

## *The African Lion*

Second in size only to the tiger, the lion is the largest cat in Africa! They can be found in savannas, deserts, plains, grasslands, dense bush, and woodlands. They have been abundantly featured in books, movies, and folk tales and are a magnificent animal to behold. However, their habitat is continually being encroached upon by humans and their numbers dwindle each day. These magnificent cats are listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN.

### **The Stats...**

Scientific name: Panthera Leo

Weight: Up to 600 lbs.

Length: Up to 6.8 feet, plus up to a 3.4 foot tail

Height: Up to 4 feet, at the shoulder

Lifespan: Up to 30 years



- 1.) A lion's retractable claws can be as long as 1.5 inches.
- 2.) Their canine teeth are a whopping 4 inches long!
- 3.) Lions have round pupils which allows for more light to filter in for hunting at night.
- 4.) A lion is a social animal that can live in prides of up to 30 individuals. Typically, cats are solitary. But with lions, there are only solitary males while they seek to find a pride to call their own.
- 5.) Lion prides hunt in packs and prefer to hunt large-sized ungulates (hoofed animals) like wildebeest, buffalo, zebra, and gemsbok. They will also even go after baby elephants and giraffes.
- 6.) Females do most of the hunting. Males will hunt when assistance is needed and will hunt when they are solitary (not belonging to a family or pride).
- 7.) When available, a male lion will gorge themselves eating up to 15% of their body weight. That's up to 90 lbs. of meat! That being said, this will cause them to slip into what is playfully known as a food coma.

### *Did you know...?*

*A lion's roar can be heard up to 2+ miles away!*

- 8.) They make a variety of sounds such as grunts, roars, moans, snarls, growls, meows, purrs, hums, puffs, and even woofs!
- 9.) When a cub is born they are born with blue eyes that eventually fade to amber or brown as they age.
- 10.) Humans are the lion's only Predator.
- 11.) Lions tend to be more nocturnal (active at night) during the hotter times of the year.

## *The Questions...*

1.) What is the largest feline in Africa?

2.) The IUCN status of African lions is?

3.) How many sounds do lions make?

4.) Why are a lion's pupils round?

5.) How much does a lion weigh?

6.) Nocturnal means?

7.) How long are a lion's canines?

8.) An adult lion's claws measure?

9.) What do you call a family of lions?

10.) How much can lions eat in a single sitting?

11.) A cub's eyes are what color at birth?

12.) Lions only have 1 primary predator. What is it?

13.) What types of animals do lions hunt?