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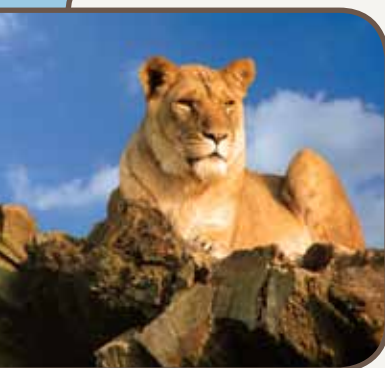
Discovery

Scripture & Science for Kids



The "KING of Beasts"

ERIC LYONS



I have always liked lions. Not that I enjoy petting or playing with lions, but I have always enjoyed watching and talking about these amazing cats. Admittedly, part of my affection for lions comes from the fact that my last name is Lyons (pronounced "lions"). I'm also partial toward lions because

my favorite school, and the one from which I graduated (Freed-Hardeman University), has as its mascot a lion. (It was always amusing to see what colors the students would paint the lion statue in front of the dining hall.) In addition, the lion is special to me and millions of Christians around the world because the Bible calls the Lord Jesus, "the lion of the tribe of Judah" (Revelation 5:5).

Evolutionists would have us believe that the first lion evolved through purely naturalistic processes some 25 million years ago. However, no proof exists for such evolution. Cats (both big and small) certainly have changed over time (after all, lions and tigers can mate and have "ligers"). But, there is no proof that lions came from a totally different kind

of animal 25 million years ago. Everything we see in nature (including the existence of big cats like lions) is reasonably understood in light of what the Bible teaches: "in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them" (Exodus 20:11). Furthermore, Genesis one clearly states that on day six of the Creation week, "God made the beast of the earth according to its kind" (1:25). Lions fit into the biblical category of "beasts."

The lion is often called the "king of the jungle" or the "king of beasts," because it is the most famous and feared of the big cats. It is not the largest cat on Earth (that honor belongs to the Siberian tiger), but it still is one of the most fearsome. Lions can reach lengths of 10 feet, heights of four feet, and weigh as much as 550 pounds. Female lions (called lionesses) are not as large as the males, but even they can reach weights of 300 pounds. Perhaps most frightening of all is the lion's heart-rattling roar, which reportedly can be heard from as much as five miles away.



Lions do not actually live in jungles, but in Africa's savannas, south of the Sahara desert.

Lions normally are not very active during the daytime. In fact, lions are known to sleep about 20 hours a day. Most of their hunting takes place at night. Interestingly, the males are not normally part of the hunting and killing of prey. That job mainly is left up to the lionesses (while the males, in turn, provide protection for the lionesses). When hunting in groups (called prides), lions have even been known to attack very large animals, such as hippos and elephants.

The first time the term lion is used in Scripture is Genesis 49:9. There Jacob prophesies that the tribe

of Judah will grow from being a lion's cub to a "leader," before whom the other tribes would bow down. One of the final times in Scripture in which the term lion is used is in reference to Jesus, "the lion of the tribe of Judah" (Revelation 5:5). Indeed, Jesus was the strong and powerful, prophesied descendant of Judah, Who conquered death, and brought eternal life to those who submit to Him.

The mane of a male lion serves at least two purposes: (1) It makes the lion look bigger (and thus more likely to deter intruders from the pride); and (2) it can help soften the blows from an enemy (normally another lion who wanders into his territory and challenges his authority).



Many people get to see tame lions at circuses. Amazingly, trainers have taught these large, fearsome cats to leap over hurdles, walk on their back legs, give "high fives," and jump through hoops of fire.



The apostle Peter warned Christians to be spiritually alert and watchful "because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking who he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

The mountain lion is known by several names, including cougar, puma, and panther. Mountain lions are found on the continents of North and South America—from as far north as Canada to as far south as Chile. Amazingly, a mountain lion can jump up to 18 feet high (nearly twice as high as a basketball goal!). Although many people claim that mountain lions do not live in the southeastern part of the U.S., they have been found in Texas and Florida (and, believe it or not, my wife and I actually thought we saw one in a wooded area near my house in Alabama only a few weeks ago).



PURRRRRECTLY BIG CATS

KYLE BUTT

In *Discovery* this month we have been studying some of the really big cats that God created. These cats are big, strong, and powerful, and they show the genius and creative ability of our great Creator. Let's look at some other big cat characteristics.

Cheetah

The Cheetah is the fastest land animal in the world. It can reach speeds of 70 miles an hour and keep that pace for almost 1,000 feet. In one huge stride, a Cheetah can cover



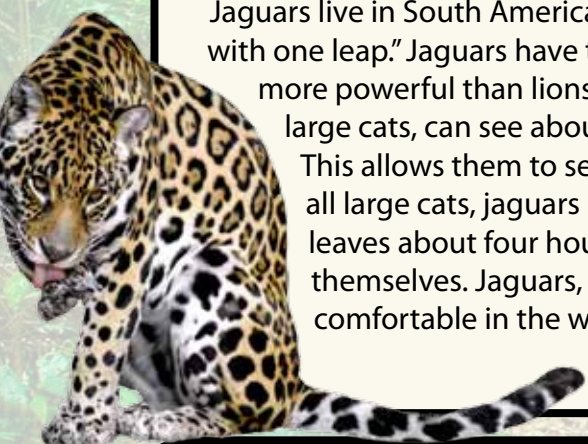
over 25 feet of ground. That is about as long as two average sized cars. Cheetahs can weigh 140 pounds. Many years ago, people caught baby cheetahs and trained them to hunt gazelles and other animals, much like people train hunting dogs today. The name "cheetah" means "spotted one."



Jaguar

Jaguars live in South America. The name "jaguar" means, "he who kills with one leap." Jaguars have the most powerful jaws of any large cat, even more powerful than lions and tigers. Jaguars, like most all the other large cats, can see about six times better than humans in dim light.

This allows them to see and hunt when there is little light. Also, like all large cats, jaguars rest for about 19-20 hours a day, which only leaves about four hours each day for them to hunt, eat, and clean themselves. Jaguars, like other big cats such as tigers, are quite comfortable in the water. They even eat some aquatic animals such as fish and small alligators.



Leopard

Leopards are extremely strong. They can drag up a tree prey that weighs two or three times as much as their own body weight.

Leopards with a condition called "melanism" are black. These leopards are often called black panthers. But they are not panthers, they are just black



leopards. Leopards have the remarkable ability to go for a whole month without drinking any water. They can get all the moisture they need from the other animals they eat. The snow leopard can jump 50 feet in a single leap. That is farther than a pitcher's mound is from home plate in little league baseball!!



CAMOUFLAGED

WARRIORS OF THE JUNGLE

JEFF MILLER



Not many people would deny that the tiger is a beautiful creature, and perhaps most would argue that tiger cubs are among the cutest of baby animals. So, it was not unexpected that in 2004, film makers decided to bring baby tigers Kumal and Sangha to the big screen in the movie, "Two Brothers."

The movie played on over 2000 screens and brought in over six million dollars its opening weekend.

Humans have been fascinated with the various species of the feline (cat) family since the beginning of time, especially the "king of beasts"—the lion. However, contrary to what you may think, it is not the lion that is the largest member of the cat family, but the tiger. Five subspecies of tigers are in existence today, including the Siberian, Bengal, Indo-Chinese, Sumatran, and the very endangered South China tiger, of which there are only a few dozen alive.

The Siberian tiger is known to be the largest tiger, with a length of up to 13 feet and a weight of up to 660 pounds. That's as big as some horses! Bengal tigers are the most common tiger, accounting for around half

of the total tiger population. Male Bengal tigers can grow to be over three feet tall and weigh between 350 and 500 pounds.

Although most tigers are bright, reddish-tan with black stripes, many people are especially taken by the beauty of the white Bengal tigers, most of which live in India. They are not a separate subspecies of tiger and are not albino, but are simply white-colored with black stripes and blue eyes. A pure white tiger does not have stripes, but is completely white in color. Black tigers have been reportedly spotted in the forests of Burma and eastern India.



Of special interest is the fact that scientists do not know exactly why tigers have stripes. They cannot explain how such a feature could have evolved using the principles in the theory of evolution.

However, creationists have no problem explaining the tiger's stripes. We know that they were designed by the Chief Engineer on day six of Creation. Among other things, they serve as a camouflage that is useful during hunting and afford beauty for the eyes of mankind.



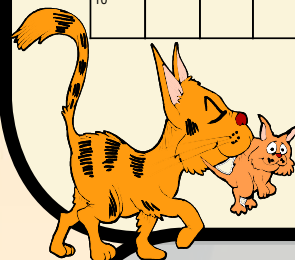
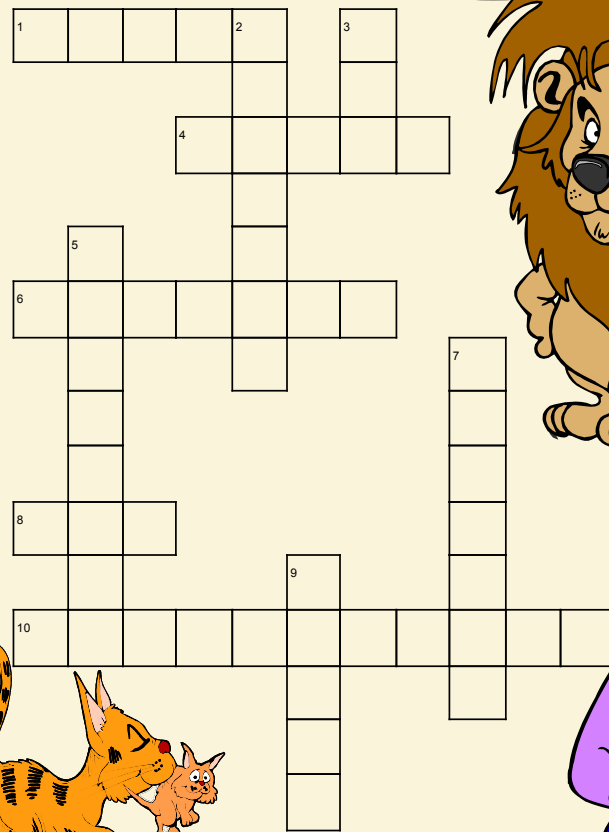
ACTIVITY PAGES



TRUE OR FALSE

- The first lion evolved 25 million years ago.
- The lion is called "the king of the jungle" because lions normally live in jungles.
- God designed cats' ears to be large and movable to amplify sounds and help cats sense the direction from which noises come.
- Evolutionists cannot reasonably explain tigers' stripes.
- Jaguar is the name of a car only, not a cat.
- A lion's mane proves evolution to be true because it serves no purpose.
- Cats sleep very little.
- A lion's roar reportedly can be heard from five miles away.
- Jaguars live in South America.
- Adam and Eve were created on the same day as cats.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

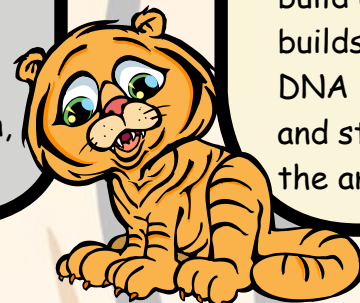


Across:

- The Lion of the tribe of Judah
- A group of lions
- Female lion
- The day of Creation on which God made cats
- Can jump 50 feet in a single leap

Down:

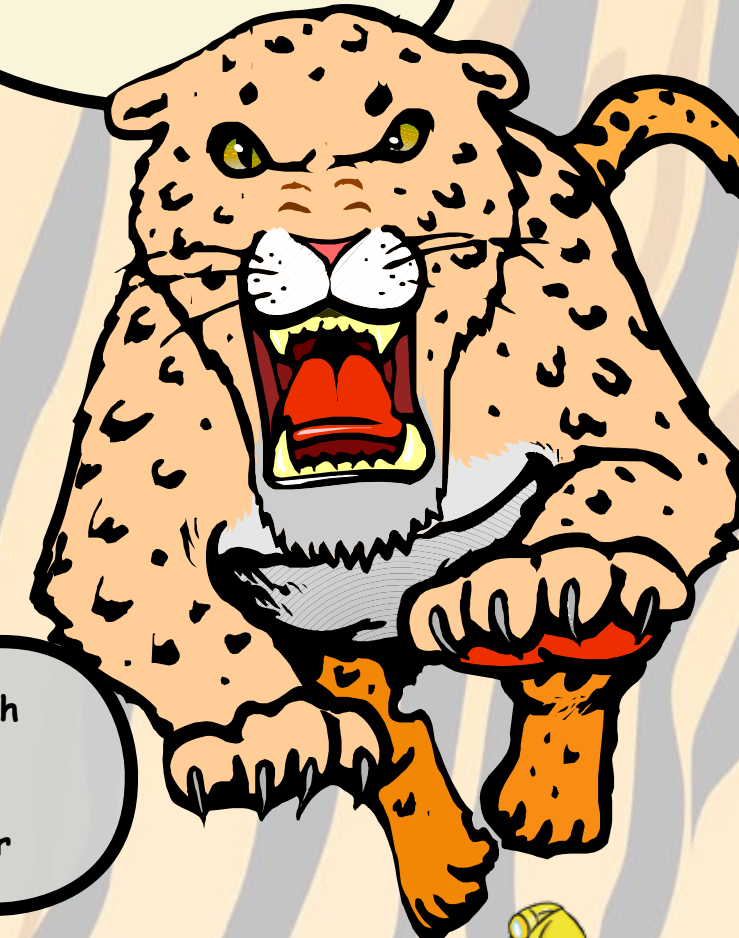
- Serve as camouflage for the well-designed tiger
- Designed cats with excellent night vision
- Largest tiger
- Can reach speeds of 70 miles an hour
- "Walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour"



WORD SEARCH

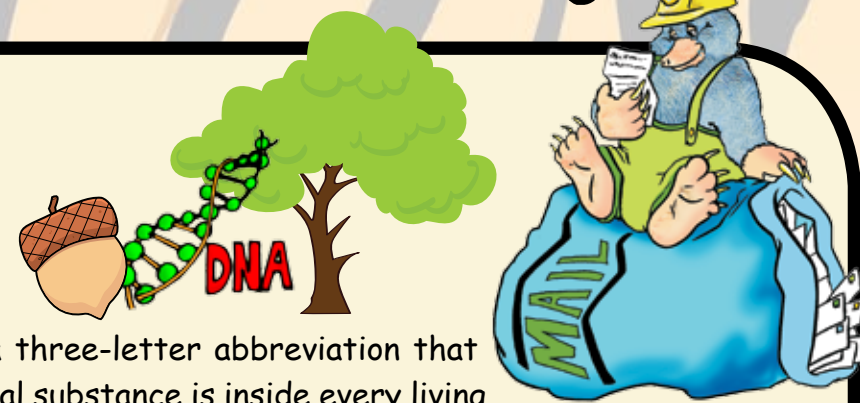
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 H V S U A K C R R J D O I S S
 C X E R U T S O T E V H N F M

Creation	Design	Cheetah
Cat	Jaguar	Tiger
Lion	Camouflage	Creator



Dear Digger Doug,
 What is DNA?
 —Larissa, Charlevoix, MI

Dear Larissa,
 Thanks for the terrific question. DNA is a three-letter abbreviation that stands for deoxyribonucleic acid. This special substance is inside every living organism on Earth. It contains the "language" that God used to create life. DNA has a special shape called the double helix structure. This shape looks a little like a winding staircase. The special shape allows long strands of DNA to wrap tightly into very small places, like tiny cells. DNA is used to store information. It is like a blueprint that contains information that is used to "build" living organisms. For instance, when an acorn falls from an oak tree, it contains the DNA blueprint to build another oak tree. When the acorn sprouts and begins to grow a sapling, the DNA in the seed builds everything it needs to turn energy and nutrients from the ground and Sun into a new tree. DNA is a great piece of evidence for God's existence. If there is a special language that can code and store information, then there must be a Creator who wrote the language. Only God could write the amazing language that is found in DNA.





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THE CREATOR'S CUNNING CAT

DAVE MILLER

It is simply amazing that God created some animals that seem to be especially suited to give humans pleasure as pets. Dogs and cats certainly seem to fit that category. The housecat is currently the most popular pet in the world. People like cats for companionship and also for their ability to hunt household pests. Though they have a reputation for being rather independent, cats are actually very social creatures and use sounds, chemicals, and body language to communicate—including meowing, purring, trilling, hissing, growling, and grunting.

Everything about cats points to the divine Creator Who equipped this creature with many marvelous qualities. For example, cats have excellent night vision and can see at only 1/6th the light level required for humans to see. That's because God made them to hunt at night. They also use their acute hearing to find prey. Not only can cats hear sounds too faint for human ears, they can also hear higher-pitched sounds than either humans or dogs can hear. That's because

cats' usual prey (mice) make ultrasonic noises. And God even designed cat ears to be large and movable to amplify sounds and help cats sense the direction from which noises come.

Then there are the cat's teeth—made for killing prey and tearing meat. Cats can deliver a lethal neck bite with their two long canine teeth, inserting them between two of the prey's vertebrae, severing the spinal cord. Compared to other felines, domestic cats have narrowly spaced canine teeth, again, specially engineered to handle small rodents which have small vertebrae.

And what about how cats are so stealthy? Like dogs, cats walk directly on their toes, with the bones of their feet making up the lower part of the leg. They are capable of walking very precisely, because like all felines, they place each hind paw almost directly in the print of the corresponding forepaw. God designed their walking ability to minimize noise and visible tracks.

Strong, flexible bodies, quick reflexes, sharp retractable claws, and teeth designed to kill small prey—the cat is truly an incredible creature of the Creator!



ANSWERS

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE: Across: 1. Jesus; 4. pride; 6. honesty; 8. six; 10. snow leopard; Down: 2. stripes; 3. God; 5. Siberian; 7. Cheelah; 9. Devil.
 TRUE OR FALSE: 1-F; 2-F; 3-T; 4-T; 5-F; 6-F; 7-F; 8-T; 9-T; 10-T.
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