

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## How Tigers Talk: Communication in the Wild



Tigers are known for their powerful roar, but they have many other ways to communicate. These big cats use sounds, gestures, scents, and visual signals to interact with one another. Communication is especially important for tigers because they are solitary animals and need to send clear messages over long distances.

### Sounds

The tiger's roar is its most famous sound. A roar can be heard up to two miles away and is often used to warn other tigers to stay out of its territory. Tigers also growl, snarl, and hiss when they feel threatened or want to scare off an enemy. However, they don't just make loud noises—they also use softer sounds. For example, tigers chuff, a low, purring sound, to greet other tigers or show affection.

### Gestures

Tigers communicate with their bodies, too. When a tiger feels calm, its tail might sway gently. If it's angry or scared, the tiger might flatten its ears, crouch low, or lash its tail. Cubs often play with each other, practicing these gestures to learn how to express themselves as adults.

### Scent Marking

Tigers also leave messages using scent. They spray urine on trees or bushes to mark their territory and let other tigers know they were there. This scent tells other tigers about the individual's gender, age, and even mood! Scent marking is like a tiger's calling card, helping them avoid unnecessary fights by respecting each other's space.

### Visual Displays

A tiger's stripes also help it communicate. Each tiger's stripe pattern is unique, making it easier for other tigers to recognize them. During a face-off, a tiger might show its teeth or open its mouth wide to intimidate its rival.

Tigers use these amazing methods to interact without always needing to meet face-to-face. Whether it's a loud roar echoing through the forest or a gentle chuff between friends, tigers have a rich and fascinating way of talking to one another.