

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## The Tiger's Moves: Speed and Strength

Tigers are not only strong and powerful, but they are also incredibly graceful when they move. Unlike some animals that rely on one main skill, tigers are skilled runners, swimmers, and climbers. These abilities help them survive in the wild and make them one of the top predators in their habitats.

### Running with Power

Tigers are built for short bursts of speed. They can run up to 40 miles per hour (64 kilometers per hour), but only for short distances. This is because running fast for a long time would use up too much energy. When hunting, tigers sneak up on their prey, getting as close as possible before sprinting to make the catch. Their strong legs help them leap great distances—sometimes as far as 20 feet in a single bound!

### Swimming Skills

Unlike most cats, tigers love water and are excellent swimmers. They often swim to cool off in hot weather or to cross rivers and streams in their territory. Tigers use their powerful legs to paddle through the water, and they can swim several miles without stopping. Swimming also helps them hunt for animals that live near water, such as fish or deer.

### Climbing Abilities

Although tigers are not as skilled at climbing as some other big cats, they can climb trees when needed. Cubs are better climbers than adults because they are lighter and more agile. Tigers usually climb to escape danger or to get a better view of their surroundings.

### Moving Silently

One of a tiger's most impressive abilities is its silent movement. When stalking prey, tigers place their back feet in the same spots as their front feet to make less noise. Their padded paws also help them walk quietly, even in dry leaves or crunchy snow.

Tigers are truly masters of movement, combining speed, strength, and stealth to survive in the wild. Whether running, swimming, or climbing, their skills make them one of nature's most impressive hunters.