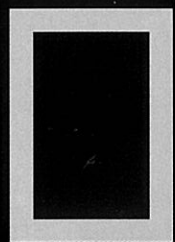


NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



WORLD

DECEMBER 1995

Snowboarding:
**HOT SPORT,
COOL MOVES**

The Trouble with Trolls

GET WET
at an ocean museum...

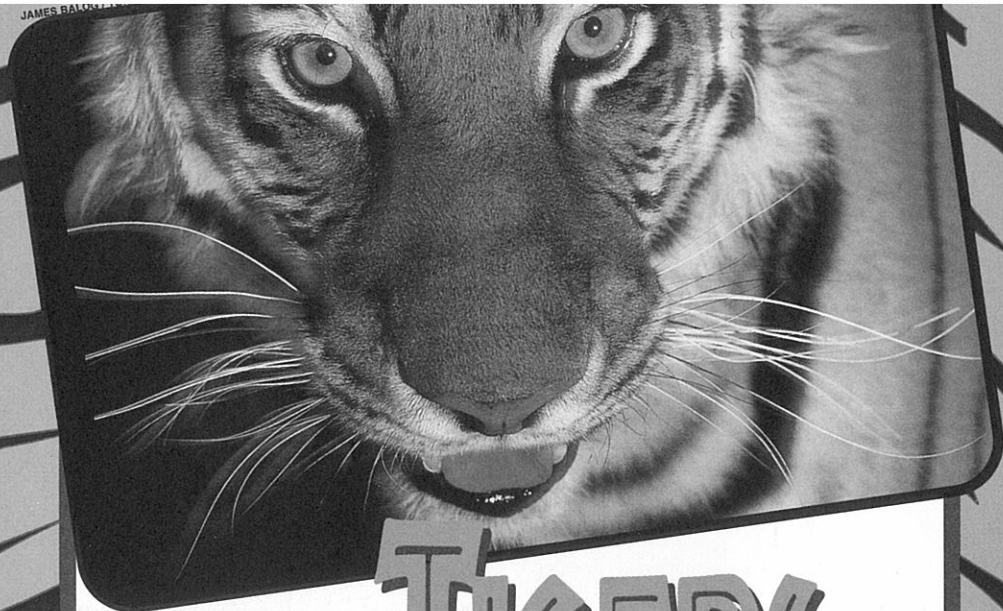
DRY OFF
at a desert park

For the Holidays
**GIFTS YOU
CAN MAKE**

1975-1995
Celebrating
20
YEARS

TIGER
6 New
WORLDcar





**Magnificent
Beasts**

TIGERS

Powerful animals with large paws and broad heads, tigers are the biggest of the big cats.



Tigers inhabit the continent of Asia. There they prowl the forests, grasslands, high grass thickets, swamps, and rivers.



Male tigers always live alone. Female tigers live alone much of the year, except when raising cubs.



Female tigers give birth to two to four cubs. The cubs are born blind and depend on their mother for food. Within 11 months they begin hunting on their own.



During the day tigers rest and sleep, often cooling off in streams and rivers. Tigers are excellent swimmers. Most often they hunt from dusk until dawn.



Tigers feed on wild pigs, wild cattle, and deer. They may also hunt rodents, birds, fish, and frogs.



Tigers can run fast. They have sharp eyesight and excellent hearing. They also have sharp teeth. These qualities help the tiger catch its prey. A tiger may go for days without eating, but when it does catch its prey, it can eat more than 80 pounds at once.



Tigers communicate using many sounds. One kind of mating roar can be heard up to two miles away.



Tiger coloring and stripes help the animals blend into tall grasses and dense shadows in the forest.

This pullout made possible by support and assistance from



The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Exxon Corporation have established the Save the Tiger Fund to conserve the tiger and its habitat and to tell people about the tiger's endangered status. For information on the Fund write to: Save the Tiger Fund, c/o 1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036.

102870A



In this photograph taken in 1925 in Bali, hunters and guides pose with a prize—a Bali tiger. Overhunted, Bali tigers are now extinct.

ENDANGERED!

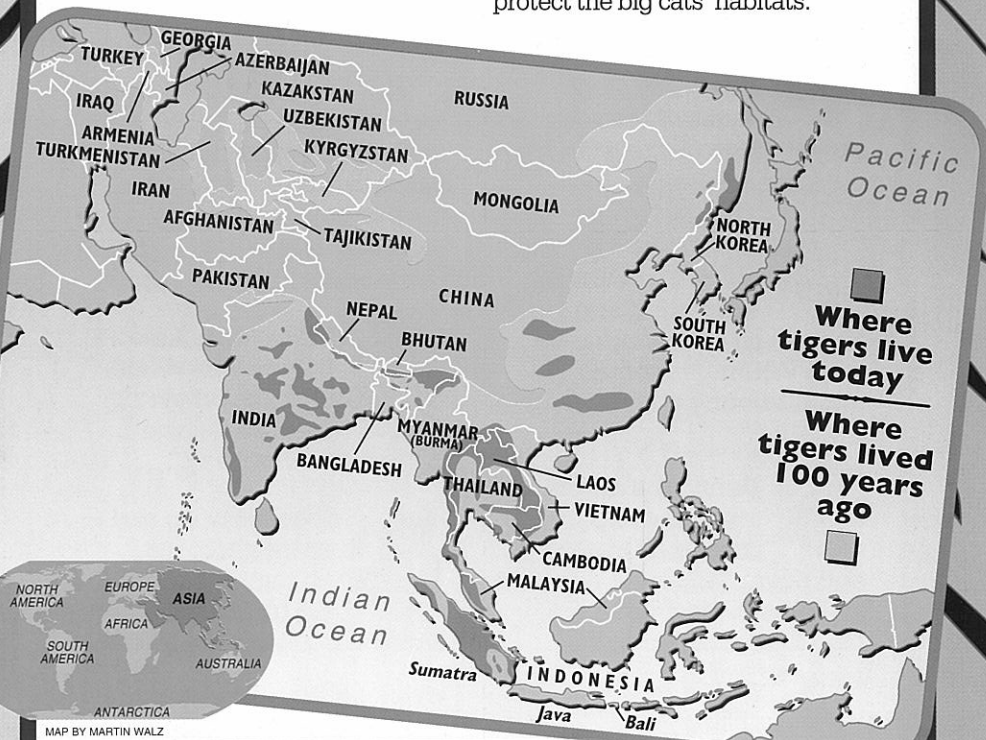
The home of the tiger is shrinking (see map below). The number of tigers is shrinking, too. About 100,000 tigers lived in the wild 50 years ago. Today about 5,000 remain. Once 8 subspecies existed; now there are 5.

The tiger's strength was never a match for bullets or bulldozers. Tigers were the favorite big game trophy of hunters from Europe and India in the 19th century. People still hunt tigers for their bones and internal organs, used in traditional Chinese foods and medicines.

People sell tiger parts—teeth, claws, skin, bones, blood, and meat—for a lot of money.

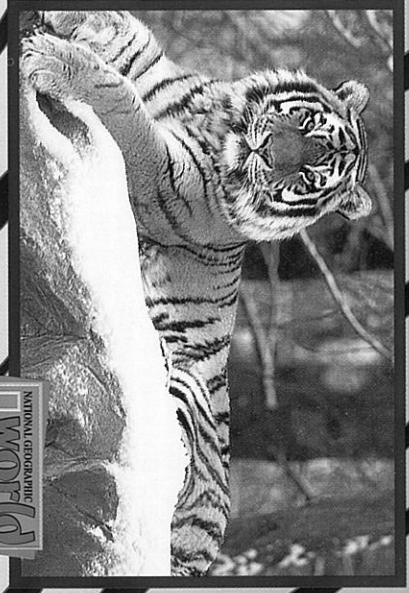
Human population growth and increased logging and agriculture destroy tigers' habitats and threaten their survival. In some developed areas, tigers occasionally attack humans and domestic cattle. Then they are further hunted.

It's against international law to kill tigers. Still, in the last 5 years about 3,000 have been killed. Wildlife organizations and governments are working to stop illegal trade and to protect the big cats' habitats.





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EXTINCT TIGERS

BALI TIGER: This smallest of all tiger subspecies was already a rare breed a hundred years ago.

JAVA TIGER: No trace of this dark-colored tiger has been found since the 1980s. Java—an island in Indonesia once home to these tigers—is densely populated, leaving little room for tigers.

CASPIAN TIGER: The last member of this subspecies was seen in Afghanistan in 1967. Caspian tigers once roamed throughout Central Asia.

These three extinct tiger subspecies are not pictured. The Sumatran tiger cubs shown in the photograph belong to an endangered subspecies.



KEVIN SCHAEFER & MARTHA HILL/TONY STONE IMAGES

SIBERIAN TIGER

FELINE FACTS: The largest of the tigers, a Siberian tiger can weigh more than 700 pounds and measure more than 13 feet from nose to tail. A thick layer of fat on its belly and flanks protects against extreme cold. Also known as the Manchurian tiger.

DISTINCTIVE COLORING: Long, yellowish fur on its neck and back; white fur on its belly and tail.

NUMBERS: Nearly extinct; only about 150 survive in the wild and 1,000 in zoos around the world.



TOM AND PAT LEESON / DRK PHOTO

INDO-CHINESE TIGER

FELINE FACTS: This tiger's range stretches from eastern Myanmar (Burma) to Vietnam. Some people want this tiger's claws and shoulder bones because they believe these parts will give them courage and protection from evil. Also called the Corbett tiger.

DISTINCTIVE COLORING: Many close-set stripes; its fur is usually a lighter color than the South China tiger's, but darker than the Bengal tiger's.

NUMBERS: Only about 1,050 remain in Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar (Burma), and Malaysia.

ANDY ROUSE



SOUTH CHINA TIGER

FELINE FACTS: With its forward-facing eye sockets and small brain case, this tiger is believed to be a direct descendant of the original tiger that evolved more than one million years ago. Also known as the Amoy tiger.

DISTINCTIVE COLORING: Reddish fur of medium length; broad stripes.

NUMBERS: On the brink of extinction, with some 30 remaining in the wild and 35 in Chinese zoos.



PETER JACKSON

SUMATRAN TIGER

FELINE FACTS: The only remaining tigers in Indonesia, Sumatran tigers are noted for long hair near the face. (A cub is shown in the photograph.)

DISTINCTIVE COLORING: Stripes set close together and a narrow area of white on the belly.

NUMBERS: Only some 600 in the wild and 170 in zoos worldwide.



JOHN CANCALOSI / PETER ARNOLD, INC.

BENGAL TIGER

FELINE FACTS: Of the world's surviving tigers, two-thirds are Bengal tigers, also called Indian tigers.

DISTINCTIVE COLORING: Short, glossy, reddish-tan coat with black stripes. The insides of its legs, the cheeks, and a large spot over each eye are white.

NUMBERS: About 2,750 in India, 300 in Bangladesh, 150 in Nepal, 50 in Bhutan, and several hundred in zoos.



TM DAVIS / DAVIS LYNN PHOTOGRAPHY