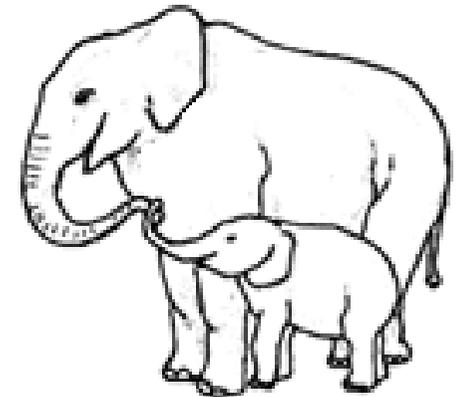
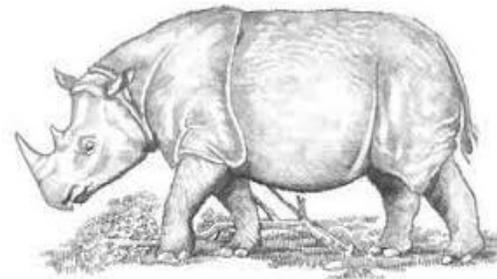


Animals in danger

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The Javan Rhinoceros

The Javan Rhinoceros is one of the rarest large mammals on the planet. The population is estimated to be between 58 to 61 animals, (2023)

The entire population of the Javan Rhinoceros is found in the Ujung Kulon National Park on the very western tip of Java, Indonesia. Once widespread throughout southeast Asia, they now only exist in Ujung Kulon National Park. The last of the rhinos in Vietnam was shot in 2010.

Description

The Javan rhino is the largest animal found in Java and the second largest in all of Indonesia, second biggest to the Asian Elephant. They range from 2 to 4 metres long and have been found to weigh up to 2 tonnes! It is believed that females are slightly bigger than males.

This species is a dusky grey color and has a single horn of up to about 25 cm. The Javan Rhino's horn is also only found on males. Its skin has a number of loose folds, giving the appearance of armor plating.

Facts about the Javan Rhinoceros:

They're heavy animals, weighing up to 2.3 tons.

They live to around 30-45 years in the wild.

They're herbivorous, only eating plants.

They live in live in dense, often impenetrable rain forests.

They're solitary animals, except for mating pairs and mothers with young.

They're the second largest animal in Indonesia after the Asian elephant.

Male Javan rhinos mark their territories with dung piles and by spraying urine.

They communicate with one another by scraping their feet on the ground.

They have an excellent sense of smell, but poor vision.

They are hairless.

Their skin has a natural pattern which gives them an armoured appearance.

They wallow in mud to keep cool and prevent disease and parasite infestation.

There are very few vocalizations known to the species.

The Javan rhino has no known predators apart from humans.

The Javan Rhinoceros is very shy of humans and will often become aggressive and partake in attacking and stabbing with its horn if it feels threatened.

Why the species is endangered

They are extremely vulnerable to extinction due to catastrophes, habitat loss, diseases, poaching, and potential inbreeding.

The Arenga palm has overtaken parts of the park, reducing natural forage and habitat quality. Their food source in Ujung Kulon National Park is being taken over by the invasive palm which is growing out of control.

In recent years four rhinos, including one young adult female, are thought to have died from disease, probably transmitted to wild cattle in the park and subsequently to the rhinos.

People living near the park are encroaching on and destroying crucial rhino habitat. They have been killed by farmers who regard them as agricultural pests.

The coastal Ujung Kulon National Park is highly vulnerable to tsunamis, and a major explosion of the nearby Anak Krakatau volcano could easily wipe out most life in the protected area. Rising sea levels also threaten the park.

The cause of their population decline has mainly been caused by poaching due to excessive demand for rhino horns. In the past, Javan rhinos were killed by trophy hunters. Their horns were a highly prized commodity in traditional Asian medicine. Poaching remains an ever-present threat.

Conservation strategies of the World Wildlife Fund

The first strategy is to ensure stronger protection against poaching, whether they are targeting the rhino or other species in the rhino habitat.

The second is to regularly monitor, prevent and cure diseases. Humans, livestock and other sources of disease that might be the cause, must be contained and avoided.

The third is to improve Javan rhino habitats to ensure conditions are favourable for their reproduction. One way is to monitor and control the spread of the Arenga palms.

Three species of Asian rhinos

There are three species of Asian rhinos—the greater one-horned rhino found in India and Nepal, of which there are about 4000 left; the Sumatran rhino found on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, of which there are about 50; and the Javan rhino that is only found in one protected area on the island of Java, of which there are about 60.

A survivor story

All of the rhinos in the Ujung Kulon National Park have names. Rawing is an old rhino with the identification number 07. He's a favourite among conservation workers in the Ujung Kulon National Park because he's managed to live to a ripe old age, despite the many challenges in the area. He has a few scars to show for it, but these make him easy to recognise.

Javan rhinos like to browse widely for their favourite food plants, but until recently, wildlife rescue teams had only ever seen Rawing in the southern part of Ujung Kulon National Park. He liked it there because the invasive Arenga palms that destroy rhino plant food were not so concentrated.

But after the palms were controlled in the eastern section of the park, it was noticed that Rawing was moving into the cleared area to feed. He was even captured on remote cameras playing in this more open habitat.

Long-term survival

The World Wildlife Fund will continue working with local people to remove Arenga palms - at a rate of 66,500 a year - all by hand. Once cleared, they will plant 6,000 rhino food seedlings annually to satisfy the rhinos' big appetite.

Not only will this benefit the rhino; local people will also reap the rewards. About 50 people will be recruited to eradicate the palm, and they will continue to help with forest patrols and rhino monitoring



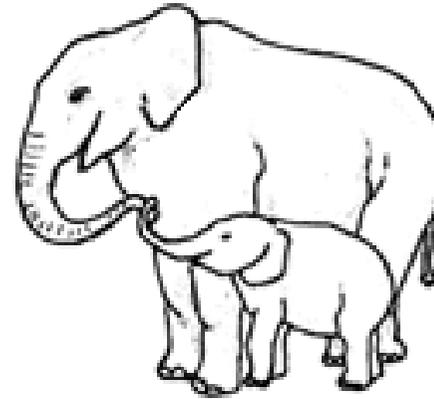
Never, never, never ride and elephant

It was a special day in the jungle. A new baby elephant had been born. Her name was Li Li. The aunties of the herd gathered around baby Li Li and her mother, trumpeting and swishing their tails with great joy.

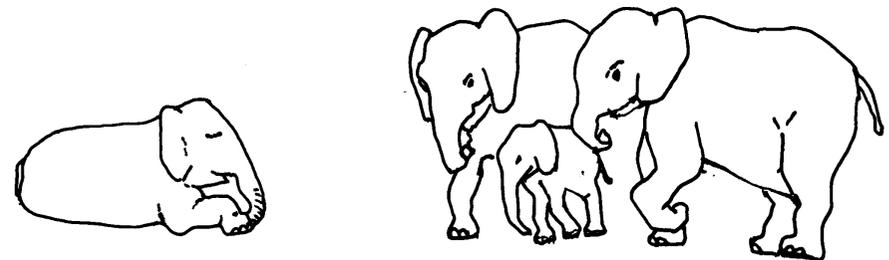
Li Li was soon on her feet and drank milk from her mother. The herd, consisting of mother, father, grandmother, aunties and uncles, young calves and teenagers and cousins, was not on the move today. They were resting for a time, allowing baby Li Li to gain her strength before moving on.

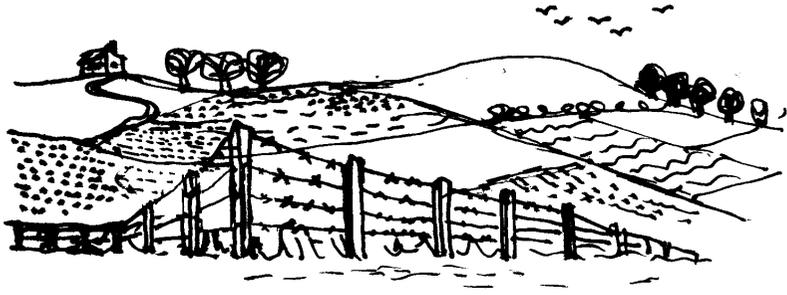
But soon, Grandmother, the oldest female in the herd said it was time to move. Elephants have to keep on the move, using their long trunks to feed on leaves, grass, tree bark, roots, and small stems. An Asian elephant can eat about 130 kg (300 pounds) of food a day. That's about 60 times more than a human adult would eat in a day!

As the herd moved along, Li Li's short legs grew tired. The aunties, who were keeping a close eye on the new baby, along with mother, would instruct the herd to stop for rest from time to time, especially in the hottest part of the day. In the cool of the evening the herd would have their last meal for the day, and then find a place to sleep for the night.

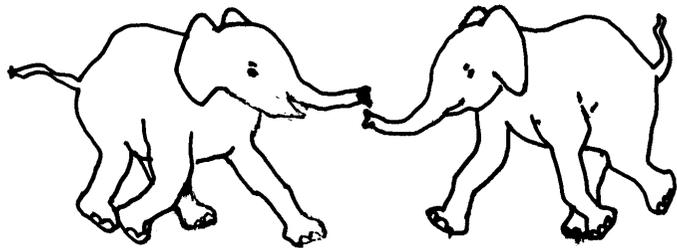


The next morning at sunrise they were on the move again, looking for breakfast. It was important for the herd to stick to the rainforest territory and not venture on to farmers' land. Although the idea of eating corn, rice and sugar cane from the farmers' fields was a great temptation, Grandmother knew the danger that came with wandering on to the land that belonged to humans. Some elephants had been shot by farmers, and some had been killed by the very high-voltage electric fences that farmers placed around their properties. Yes, humans were dangerous!



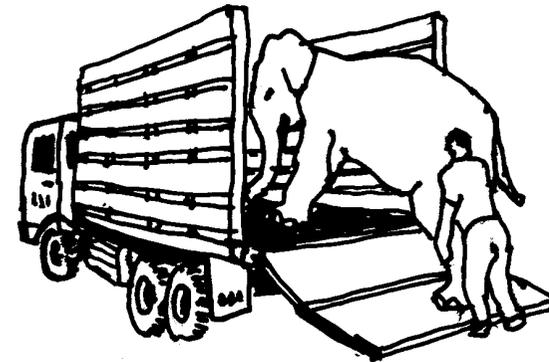


Li Li loved the times when the herd stopped for rest or for a drink at a river. After a short nap, she would play with her brothers and sisters and cousins, chasing each other, or using their trunks to squirt water at each other.

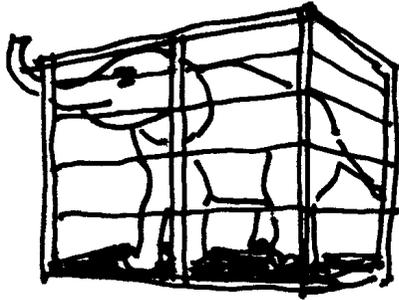


But one day, while the herd was resting by the river, and the little elephants were playing together, the elephants were taken by surprise. A truck drove up and several men jumped out. They threw a heavy rope around Li Li and pulled her to

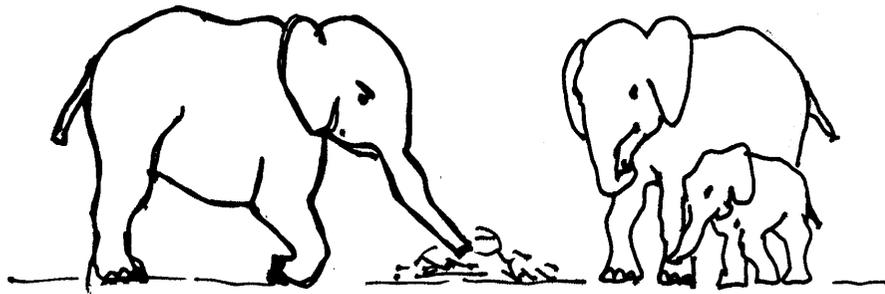
the back of the truck. It all happened so quickly. The young elephants shrieked in alarm. The adult elephants moved into action. Li Li's mother, followed by one of the aunts, charged towards the men. Immediately there was the sound of two gunshots. Li Li's mother and auntie lay dead. The men quickly pushed Li Li up the sloping ramp into the truck and drove off. The herd grieved over the loss of three of their members. With drooping ears and sad eyes, the elephant herd made crying sounds, which echoed throughout the jungle.



Li Li was now in a new strange world, She had never seen a truck before and now she was being jerked around in the back of one, trying not to fall over. Finally the truck stopped. Li Li was led out of the truck by the rope, and brought into an enclosure with other elephants. How strange it felt. Where were the leafy trees of the forest? Where was her mother and the rest of her family?



Li Li was hungry. She longed to drink milk from her mother. Later that day a man brought some food for the elephants to share. Now Li Li would only have hay to eat, and there was never enough. Tomorrow she would start her special training.



Li Li, like the other elephants in the enclosure, were being trained to work at tourist parks. They would give rides to

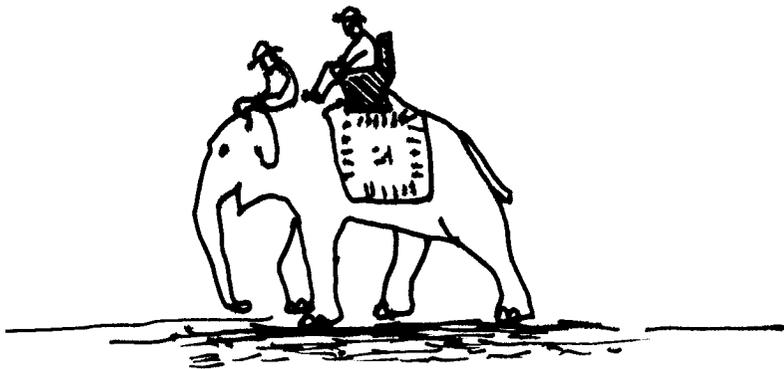
people and perform tricks. Tourists would pay to come and see the elephants. To do this work, elephants have to be extremely calm. They cannot do as they please. They have to do exactly as their keeper tells them to do.

Li Li was suddenly awakened from deep sleep, with a slap of a stick on her back. "What's going on?" she thought. She stood up and shook herself. On the other end of the stick was her trainer for the day. Using the stick to direct her, Li Li found herself in another enclosure, with several other young elephants. She was tied to a wooden structure, now a prisoner, unable to move freely. The cruel stick continued to strike her on the back. She cried out in pain, wishing her elephant family was there to help her. Finally the thrashing stopped and Li Li was put in heavy chains around her feet, making it very difficult, and very painful to walk.



How hungry she was. She had missed breakfast. Later in the day she was taken back to her own enclosure and was finally allowed to eat some hay along with the other elephants., But there was never enough. Li Li was hungry most of the time.

At this point you may ask, “Why does the trainer treat the young elephants so cruelly?” Here is the answer. Humans know that an elephant is a very strong and powerful animal. An elephant would have the power to crush or kill a human. In order to operate the elephant tourist business, with elephants giving rides and being in such close contact with people, the trainers believe that they must break the elephant’s spirit, making it do whatever it is told to do without fighting back. The elephant is taught to fear humans.



Whoever thought up this idea did not understand elephants. If treated with love and respect, an elephant will interact with a human being without undergoing this treatment.

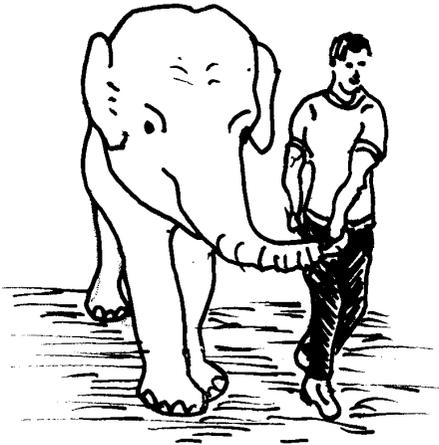
Now back to the story of Li Li. After a few months of this terrible treatment known as ‘crushing’, it was time for Li Li to start work. As families came to the tourist parks to see the elephants, she would now be given colourful blankets and a saddle, and children would ride on her back. She would walk with her heavy load for hours without a rest. For a little elephant this was a lot of work, and she became very tired.

With the bad treatment, Li Li became very weak. One morning she could not get up. Her master struck her on the back with his stick, but still she could not get up. Soon the master gave up and moved on to find an elephant to take Li Li’s place.

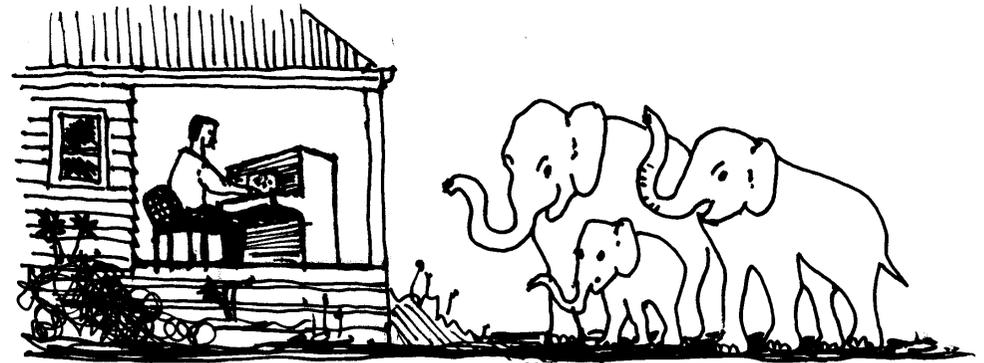
Many young elephants like Li Li suffer dreadfully, and many die. But Li Li was soon to find out that not all human beings are so cruel.

The next day, a truck drove up. Li Li could hear her master talking to the visitors. Some money was handed over and a man named Paul, with his rescue team, gently helped Li Li to stand up. Their voices were soft and kind. They gave Li Li some bananas to eat and led her to the truck, up the ramp and into the back of the truck. After a bumpy ride, Li Li arrived at the

Elephant World Animal Sanctuary, a place where she would now be cared for and treated kindly.



Paul Barton had been a music teacher in England. He decided to travel to Thailand to do some teaching. While there he met his wife, and made Thailand his home. Paul saw how elephants were treated, and wanted to do something to help. He then discovered Elephant World Animal Sanctuary and decided to work for them. Paul and his team rescue elephants from tourist parks and other places where elephants are mistreated. They are given a good home with lots of love and kindness. Paul wondered if elephants would like music. He decided to play the piano for his elephants. They came to hear him and joined in with their trumpeting sounds. Now Paul plays the piano every day for his elephants.



About this story

Many young elephants in Thailand suffer such cruel treatment. If you know anyone traveling to Thailand, tell them to never ride an elephant. The only hope is for people stop supporting the industry so that it goes out of business. The story of Paul Barton is true, and he has a wonderful relationship with the rescued elephants through his music.

Tigers – almost extinct!

Facts about tigers

1. Tigers are the largest wild cats in the world. Adults can weigh up to 363kg (that's about the same as 10 ten-year-old children!), and measure up to 3.3metres!
2. Tigers are carnivores, eating only meat. They mainly feed on large mammals such as deer, wild pigs, antelope and buffalo.
3. Tigers are solitary hunters, and generally search for food alone at night. They quietly stalk their prey until they are close enough to pounce – then they kill their victim with a bite to the neck or back of the head.
4. Tigers are good swimmers! Unlike most members of the cat family, they like water and often cool off in pools or streams.
5. A tiger's roar can be heard as far as three kilometres away.
6. At full speed, tigers can reach up to 65km/h. They may be big and heavy, but tigers are by no means slow movers!
7. No two tigers have the same stripes. Since every tiger has their own pattern on their fur, they are all unique!
8. Less than 100 years ago, tigers could be found throughout Asia. Sadly, hunting and habitat loss have put populations at risk, and today their range has been reduced to around 7% of

its former size. That's why we need to do all we can to protect these beautiful animals!

9. A tiger cub quadruples in size in the first month after its birth.

10. Tiger teeth can be 10cm long.

Source: National Geographic for kids

Different kinds of tigers

Today, there are five kinds of tigers living in the world:

- the Bengal tiger (lives in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan – about 2,500 living in the wild)
- the South China tiger (extinct in the wild and now only found in zoos)
- the Indochinese tiger (lives in South East Asia - probably extinct in the wild)
- the Sumatran tiger (lives in Indonesia – about 400 still living in the wild)
- the Siberian tiger (lives in snow country Russia, Northern China and North Korea -about 500 still living in the wild)



Sadly, three kinds of tigers have become extinct:

- the Caspian Tiger (from Turkey, Afghanistan and Western China)
- the Bali and Javan tigers (from Indonesia.)



The Bengal Tiger

The Bengal Tiger is the national animal of India and Bangladesh, and can even be seen on Bangladeshi money! Their canine teeth are 10cm long - the largest teeth of any living cat.

They are powerful hunters, most active at dusk and dawn, when they use tall grass and trees to stalk prey and silently attack. They hunt water buffalo, deer and wild boar. They are capable of eating up to 40kg in one sitting but don't do this very often!

The main threats facing the Bengal Tiger are poaching and habitat loss.

In India and Nepal there are 11 main protected areas set apart to protect prime Bengal Tiger habitat. The Tiger Project, established in the 1970's, has helped stabilize Bengal Tiger populations in these reserve areas although overall populations are still decreasing.

The Wildlife Protection Society of India watches over any poaching activity, although locating the source of poaching operations is difficult.

<https://onekindplanet.org/animal/bengal-tiger/>

The Indo-Chinese Tiger

The Indo-Chinese tiger once lived in the wild in the following countries: Cambodia, China, Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos and Vietnam.

Today however, there only small numbers left in the world. They live in Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand. No Indo-Chinese tiger has been seen in the wild since 2010.

Tiger farming has helped to stop the tiger from becoming extinct. In Vietnam, as of June 2022, there are a total of 372 of these tigers recorded. They live in captivity, in tiger farms or zoos.

Sumatran Tigers

Sumatran tigers live only on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. Tigers on the neighboring islands of Java, Bali, and Singapore went extinct in the 20th century.

The Sumatran Tiger is the smallest tiger species in the world with adult male tigers rarely reaching 2.5 metres in length and rarely getting bigger than around 140 kilograms.

This beautiful cat has narrow black stripes which can end in dots on their orange to almost a dark red coat which makes the Sumatran Tiger also the darkest colour of tiger species.

Other features of a Sumatran Tiger include:

- Longer whiskers to help aid the animal in improving its senses
- Extra fur around its face. The belief is that this helps protect the animal in dense vegetation
- White spots on the back of their ears. These are supposedly to help visually enlarge the size of the animal and pretend to be a set of 'false eyes' for younger Tigers staving off other predators
- Webbed toes to aid the animal's ability to swim through rivers
- Claws to grip prey and even allow tigers to climb trees.

- Tigers on the neighboring islands of Java, Bali, and Singapore went extinct in the 20th century.

Sumatran Tigers are carnivores and their diet consists mainly of deer, wild boars, and tapirs. These tigers will also eat smaller prey items, such as monkeys, squirrels, and birds. They also prey on farmers' goats and cattle. This is a problem because farmers will try to shoot the tigers.

The tigers are in danger because of human beings who are destroying the tigers' habitat and poaching them for their fur and other body parts. Tiger bones, skulls, canine teeth, whiskers, and skins all fetch good prices in Sumatra and are smuggled into other countries. Sumatran rain forests are being cleared to make way for palm oil plantations. This means that this critically endangered tiger may soon vanish from the planet.

The Kentucky Fried Chicken company is causing destruction of the tiger's habitat. Food containers are made from paper derived from clearing and cutting down of parts of the Sumatran jungle, where the tigers live. Another serious issue facing tigers are snares placed in the rainforest where tigers live. Often these rope or wire snares are set by villagers to catch wild pigs or deer to eat. However, tigers can become severely injured and maimed from these snares and die from infection.

Siberian Tiger

Siberian Tigers are the largest tigers in the world. They live in eastern Russia's birch forests, and there are some in China and North Korea as well. It is estimated that there are around 400 to 500 Siberian tigers left in the wild.

They can grow up to 3 meters in length. To keep themselves from becoming cold in the winters, Siberian tigers have thicker fur coats than other tigers. They also have a thick layer of fat which helps keep them warm. Like all other tigers, Siberian tigers have orange fur with black stripes. Siberian tigers have extra fur around their necks and paws which helps them keep warm. Siberian tigers have less orange in their coats, and have fewer stripes.

Since Siberian tigers live in such cold regions, an adult needs to eat at least 9 kilograms of food every day to survive, but adults can eat as much as 50 kilograms of meat. Siberian tigers feed mainly on wild boar, elk and deer, but they also eat lynx and even bears. If the tiger cannot find larger prey it instead feeds on fish, rodents and rabbits.

True stories about tigers

Zolushka the Siberian Tiger – a story with a happy ending

Here's a true story about how an orphaned Siberian Tiger cub was rescued...

A Siberian tiger cub padded through a snowy forest in eastern Russia, battling against freezing gusts of wind. It had been days since the baby's mother left the den to hunt for food.

Now searching for her mum in the woods, the cub became so cold that her fluffy tail had gone completely numb. Without help, the cub would not make it. Too tired to go on, the cub dropped to the ground, and her body sank into the freezing snow.

Two men hiking through the forest noticed an orange lump poking out of the snow. As they approached, they realized it was a baby tiger. The men expected the cub to leap up and run away. But she lay completely still, barely breathing. The men knew the cub was in big trouble. They wrapped her in a blanket. Then they rushed her to the home of a local wildlife worker, who took the tiger cub from the men's arms. He saw that the cub was extremely thin, and her tail was frostbitten. (Frostbite is when the skin freezes).

The wildlife official carried the tiger to his outdoor sauna. That's a heated relaxation room. He gently placed her inside. He fed the cub some warm milk, raw eggs, and meat. Then he phoned the Wildlife Conservation Society, which had a rescue centre nearby. Dale, who worked at the organisation, arrived to examine the cub. He estimated that she was about four months old. "Wild tiger mums care for their young until they're one and a half years old," he said, "So this baby's

mother was probably killed by a poacher.” He also believed the cub was found just in time.

“She wouldn’t have survived another day on her own,” he said.

After getting the cub checked over by a team of vets, the Wildlife Conservation Society decided to keep the 16kg cub in their centre until her condition improved.

Within two weeks the cub regained her strength. But her tail was so damaged by frostbite that it could cause a deadly infection. So a team of vets came to the cub’s enclosure, tranquilized the animal and performed an operation to remove the injured part of the tail.

Then the sleepy cub was loaded into a car and driven to a Siberian tiger rehabilitation centre 80km away. At this centre she was given a new name – Zolushka, which is Russian for Cinderella.

Zolushka was put in a large fenced enclosure. The fences were covered with sheets so the cub couldn’t see the people looking after her. “This will stop her from getting attached to human,” Dale said. “Otherwise, it will be hard for her to go back into the wild.”

In order to develop the tiger’s hunting skills, her keepers released live hares, (a kind of large rabbit), into the enclosure.

Then they watched her from an observation tower. Even without her mother to teach her, Zolushka had the instinct to hunt for food. After the tiger became good at catching hares, some harder-to-hunt animals such as wild boar were let loose in the enclosure. She soon became skilled at capturing all kinds of prey. The tiger seemed to enjoy romping around her new home.

The following spring, 18-month-old Zolushka weighed more than 91kg (as heavy as three ten-year-old children), and she could hunt like a wild tiger.

The time came to set her free. The staff at the animal shelter decided to sedate the tiger and place her in a crate. Then they drove for 14 hours to a protected nature reserve, where Zolushka would be released. At the site, the keepers slid open the crate door.

The tiger leaped to the ground and bolted into the thick brush. “Zolushka is back where she belongs,” said Dale. “It’s like a fairy tale with a very happy ending!”

Source: National Geographic for kids

Langka and Barani – two Sumatran tigers

Langka means ‘rare’ in Indonesian and Sumatran tigers are indeed rare and facing extinction. Langka lives in the hilly southern tip of the Bukit Tigapuluh National Park on the

Indonesian island of Sumatra. Langka is one of several tigers that wildlife rangers are tracking and monitoring.

Langka is a female tiger who will soon have cubs. When the cubs are about six months old, they will accompany her on hunting expeditions so they can feed directly on the kill. In the following months, they will slowly learn how to hunt and kill their own prey. By 16 months of age, tigers have fully developed canine teeth, but they are not very efficient at killing prey. By 18 months of age, the young tigers will start making their own kills. At this age males will leave their mother to establish their own territory. Females tend to stay longer with their mother than males.

Berani is a stunning male tiger, who also lives in the hilly southern tip of the Bukit Tigapuluh National Park. His name means 'brave' in Indonesian. He is another tiger in the National Park being carefully watched by the wildlife rangers. "The Sumatran tiger faces extinction in the near future if we do not act to save them," says the ranger. "We hope their bravery helps them to win this battle."

The goal is to protect Berani, his territory and prey, so he can survive and produce cubs for the next generation of tigers in the National Park.

The young male tiger faces his most challenging time when he leaves his mother and seeks to find his own territory. Most

young males are forced out of the family group by older males, and often have to live in territory that is not very favourable. They may have to live in places where there is less food, water and fewer hiding places. When they are older, they can come back and fight for their place in their own territory. This usually occurs when the older dominant male gets too old or suffers severe injury.

The International Tiger Project allows people to 'adopt a tiger' like Langka or Barani. This does not mean that they can take the tiger home as a pet, but it means that the person agrees to give a certain amount of money every month so that a tiger can be under the care of the rangers in the National Park.

<https://www.tiger.org.au/adoption/adopt/langka/>



Tui the Moon Bear

Tui was a black Moon Bear. He lived in the forest of South East Asia, with his mother and father, and his twin sister Kim. All Moon Bears have a little white shape under their chin. The shape looks like the crescent moon. That's why they are called Moon Bears.

Tui was 3 years old. Ever since he was a tiny cub, his mother and father had looked after him.



Tui and his family wandered through the forest each day finding food. They munched on the green leaves of the forest, but they also liked to eat insects and grubs.

When the sun was hot, they rested in the shade of the trees of the forest. In the cool of the evening Tui and Kim would play games together, like hide and seek, or they would chase butterflies.

Tui's mother had told the cubs not to wander away. But Tui was a big cub now and wanted explore for himself. "I wonder what it's like outside the forest," he thought to himself.

One day he wandered away. "This is such fun," he thought. .

Soon he heard a sound that he had never heard before. It was the sound of human voices. Tui had never heard or seen a human before. He was curious. He walked towards the sound of the voices.



Then, with a loud bang, he found himself trapped in a cage. He called out to his mother, but she did not come. The hunters put Tui on the back of a truck and drove away.



Tui pushed on the sides of the cage, but he could not get out. Tui had been sold to some evil men. These men kept bears in cages for life, and treated them very badly.

In his new home, Tui had two bear friends, but all three bears were very unhappy. They could no longer wander through the forest gathering food. They were locked in their cage all day and all night, and only given a little food.

Tui stayed in this new home for years. He grew to be a teenager. He was always sad. But one day some different people arrived. He heard new voices that belonged to two very kind people. They wanted to buy Tui. They paid Tui's owner a lot of money and now Tui belonged to them. Once again, Tui found himself in a cage on the back of a truck. But where was the truck going?



It was going to the forest, where Tui's family lived! Tui remembered the smell of the forest – the smell of the fresh green leaves, the cool of the shady trees.

The truck stopped, and very gently, very carefully, the kind people lowered the cage to the ground. They let Tui out of the cage.



At first Tui did not know what to do. But then he remembered his mother, his father and his sister Kim. Could he find them? Tui wandered for two days, eating his favourite foods once again.

And then he caught a familiar scent. He followed the trail, and sure enough it was the smell of his mother and father! How happy they were to see Tui!

Kim now had cubs of her own. She was happy to see Tui too. The cubs played around Tui's feet.

Once again Tui was a Moon Bear of the forest. He would look for a mate and would soon have cubs of his own to look after. And he would tell them, "Never wander away from your mother and father!"

