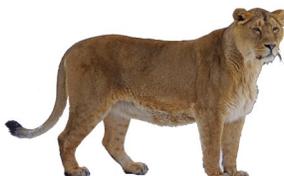
The adult male lion is huge, weighing up to 300 kilograms. Lions can live 20 years; but, typically, they only live 10 to 15 years in the wild.

Because lions have been threatened by human predators, their population is suffering a noticeable decline. Many are now in danger of extinction. This is mainly because of people who hunt them indiscriminately, without considering the consequences this has for the environment. Countries have designated parcels of land as nature reserves and



reservations to protect these animals. It is strictly forbidden to hunt in a nature reserve or on a reservation. Some species of vulnerable lions have had to be rescued and treated in breeding programs at zoos and reserves to protect them from extinction.

Lions have been a highly prized and revered animal for their strength, courage, and power throughout history.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# THE LION, KING OF THE SAVANNAH

Answer the questions.

- Lions are considered \_\_\_\_\_
  - dangerous and toxic animals to humans.
  - the kings of the savannah.
  - very agile animals and very fast.
  - lazy because they sleep most of the day.
- The lion lives its life \_\_\_\_\_
  - around an old lion, who was leading his pack.
  - with families from all the savannah territories and several old lions.
  - in a pack with up to 3 males, several lionesses, and cubs.
  - in different zoos in the world.
- The role of the male lion is \_\_\_\_\_
  - protecting the pack from predators.
  - defending its territory from attacks.
  - ensuring the survival of the pack.
  - All the answers are correct.
- The lioness takes care of \_\_\_\_\_
  - cooking and cleaning for the family.
  - the hunting.
  - going out to buy food.
  - taking care of the old lions in the pack.
- Why do lions roar so loud?
  - When they get angry, they show their strength to the others.
  - It's his way of communicating with his young.
  - They have something bothering their throat.
  - It is a way of singing for the females.



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6. Lions can be bought at zoos or nature reserves, but have to be reserved ahead of time and have a date scheduled to collect it.

- a. True
- b. False

7. Lions sleep up to 16 hours after \_\_\_\_\_

- a. they drink water from the river.
- b. they finish eating.
- c. talking with their young.
- d. getting very hot.



8. The size of a lion \_\_\_\_\_

- a. is small, only about 30 kilograms.
- b. is huge, weighing about 300 kilograms.
- c. depends on whether it eats more vegetables than meat.
- d. varies depending on its skin color.

9. Lions have been threatened \_\_\_\_\_

- a. because of indiscriminate poaching.
- b. because of various diseases.
- c. with the creation of parks and nature reserves.
- d. with the construction of new zoos.

10. When lions have brown skin, it means they are old and head of a pack.

- a. True
- b. False

