

# Tigers

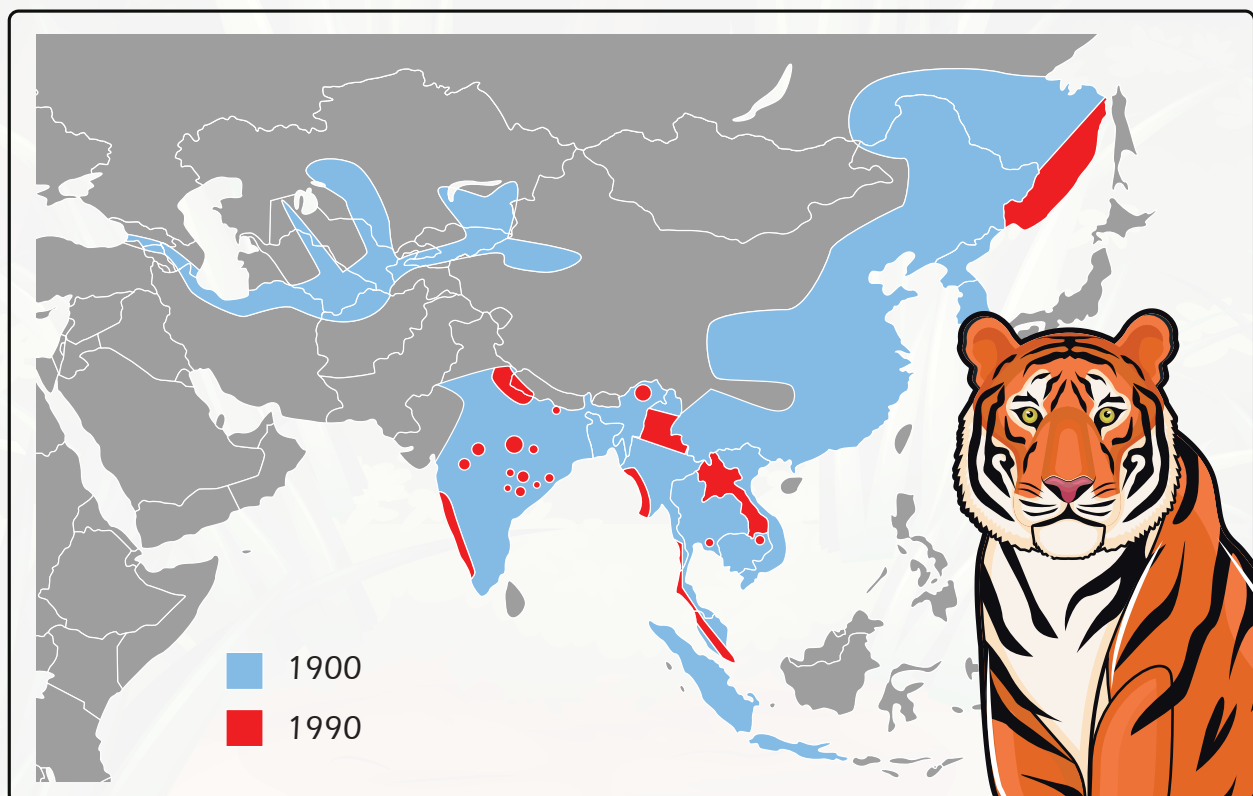
## Terrifying But Beautiful Big Cat In Focus

### What is a tiger?

Tigers are the largest wild cats in the world. The scientific name for the tiger is the *Panthera tigris*. They have distinctive orange, black and white fur and every tiger is unique – no two tigers have the same pattern of stripes. Adults can weigh up to 363kg and can measure over 3 metres long. Tigers live on the continent of Asia.

### An endangered species

Today, there are only 3,900 tigers left in the wild. There are five subspecies of tiger: Bengal, South China, Indochinese, Sumatran and Siberian. Sadly, three subspecies of tiger have already become extinct – Caspian, Bali and Javan. Less than 100 years ago, tigers could be found in most countries in Asia. Due to hunting and habitat caused by humans building on their land, their numbers have declined and now they are only in 7% of Asia.



### What do tigers prey on?

Tigers are solitary hunters, and generally search for food alone at night. They are stealthy hunters and move as fast as 65km per hour! They quietly stalk their prey until they're close, then pounce and land a fatal blow on the neck or back of the head. They have the ability to leap over 30 feet with a single step to lift them off. Tigers are carnivores, which means they only eat meat. They mainly feed on large mammals such as wild pigs, buffalo, boars and even weak or young elephants. If it's a large animal, it can feed the tiger for up to a week.

Learn more:

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/learn/wildlife/tigers>

Did you know?

Tigers, unlike most other cats, like water. They are good swimmers and use water to cool down!

The tiger is the national animal of India.

