

Tigers

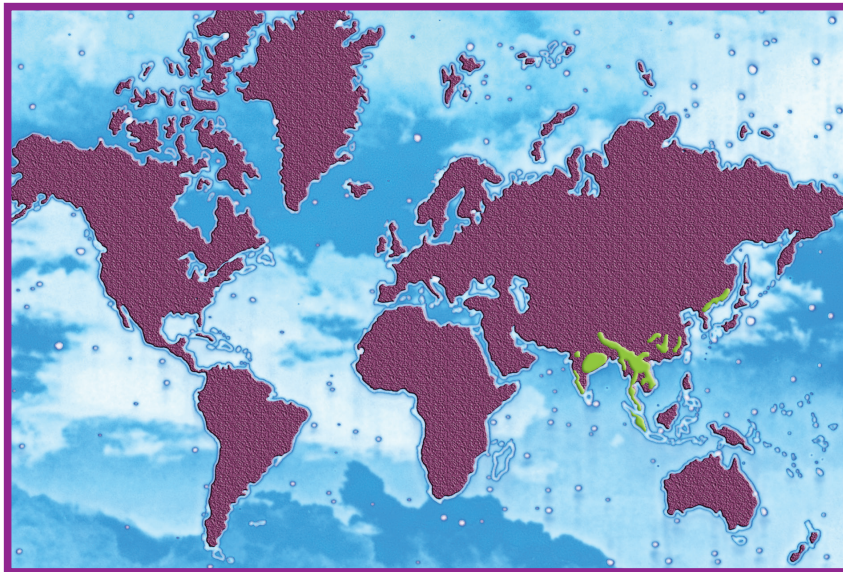
6

The number **6** is featured throughout *Tigers*. Counting to six, finding sixes, identifying sets of six, and learning to connect symbols with numerical concepts is great practice for growing children who are learning their numbers and early math skills. How many **6**s and groups of **6** can you and your child locate together throughout these pages?

Ii

Tigers features the “**long i**” sound (*i*). Long vowels are easy to hear—they’re the vowels that say their names, as “**i**” does in *tiger*. The rules for seeing a “**long i**,” however, are more complex. For instance, an “**i**” is usually long only when it is the last letter of a syllable (as in *ti-ger*), when it is followed by a consonant and a silent e (as in *bike*), or when it is combined with *gh* (as in *light*). The letter “**y**” can also make the “**long i**” sound, as in *my* and *by*. It’s probably too early to address phonics rules with your child, but you can focus on listening for the “**long i**” sound as you read together.

Where in the WORLD? ● Tigers



Reading Resource

Every title in the *Zootles* series is designed to be used for fun and learning, and as a reading resource as well. The pages are written simply and address various stages of emerging literacy, and they encourage new readers to exercise their new skills at just the right level.

Reading *Zootles* together will provide “together time” for you and your child—and reinforce vocabulary, comprehension, and early reading skills, too.

It's a ZOO out there!

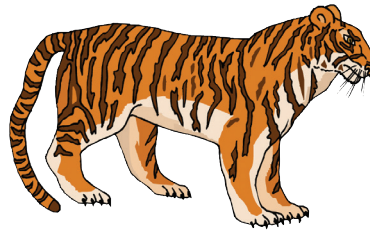
Tigers are fascinating. If you're fortunate enough to live near a zoo or wild animal park that has a spacious and humane big cat habitat, your family may enjoy a trip there after reading *Tigers*. Tigers are livelier in the evening, so call ahead to see if your zoo has an “animals after dark” night. Otherwise, try to visit the tigers just as the zoo opens or just before it closes. You'll reinforce learning and encourage careful observation if you look for these tiger features and behaviors:

- Notice how the tigers' stripes make them hard to find in grassy habitats.
- Listen to how silently they walk on their padded paws.
- Observe their big eyes. (“All the better to see you with, my dear.”)

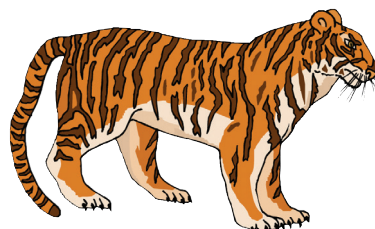
Tiger Twins

6

Scientists use tigers' stripes to tell them apart, and to know if they've seen the same tiger twice. Look at these tigers. Which ones are exactly the same? Can you find 6 pairs of tiger twins?



Shhhh . . . I think a sneaky pet cat is hiding on this page, pretending to be a tiger. Can you find her?



The "I" of the Tiger

Easier

Start here to help Allie track down some I's!



Harder

Start here to help Otto collect as many I's as he can!



I
i

Sometimes the letter "i" says its name, like the "i" does in "ti-ger."
Can you hear the "i" sound in these other words, too?

hide ice five lion outside bicycle

What ELSE can we DO?

- **On the Prowl (p. 2–3)** Tigers' bodies are wonderfully crafted, with each detail contributing to their survival. Humans are pretty well made too, and since both tigers and humans eat meat, we share some of the same specialized parts.

- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Human teeth have a lot in common with tiger teeth. Have your child try to bite into a carrot or some other crispy food with her molars and then chew it with her front teeth. Then try it the other way around. Which works better?

- **Tiger Stripes (p. 4–5)** Tigers' stripes are handsome, but they're important, too. Stripes help tigers keep hidden in forests and grasslands.

- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Hide some small toys in the grass or bushes. After your child has found them all, try to figure out what made them easy or hard to discover. How do size, color, and shape make a difference?

- **Tiger Stripes, part 2 (p. 4–5)** Most tigers live in rain forests. Rain forests are an ideal habitat, since they offer shade, water, and shelter. Rain forests are teeming with life.

- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Sprinkle some birdseed densely on a damp sponge. Set the sponge in a warm, sunny window and keep it moist. In a couple of weeks, you will have grown a lush, miniature habitat!

- **Here, Kitty Kitty! (p. 6–7)** Tigers and domestic cats have differences, too. Domestic cats have slitted pupils, for instance, while tigers have round pupils—and tigers can roar, while domestic cats can only purr.

- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Compare cats. If you have a cooperative kitty, try measuring it from its nose to the tip of its tail. (If you do not have a cooperative kitty, use 2' as an average.) Mark the length on the floor with a piece of tape or string. Put a ten-foot piece of tape or string by its side. A third piece of tape can represent the length of your child and make for some fun comparisons.

- **Tiger Time (p. 8–9)** Tiger cubs sure are busy, but human children are busy too.

- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** For one day, help your child or children keep a diary of how much time they spend playing, eating, sleeping, helping, and watching TV. After you've collected your data, make a chart so everyone can see how the day was spent. Take a guess at how many hours a tiger normally spends sleeping every day, then look up the answer!

- **Gone Hunting (p. 12–15)** In "Almost Grown," tiger cubs Lila and Nell take their first steps toward independence as they try to hunt on their own. They sneak up quietly on their prey . . .

- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Discover how padded feet help tigers be so sneaky. Ask your child to jump up and down, and notice how noisy it is. (You may want to demonstrate some noisy jumping, too.) Then tape a square of soft rags to the bottom of his shoes and have him try jumping again.

- **You Can Be a Scientist, Too! (p.17)** In addition to having good powers of observation, a field biologist needs to keep good notes.

- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Buy a blank book to keep as a field journal. Each time your child sees something interesting in the yard or on a walk, have him draw a picture on a new page in the journal. Label it with the date and place of discovery. Drawing—more than taking pictures—helps a child notice, value, and retain details.

- **The Adventures of Otto and Allie (back cover)** Tigers' stripes help camouflage them, but being extra quiet helps them stay safe and healthy, too.

- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Play the "Sardines" version of hide-and-seek. The child who is "it" hides from the others—the rest of the children are seekers. When someone finds "it," she hides alongside. Eventually, all of the children are crammed into the hiding space. Remind them to be extra quiet!

