

Name _____



The Life of a Tiger: From Cub to King

Tigers are incredible animals, and their life cycle is full of growth, learning, and survival. A tiger's life can be divided into several stages: birth, cubhood, independence, and adulthood. Let's explore how a tiger grows from a tiny cub into a powerful adult.

Tigers are born blind and helpless. A mother tiger gives birth to 2 to 4 cubs in a safe and hidden place, like a den or dense bushes. At birth, the cubs are tiny, weighing only about 2 to 3 pounds. For the first few weeks, they rely on their mother for warmth, food, and protection. The mother nurses her cubs and keeps them safe from predators.

As the cubs grow older, they begin to open their eyes and explore their surroundings. By the time they are 2 months old, the cubs start eating meat. They also play with each other, which helps them learn important skills like stalking and pouncing. Playtime prepares them for the challenges of hunting in the wild.

Around 18 to 24 months of age, tiger cubs become more independent. They follow their mother on hunts and learn by watching her. During this time, the cubs develop the strength and skills needed to survive on their own. By the time they are about 2 years old, they leave their mother to find their own territory.

Adulthood is the final stage of a tiger's life. Adult tigers are solitary animals, meaning they live alone and only interact with others during mating or when raising cubs. They are at the top of the food chain and can live up to 15 years in the wild. In zoos, where they are safe from predators and have regular food, tigers can live even longer—sometimes up to 20 years.

The life of a tiger is not easy. They face many challenges, like finding food and avoiding dangers, but their incredible strength and survival skills help them thrive in the wild.