

The Lion

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lions are social animals. In the wild they usually live in groups of about fifteen cats. A group of lions is known as a 'pride'. There can be huge prides and small prides. But this number is the average.

Territory And Hunting

Lions are very territorial. It is not advised to stumble onto their patch. The lioness is the main one who is responsible for hunting and bringing the pride food. Even though the male lion is quite intimidating to look at, the females are ferocious and skillful hunters.

Young

The lioness in the pride are usually all related. Each female lion who has given birth to a baby lion (a cub) will have help and support. the other lionesses who have given birth. Lionesses normally have their cubs around the same time. When cubs are small they stay with the pride but if they are male they are then pushed out after three or four years so that they can start their own pride. If they stayed there would be a power struggle and this would not be tolerated by the male lions as there are only one or two pride.

Lions are considered to be the second biggest members of the cat family. the male has a distinctive mane whereas the female does not. No other big cat has a mane. Their roar can be heard from over 8 km away. They have the loudest roar of all the cat family. They communicated with other members of their pride this way. They mark their territory (which can huge!) with their urine to ward off other prides.

Lions are expert hunters. The females with stalk their prey in small groups. They like to eat: antelope, buffalo, zebra, wild hogs, crocodiles and giraffes. If they are particularly hungry they will attempt more formidable animals such as the young or elderly of the elephant, hippo or rhino. They will also eat smaller prey but as they are community based animals they will think of the pride.

Who Eats Lions?

Lions are apex predators. This means that they are top of their food chain. But like all creatures, the old or very young are vulnerable to other carnivores. The hyena and the leopard have been known to eat lion cubs and elderly or weak lions.

The Asian Lion



Where do Lions live?

Most lions can be found in sub-Saharan Africa however you can find a small number of lions in India's Gir Forest. This is most likely where the 'king of the jungle' title originated. Asian lions and African lions are subspecies of the lion.



Diet

Lions are carnivores which means that they are meat eaters. They eat many kinds of meat and the males need to consume up to 7kg a day and the females around 5kg. This is

because the females are smaller. This makes them more agile hunters. A female lion is called a lioness. They manage to capture their prey in every 4 hunts.