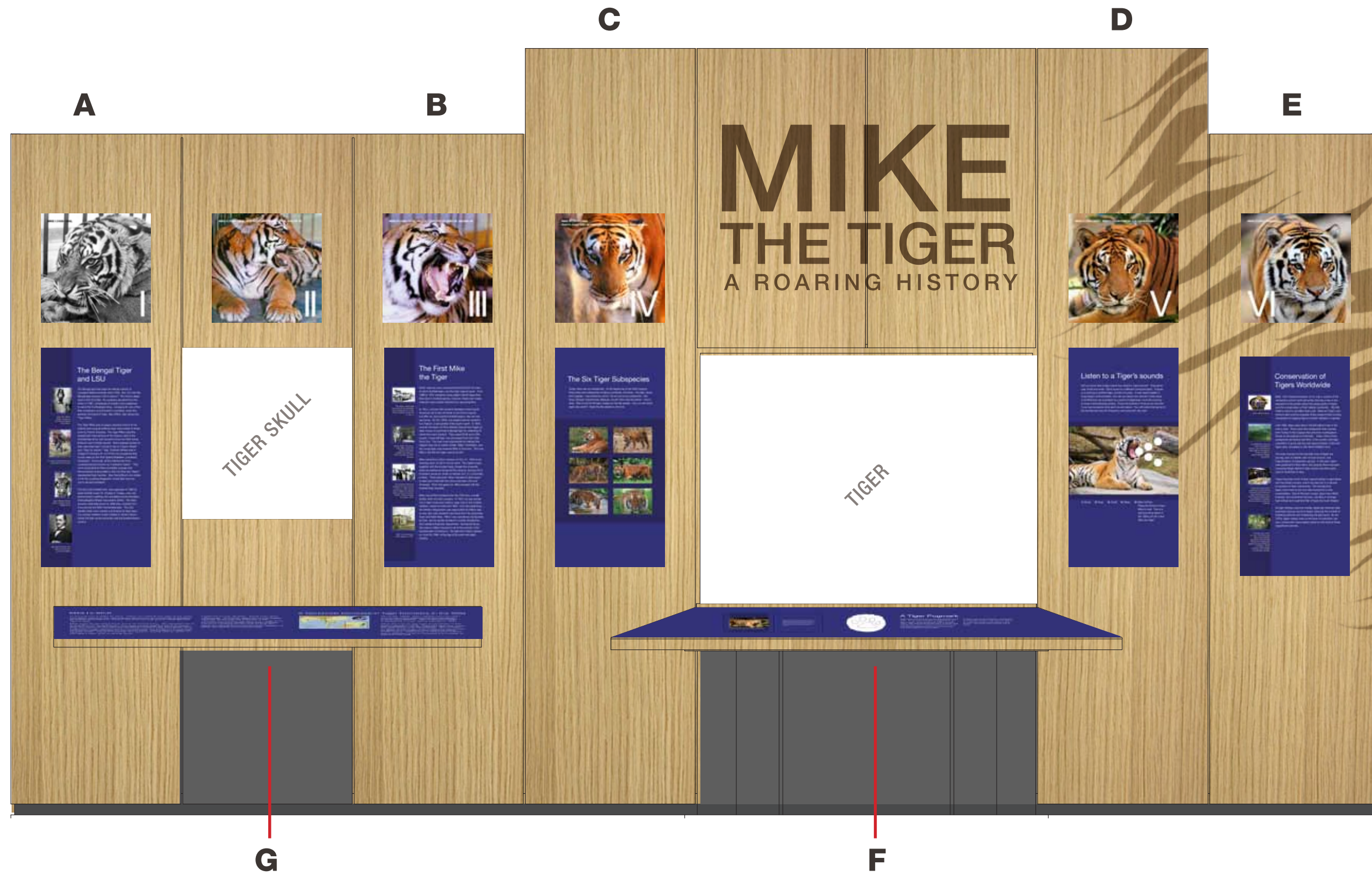


MIKE
THE TIGER
A ROARING HISTORY

FOSTER HALL FINAL DESIGN



Foster Hall - Rail View (Section F Elevation)

LSU MIKE THE TIGER EXHIBIT Graphic Design

Mike I (1935-1956)

The Bengal tiger that you see before you is the actual pup of Mike I that was preserved as he could be displayed in the museum in perpetuity. Mike I lived on the LSU campus from 1935 to 1956. He died at the age of 20 years and eight months from today's disease. Mike I was the first in a long tradition of tigers who have been LSU's live mascot. Mike the Tiger represents the heart and soul of LSU athletics. There have been six tigers since Mike I because there were two Mike II's. Today, Mike VI lives at his home near the football stadium.



© 1987 University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Mike I (1936-1956)

Mike I was very well looked after as LSU's first live mascot. He was fed a daily meal of eight to twelve pounds of meat. The meat would sometimes be covered with cod liver oil, and a little of salt. For a special treat he was given three eggs and a quart of milk to help keep his coat shiny and healthy. During World War II however, Mike's daily diet of meat was rationed just like everyone else's. Mike was not happy about this and students who lived in the football stadium dormitories often complained of being woken in the middle of the night as Mike roared in protest for more food.



Mike I (1936-1956)



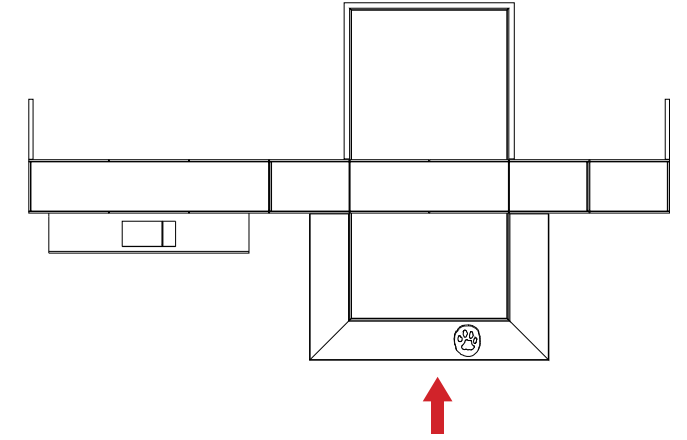
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A Tiger Pugmark

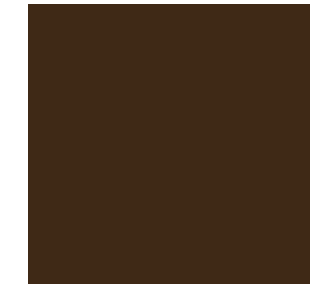
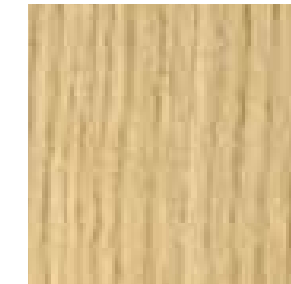
Place your hand on top of the Bengal tiger paw print. Is your hand smaller or bigger than the tiger's paw? How big do you think this tiger was? This paw print comes from an adult male Bengal tiger. Adult males can grow to 8 to 10 feet long, weigh as much as 400 to 600 lbs., and have tails as long as 3 feet.

A tiger's paw print is called a "pugmark." A "pugmark" is the word used to refer to an animal's footprint, especially a large animal. The word "pug" means foot in Hindi.



FONT: Helvetica Neue (55 Roman) 28pt
Bengal tigers are one of the six subspecies of tigers in the world. Bengal tigers can be found mostly in Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar and Nepal. Ben-

SWATCHES



FONT SHOWN IN ACTUAL SIZE BELOW

Listen to a Tiger's sounds

Did you know that a tiger makes four distinct, main sounds? They growl, roar, chuff and moan. Each sound is a different communication. A growl is a warning to another tiger, animal or human. A roar means battle or

The Bengal Tiger and LSU



Capt. Alex White.
Photo courtesy of
Fort Tejon Historical
Association.



A couple of Tiger Rifles from
a painting by Don Troiani.



Maj. Chatham Wheat.
Photo courtesy of Mrs.
William Elam.



Maj. David F. Boyd, who
later became LSU's
second president.

The Bengal tiger has been the official mascot of Louisiana State University since 1936. But, how did the Bengal tiger become LSU's mascot? The choice dates back to the Civil War. As Louisiana seceded from the Union in 1861, companies of soldiers were organized to serve the Confederate Army. Company B, one of the first companies to be formed in Louisiana, under the general command of Capt. Alex White, was named the "Tiger Rifles."

The Tiger Rifles was a unique company known for its colorful and unusual uniforms that were similar to those worn by French Zouaves. The Tiger Rifles were the earliest and most famous of the Zouave units in the Confederate Army who became known for their rowdy behavior and criminal records. Many painted quotes on their caps that read "Lincoln's Life or a Tiger's Death" and "Tiger by Nature." Maj. Chatham Wheat was in charge of Company B, one of the six companies that would make up the First Special Battalion, Louisiana Volunteers. Eventually, all the infantrymen from Louisiana became known as "Louisiana Tigers." They were recognized for their incredible courage and ferociousness during battle in the Civil War and "tigers" represented their heroism. Maj. David Boyd, one soldier in the 9th Louisiana Regiment, would later become LSU's second president.

The first LSU football team was organized in 1893 by head football coach Dr. Charles E. Coates, who was instrumental in getting LSU accepted into the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association (SIAA). The team became nationally known in 1896 after a perfect 6-0-0 record and the SIAA co-championship. The LSU student body soon wanted a nickname for their team. It is unclear whether Coach Coates or David F. Boyd chose the tiger as the university and the football team's symbol.



Image Caption 1:
Capt. Alex White. Photo courtesy
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A couple of Tiger Rifles from a
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THE BENGAL TIGER AND LSU

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The First Mike the Tiger



This papier-mâché tiger was made for the Arkansas-LSU football game in 1920. Photo courtesy of Clarence A. Ives, Jr.



Chellis "Mike" Chambers visits Mike I at his first home at the Baton Rouge City Park Zoo. Photo courtesy of "Pop" Strange.



LSU students barred all entrances to the university on Oct. 21, 1936, forcing LSU's president to declare Mike I's arrival a university holiday. Photo courtesy of Gumbo, 1937.



Mike I's new home on LSU's campus in 1937.

Other mascots were proposed during the first 40 years of LSU's football team, but the tiger mascot stuck. From 1896 to 1924, students made papier-mâché tigers that they took to football games; however, these man-made mascots were quickly destroyed by opposing fans.

In 1924, a former LSU student donated a small South American cat to the university to be its live mascot, but after an unsuccessful football season, the cat was sent away. By the 1930s, the student alumni wanted a live mascot, a real symbol of the team's spirit. In 1934, several members of LSU's Athletic Department began to raise money to purchase a Bengal tiger by collecting 25 cents from each student. They raised \$750 and a 200-pound, 1-year-old tiger was purchased from the Little Rock Zoo. The man most responsible for making this happen was LSU's trainer Chellis "Mike" Chambers, and the young tiger was renamed Mike in his honor. This was Mike I, the first live tiger mascot of LSU.

Mike I arrived on LSU's campus on Oct. 21, 1936, to an amazing show of LSU's school spirit. The Cadet Corps, together with the student body, closed the university down by barring all access to the campus, forcing LSU's President James M. Smith to declare Oct. 21 a university holiday. Three days later, Mike I traveled to Shreveport to take part in the half-time show between LSU and Arkansas. From that game on, Mike traveled with the football team regularly.

Mike was at first housed at the City Park Zoo, a small facility north of LSU's campus. In 1937, he was moved into a tiger house and outdoor cage next to the football stadium, where he lived until 1956. From the beginning, the Athletic Department was responsible for Mike's day-to-day care, and students were hired from the swimming team and fraternities. Mike I was sometimes transported by train, but he usually traveled in a trailer donated by the Louisiana Highway Department. During his life as the mascot, Mike I traveled to all of the schools in the Southeastern Conference. He died from kidney disease on June 29, 1956, at the age of 20 years and eight months.

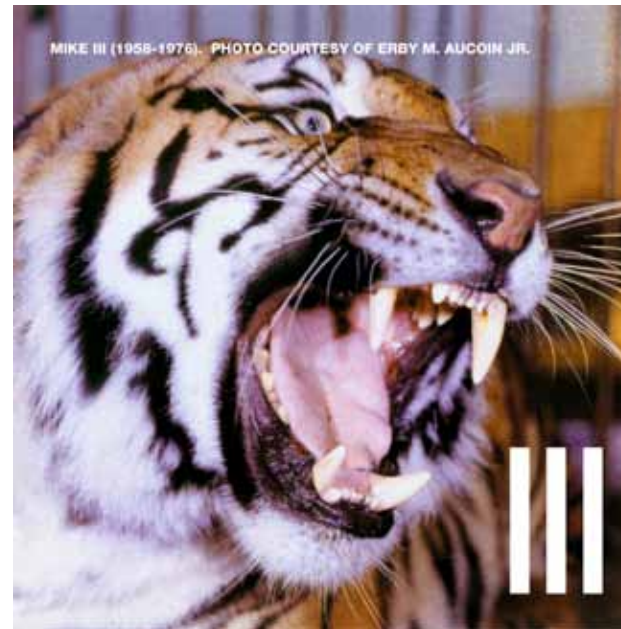


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The Six Tiger Subspecies

Today, there are six subspecies. At the beginning of the 20th Century, there were nine subspecies of tigers worldwide, but three – the Bali, Javan and Caspian – have become extinct. All six surviving subspecies – the Amur, Bengal, Indochinese, Malayan, South China and Sumatran – live in Asia. Take a look at the tiger images on the flip panels. Can you tell which tigers are which? Open the flip panels to find out.



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<p>THE AMUR (OR SIBERIAN) TIGER</p> <p>Scientific Name: <i>Panthera tigris altaica</i></p> <p>Range: Eastern Russia, a few in northeastern China and northern North Korea</p> <p>Habitat: Coniferous, scrub oak and broad forests</p> <p>Fact: The Amur tiger is the largest subspecies of tiger in the world. Amur tigers were on the verge of extinction in 1940, but due to conservation efforts their numbers have become stable. They have the broadest stripes of all surviving subspecies.</p>	<p>THE BENGAL (OR INDIAN) TIGER</p> <p>Scientific Name: <i>Panthera tigris tigris</i></p> <p>Range: Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar and Nepal</p> <p>Habitat: Deciduous forests (wet and dry), grasslands, and temperate and mangrove forests</p> <p>Fact: A few Bengal tigers have been kept in zoos or private collections. Most of them have been born in captivity, but a few have been found in the wild. This is very rare and is due to a recessive gene.</p>
<p>MALAYAN TIGER</p> <p>Scientific Name: <i>Panthera tigris jacksoni</i></p> <p>Range: Southern tip of Thailand and Peninsular Malaysia</p> <p>Habitat: Mixed broadleaf forests (tropical and subtropical)</p> <p>Fact: The Malayan tiger, although smaller than the Indochinese tiger, is so similar that until 2004 it was thought to be the same subspecies.</p>	<p>INDOCHINESE TIGER</p> <p>Scientific Name: <i>Panthera tigris corbetti</i></p> <p>Range: Wide range throughout Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Viet Nam, Myanmar and Vietnam</p> <p>Habitat: Broadleaf forests located in hills to mountainous regions</p> <p>Fact: Due to the remote locations where Indochinese tigers live, field studies have been limited and little is known about the status of these tigers in the wild.</p>
<p>SOUTH CHINA TIGER</p> <p>Scientific Name: <i>Panthera tigris amoyensis</i></p> <p>Range: Central and eastern China</p> <p>Habitat: Evergreen forests in mountainous, sub-tropical regions</p> <p>Fact: It is believed that in the wild, the South China tiger is extinct. There are 47 of these tigers that live in 18 zoos in China. If any are living in the wild, they would be found in southeast China.</p>	<p>SUMATRAN TIGER</p> <p>Scientific Name: <i>Panthera tigris sumatrae</i></p> <p>Range: The Indonesian island of Sumatra</p> <p>Habitat: Mountainous and lowland forests, peat swamps and freshwater swamp forests</p> <p>Fact: Although Sumatran tigers are protected by law in Indonesia and there is an increased effort in tiger conservation, there is still a large illegal market for Sumatran tiger body parts and products.</p>

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Fact: A few Bengal tigers have been born white or cream-colored. Most of these have been born in captivity, but a few have been found in the wild. This is very rare and is due to a recessive gene.

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MALAYAN TIGER

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SUMATRAN TIGER

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Habitat: Mountainous and lowland forests, peat swamps and freshwater swamp forests

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1



2



3



4



5



6



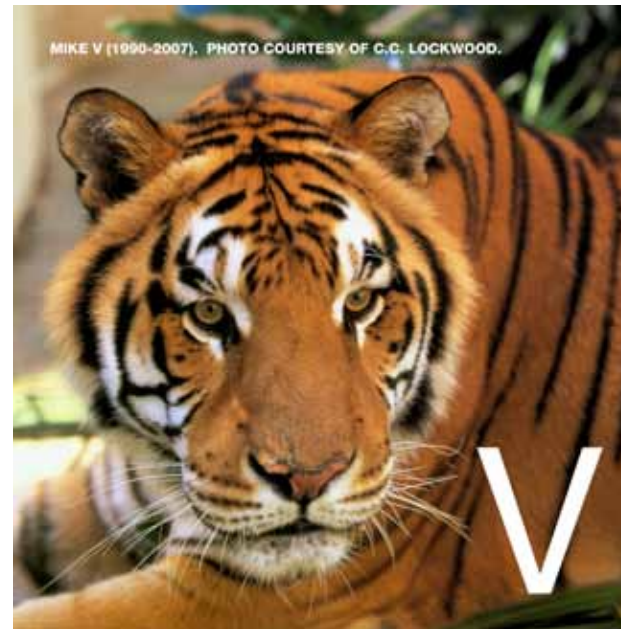
Listen to a Tiger's sounds

Did you know that a tiger makes four distinct, main sounds? They growl, roar, chuff and moan. Each sound is a different communication. A growl is a warning to another tiger, animal or human. A roar means battle or long-range communication, and can be heard from almost 2 miles away. A chuff (known as a prusten) is a sound of happiness, much like purring. A moan communicates anxiety. Press the buttons in front of you and see if you can recognize what each sound means. You will notice that some of the sounds are very low frequency and some are very loud.



1: Growl. 2: Roar. 3: Chuff. 4: Moan. 5: Mike I's Roar.

Press the button to hear Mike I's roar. This is a real recording taken in the 1950s of LSU's first Mike the Tiger.



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Growl.

Caption 2:
Roar.

Caption 3:
Chuff.

Caption 4:
Moan.

Caption 5:
Mike I's Roar.
Press the button to hear Mike I's roar.
This is a real recording taken in the 1950s of LSU's first Mike the Tiger.

Conservation of Tigers Worldwide



LSU's official mascot.

Mike, LSU's beloved mascot, is not only a symbol of the university's school spirit and pride, but also a key in the education of the public about the preservation of tigers and the conservation of their habitat worldwide. 100,000 visitors come to see Mike each year. Mike the Tiger's new home is also a prime example of the research that is being conducted on keeping tigers in better habitats in captivity.



An aerial photo showing former forestland in Borneo, now converted to large palm-oil plantations. Photo courtesy of Sally Kneidel of Veggie Revolution.

Until 1900, there were about 100,000 tigers living in the wild in Asia. There were nine subspecies that roamed from Turkey to the Caspian Sea and from southeastern Russia to the islands of Indonesia. Today, three of the subspecies are extinct and 90% of the world's wild tiger population is gone, leaving only approximately 3,200 wild tigers alive, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

The main reasons for the dramatic loss of tigers are hunting, loss of habitat, lack of food sources, and fragmentation of population groups. In the past, tigers were poached for their skins, but recently there has been a growing illegal market in tiger bones and other parts used in medicines in Asia.



A tiger law enforcement expert and a high ranking Thai police official discuss tiger trafficking issues in front of poached tiger skins at a meeting in Thailand. Photo courtesy of Wild Aid Thailand.

Tigers have lost much of their natural habitat to agriculture and the timber industry, which has also led to a decline in numbers of their natural prey. The animals that tigers once lived on are now also hunted for human consumption. Due to this lack of prey, tigers have killed livestock and sometimes humans, resulting in revenge tiger killings and a general fear of tigers by local villagers.



A female tiger moves her cub. This photo was taken with a camera trap used to record tiger activity for conservation efforts in Huai Kha Khaeng in Thailand. Photo courtesy of the Wildlife Conservation Society.

As tiger habitats become smaller, distances between tiger population groups become larger, reducing the number of breeding partners and weakening the gene pool. By the 1970s, tigers clearly were on the brink of extinction, but new conservation laws helped preserve and protect these magnificent animals.



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LSU's official mascot.

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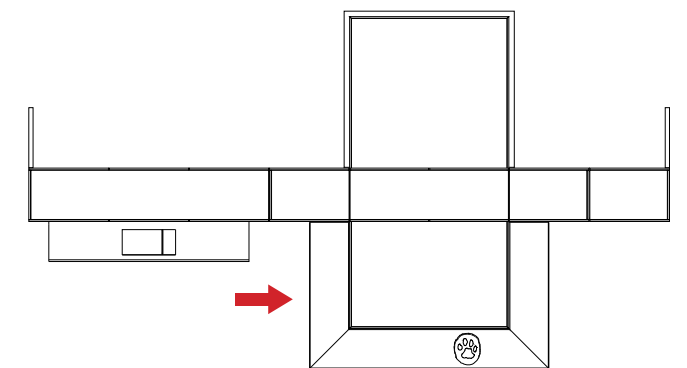
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LSU Studio portrait of Mike I.



FLIP BOOK
The Importance of Preserving
and Protecting Tigers



A Tiger Pugmark

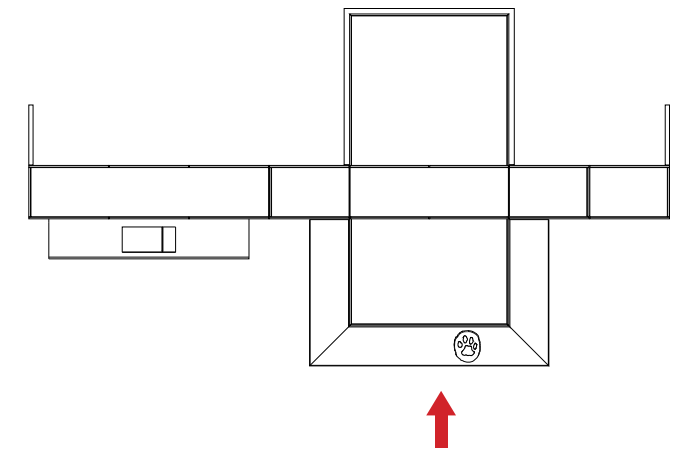
Place your hand on top of the Bengal tiger paw print. Is your hand smaller or bigger than the tiger's paw? How big do you think this tiger was? This paw print comes from an adult male Bengal tiger. Adult males can grow to 8 to 10 feet long, weigh as much as 450 to 500 lbs., and have tails as long as 3 feet.

A tiger's paw print is called a "pugmark." A "pugmark" is the word used to refer to an animal's footprint, especially a large animal. The word "pug" means foot in Hindi.

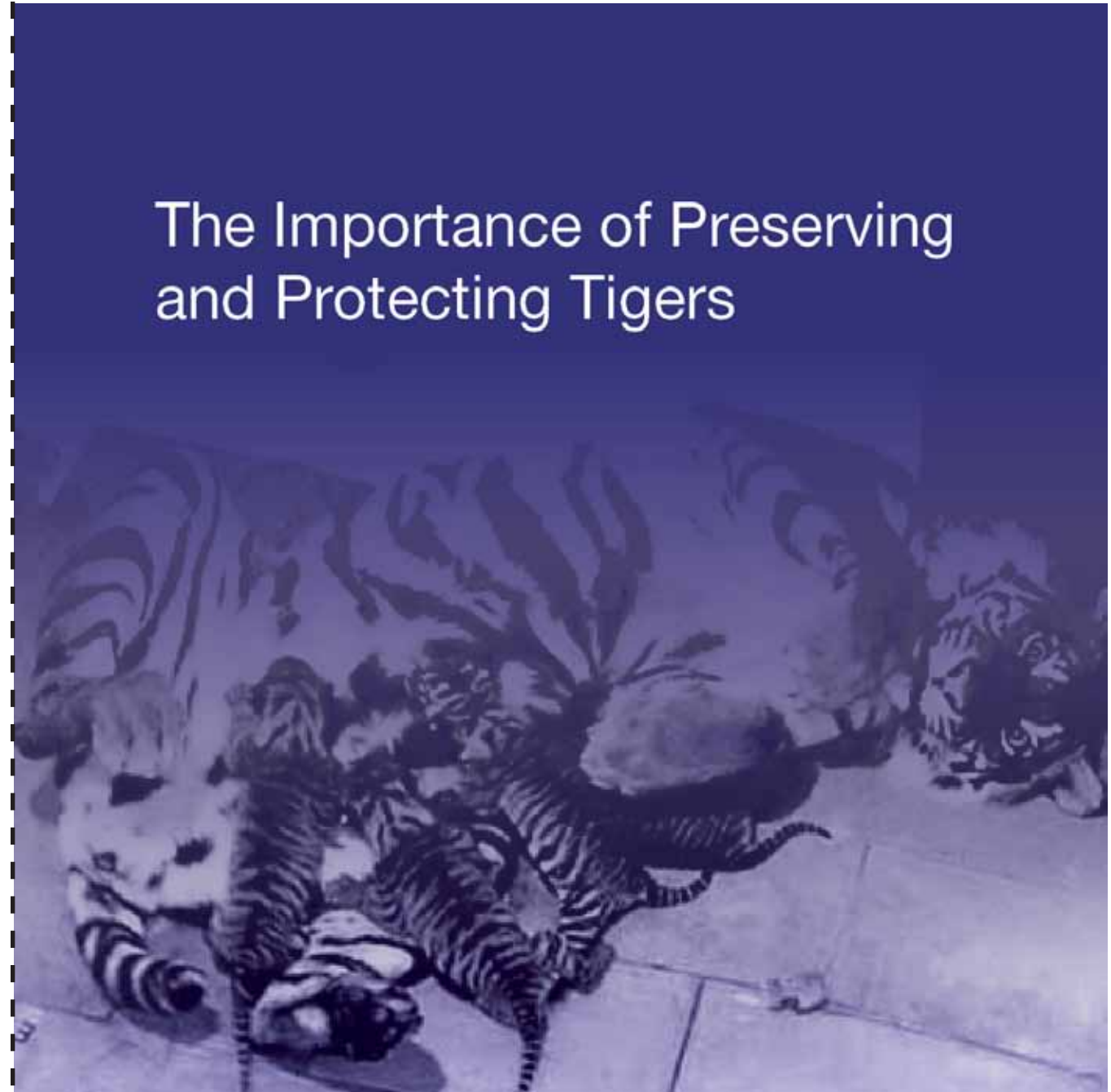
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The Importance of Preserving and Protecting Tigers



(COVER)1



Damai, a Sumatran tiger, lives at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. Photo courtesy of Megan Murphy.

Since the 1970s, there has been a growing effort to preserve the number of tigers in the wild and increase the numbers in captivity. One of the most important acts, the Species Survival Plan (SSP), was formed as a joint effort by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association and conservation organizations, whose main goal was to establish and manage healthy endangered animals in captivity.



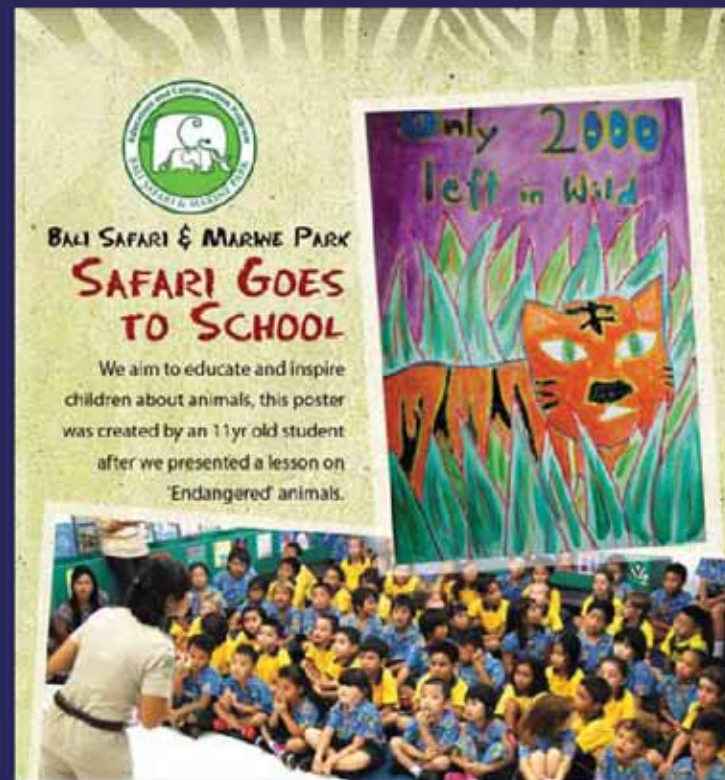
This Amur tiger cub was born in captivity at the Great Plains Zoo in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Photo courtesy of the Great Plains Zoo.

The SSP created a master plan for managing tigers with recommendations for mate selection, shipping conditions for breeding animals, and supporting programs that protect the species in the wild. In 1992, it was decided that 100 tigers from each subspecies should be kept in captivity. These tigers have been raised in zoos across North America in cooperation with tiger conservation programs in Europe, India and Southeast Asia. Other international tiger programs also exist, including the Tiger Global Animal Survival Plan (GASP), which devised several areas of scientific study, such as molecular DNA studies, that are thought to be critical for the survival of tigers worldwide. There have also been advances in other scientific programs, such as in the fields of genome banking, *in vitro* fertilization and contraception.



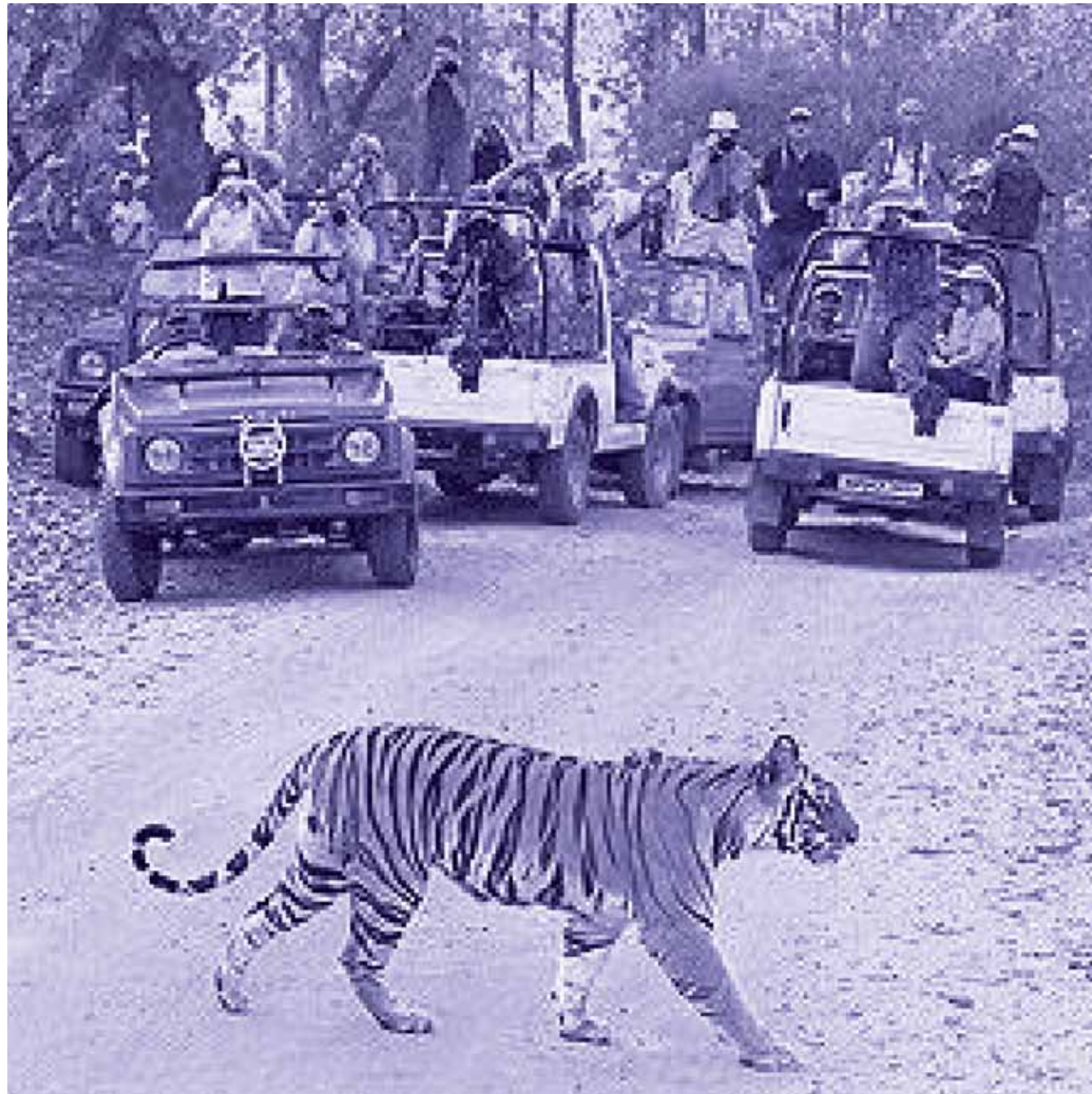
World leaders attend the International Tiger Forum in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 2010. Photo courtesy of the Environmental Investigation Agency.

For the past 40 years, there have been many international and national laws, guidelines and regulations for the protection of tigers. The most fundamental of these is the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which specifically bans the international trade of tigers and tiger body parts. To date, 175 countries have signed the CITES agreement. Many regional conservation programs also exist, such as the Global Tiger Forum in India, whose main goals are to eliminate the trade in tiger parts, support efforts to preserve tiger habitat, and promote local training and research in tiger conservation. Several local governments in Asia have also enacted laws to protect tigers.



One key tool toward saving tigers in the wild is to educate the public about these great animals. The Bali Safari and Marine Park launched a campaign in 2010 called “Safari Goes to School,” teaching children about the preservation of tigers and other wild animals.

However, despite these efforts, much work still needs to be done to protect tigers. Local governments must work to help villagers who have lost property due to wild tiger attacks, who rely on the natural resources in tigers’ habitats, and who think that tiger parts are essential in their medicine. Educating these local villagers about the benefits of tiger conservation is crucial. In addition, collaborative work must be carried out between those who are helping to protect tigers in the wild and those who are raising tigers in captivity. The overall global goal is that by 2022, the Chinese Year of the Tiger, the population of wild tigers will have doubled.



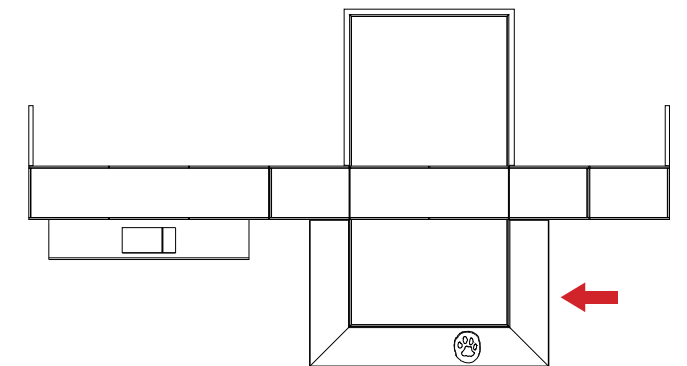
10 (BACK COVER)



Mike I enjoys a meal.

Mike I (1935-1956)

Mike I was very well looked after as LSU's first live mascot. He was fed a daily meal of eight to 12 pounds of meat. The meat would sometimes be covered with cod liver oil and a slab of salt. For a special treat, he was given three eggs and a quart of milk to help keep his coat shiny and healthy. During World War II, however, Mike I's daily diet of meat was rationed just like everyone else's. Mike was not happy about this and students who lived in the football stadium dormitories often complained of being awakened in the middle of the night as Mike roared in protest for more food.



Mike I's Skull

In front of you is Mike I's skull. When he died at the age of 20 years and eight months, he was preserved so that he could be displayed for future generations. This is the size of a full-grown male Bengal tiger's skull.

Male tiger skulls range from 10 to 15 inches long. The female's skull is only 8 to 12 inches long. You may notice that the skull is round and very solid, to provide the necessary support for the tiger's jaws. Tigers have very powerful jaw muscles that are attached to the skull by a bony ridge that lies on top of the skull. This ridge is called the sagittal crest. The jaw muscles are used to rapidly clamp down on the tiger's prey with crushing force.

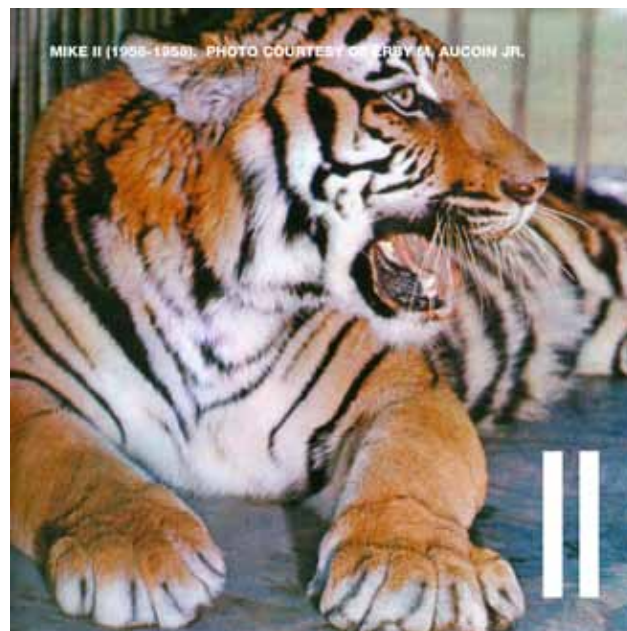
Tigers have only 30 teeth, fewer than other carnivores. However, tigers have the largest canines of any big cat species. Their canines, from above the gum line, range from 2 ½ to 3 inches in length and have special pressure-sensing nerves that enable the tigers to identify the exact location needed to sever the spinal cord of their prey.

A Worldwide Decrease in Tiger Numbers in the Wild



Since the 1900s, tiger habitat loss has been one of the main reasons for the decrease in tiger populations. This map shows tiger populations in their native habitat in 1900.

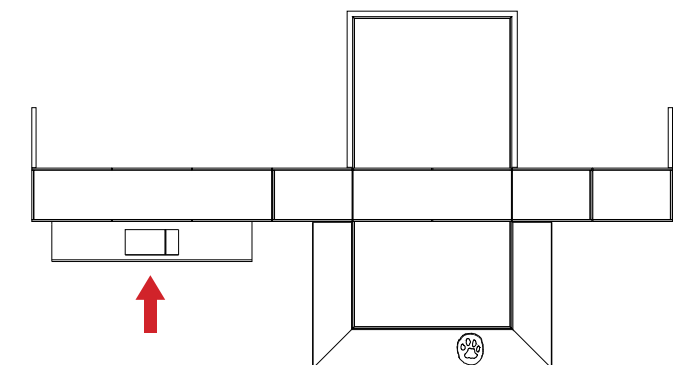
Slide the map to see tiger populations in the same habitat in 2006. Can you see how much the population has decreased? The number of tigers living in the wild today has decreased by 90% since 1900 to only approximately 3,200 tigers. Worldwide conservation efforts are underway to try to increase the number of tigers in the wild.



A WORLDWIDE DECREASE IN TIGER NUMBERS IN THE WILD

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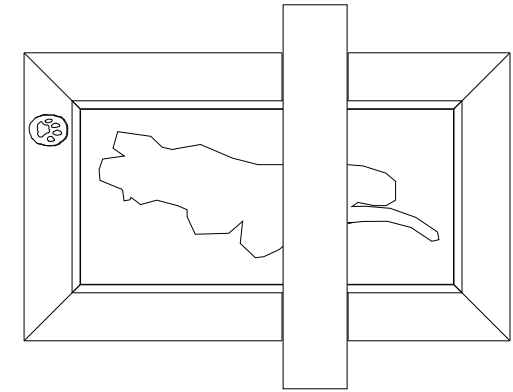
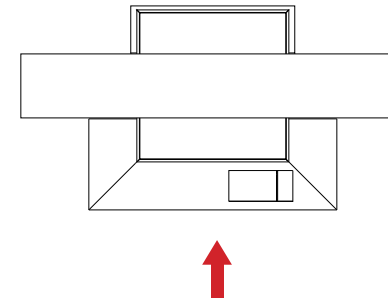
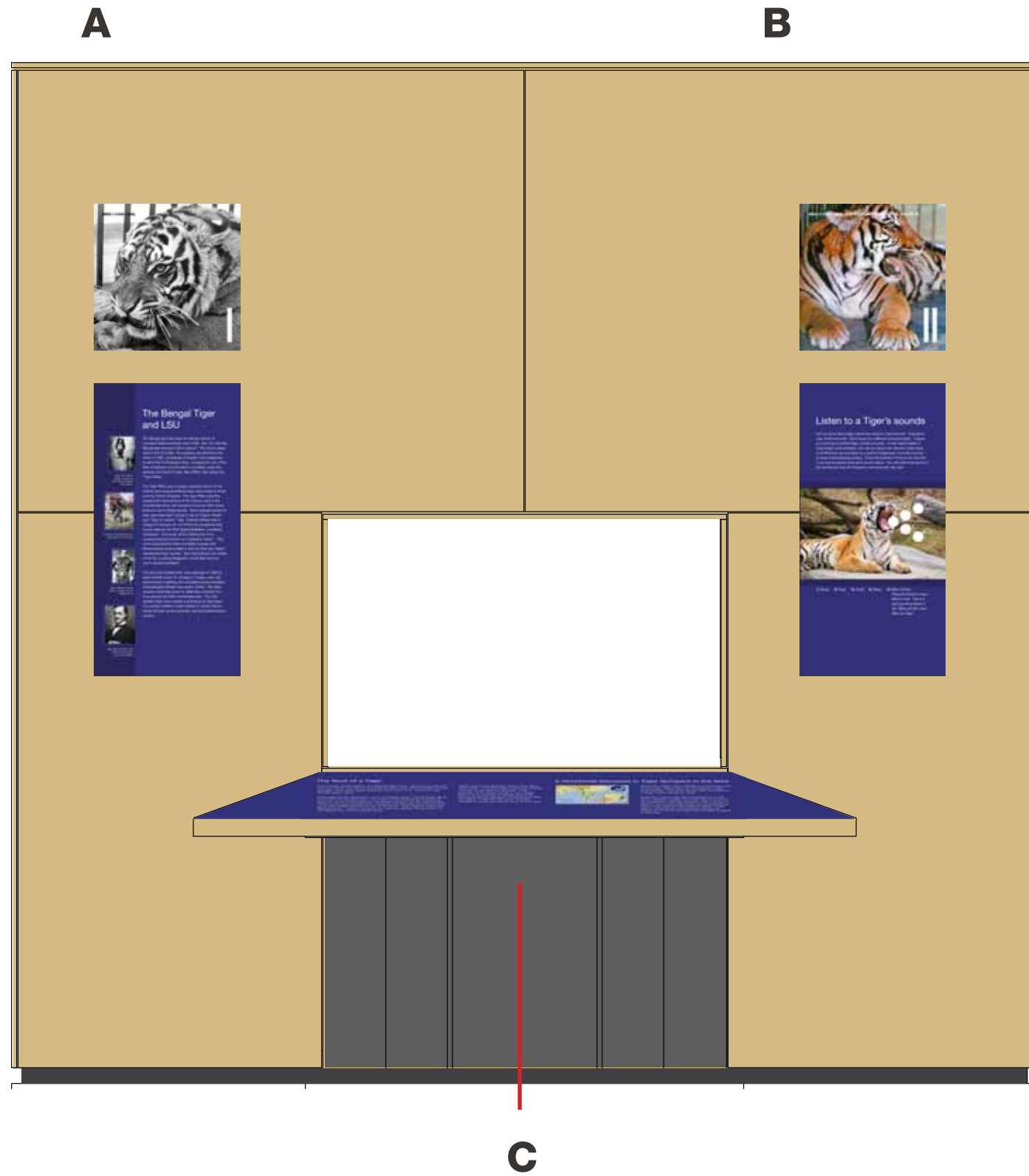




MIKE
THE TIGER
A ROARING HISTORY

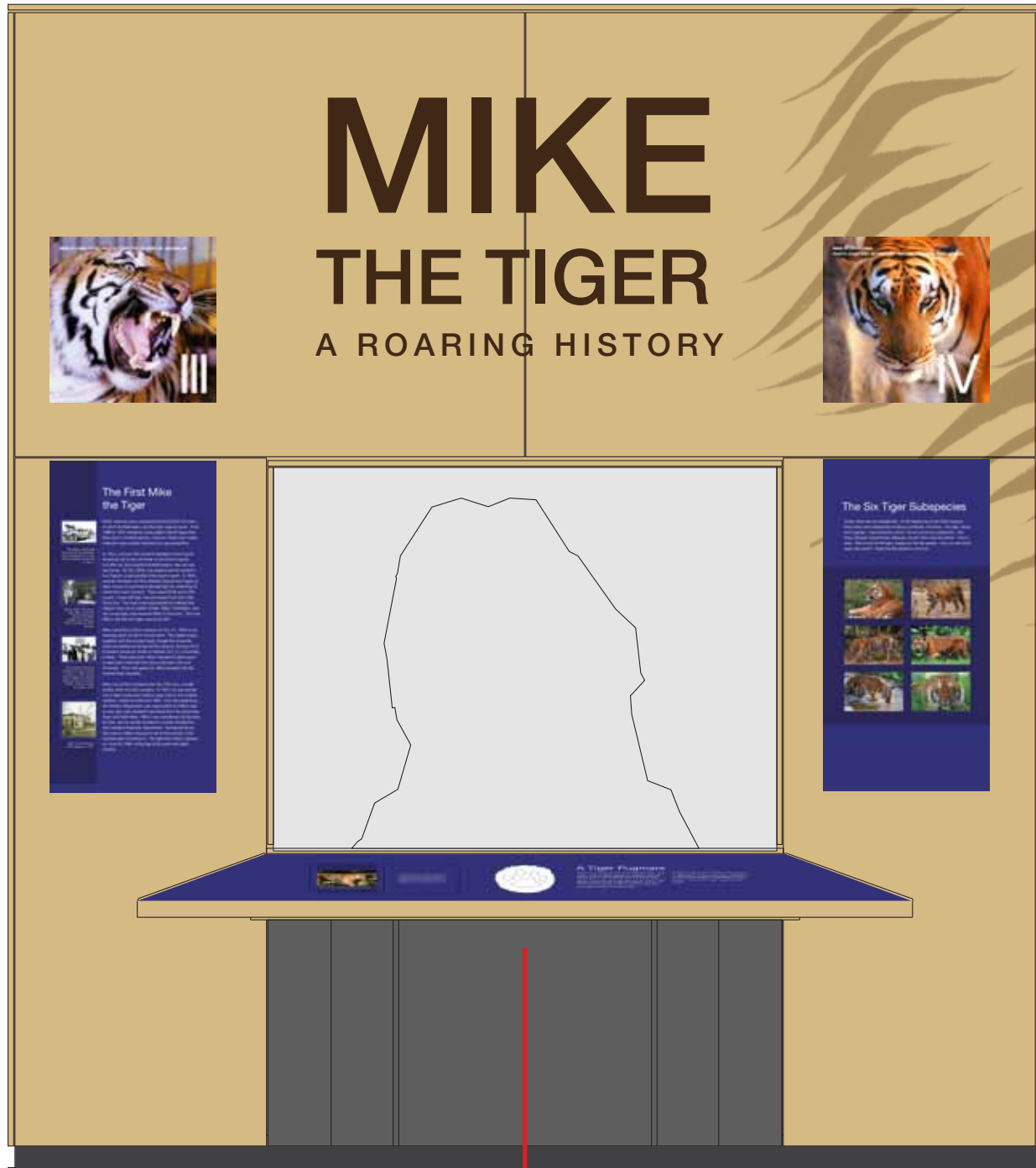
ALEX BOX STADIUM FINAL DESIGN

Alex Box Stadium - Front Elevation (Tiger Skull Wall)



D

E

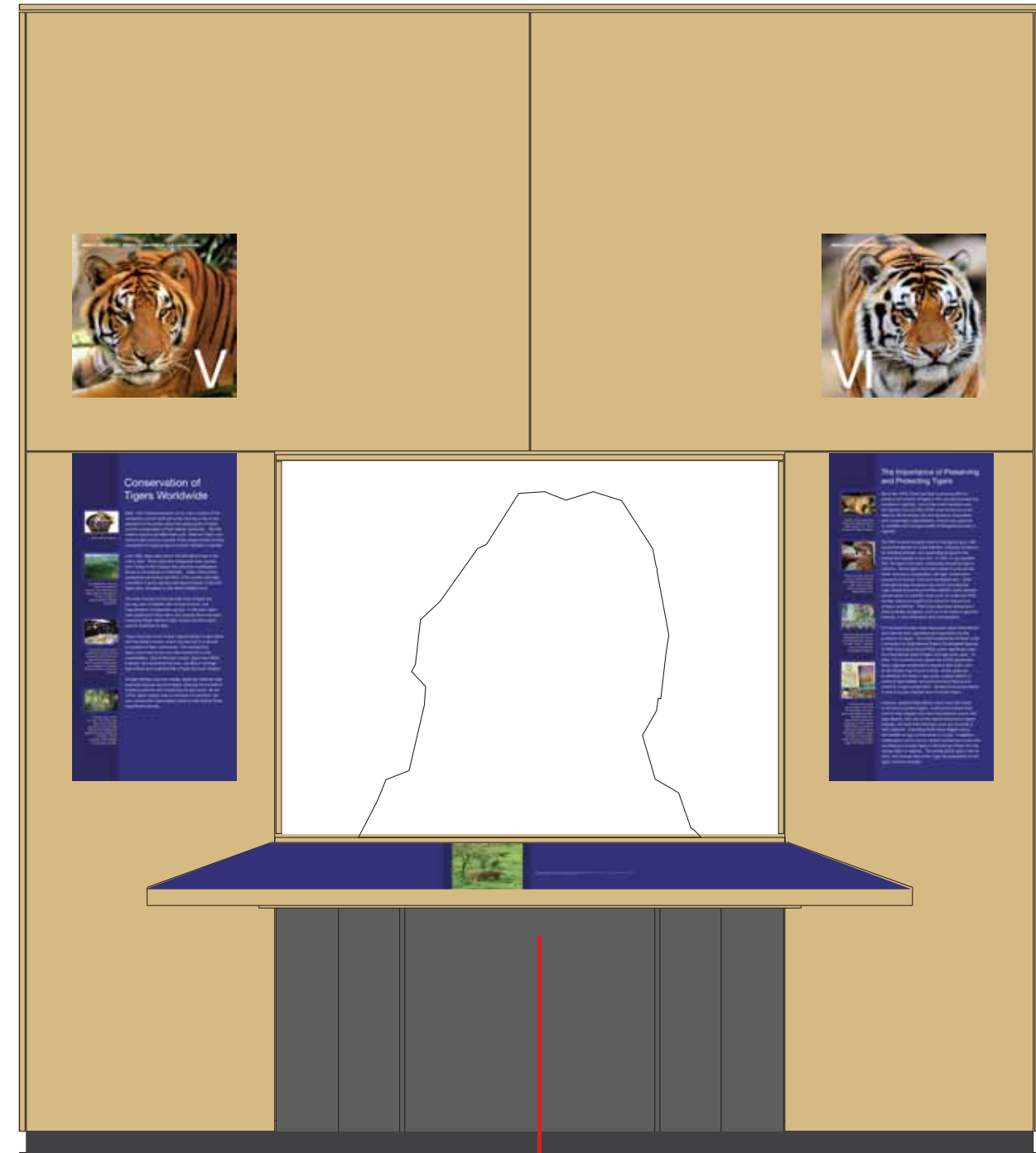


Front View

H

F

G



Back View

H

Alex Box Stadium - Top Elevation (Section H1 - H2 - H3)

H1



Bengal Tigers

Bengal tigers, one of the subspecies of tigers, are found mostly in Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, and India. They are the only tigers to have a white coat with black stripes. Their fur is thick and soft, and they are known for their strength and agility. These tigers are indicators of the Bengal sub-species.

This is a full grown cub of a white Bengal tiger. It is a large cub, weighing 150 pounds in weight. It is 100 cm tall and 100 cm long. Bengal tigers can weigh up to 300 pounds. Their tails measure 100 to 120 inches long. Bengal are 22 to 41 inches tall from the top of their shoulders.




A Tiger Pugmark

Place your hand on top of the Bengal tiger paw print. Is your hand smaller or bigger than the tiger's paw? How big do you think this tiger is? This paw print comes from an adult male Bengal tiger. Adult males can grow to 8 to 10 feet long, weigh as much as 400 to 500 lbs, and have tails as long as 2 feet.

A tiger's paw print is called a "pugmark." A "pugmark" is the word used to refer to an animal's footprint, especially a large animal. The word "pug" means back to track.

H2

Tigers are carnivores that usually hunt large, wounded animals such as spotted deer and gazel in well wooded areas, forests and parks. They also hunt in open areas such as grasslands and savannas. They are also known for their strength and agility. These tigers are indicators of the Bengal sub-species.

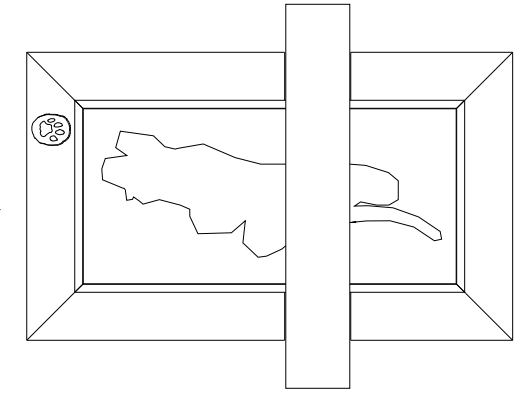
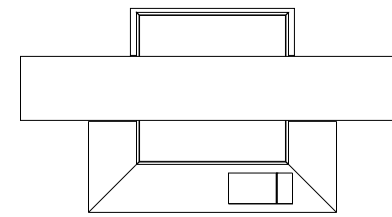


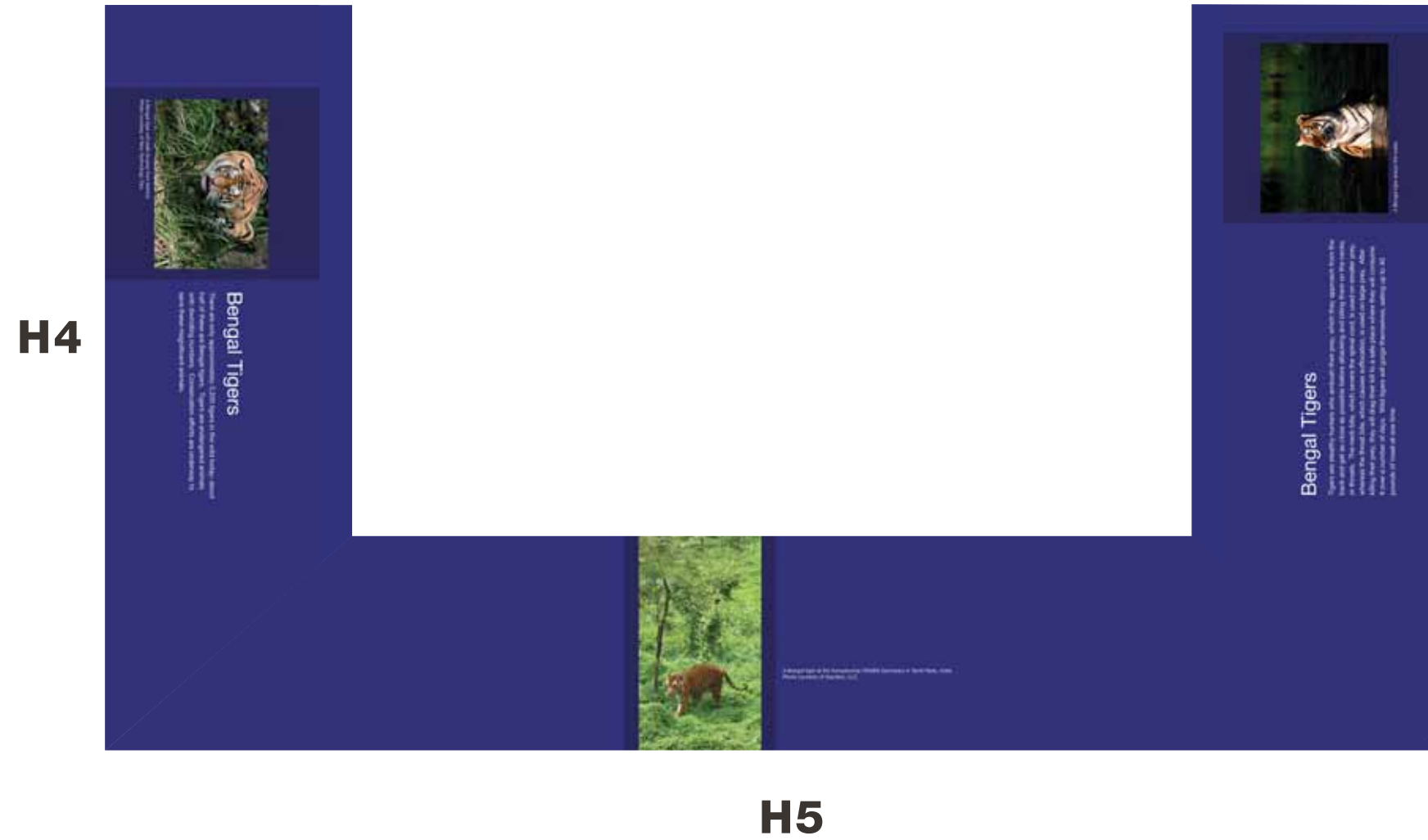
Bengal Tigers

Tigers are solitary animals, unlike lions which are in prides. They do not like to be in groups. Bengal tigers are the only surviving subspecies of their family to have a white coat with black stripes. They are also known for their strength and agility. These tigers are indicators of the Bengal sub-species.

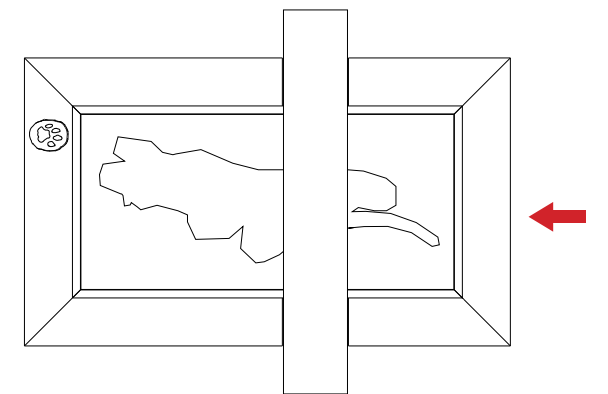
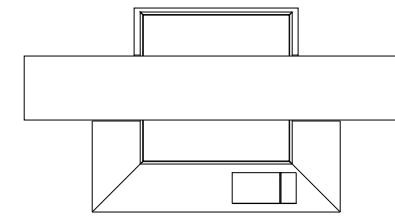


H3





H6



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SWATCHES



FONT SHOWN IN ACTUAL SIZE BELOW

Listen to a Tiger's sounds

Did you know that a tiger makes four distinct, main sounds? They growl, roar, chuff and moan. Each sound is a different communication. A growl is a warning to another tiger, animal or human. A roar means battle or

The Bengal Tiger and LSU



Capt. Alex White.
Photo courtesy of
Fort Tejon Historical
Association.



A couple of Tiger Rifles from
a painting by Don Troiani.



Maj. Chatham Wheat.
Photo courtesy of Mrs.
William Elam.



Maj. David F. Boyd, who
later became LSU's
second president.

The Bengal tiger has been the official mascot of Louisiana State University since 1936. But, how did the Bengal tiger become LSU's mascot? The choice dates back to the Civil War. As Louisiana seceded from the Union in 1861, companies of soldiers were organized to serve the Confederate Army. Company B, one of the first companies to be formed in Louisiana, under the general command of Capt. Alex White, was named the "Tiger Rifles."

The Tiger Rifles was a unique company known for its colorful and unusual uniforms that were similar to those worn by French Zouaves. The Tiger Rifles were the earliest and most famous of the Zouave units in the Confederate Army who became known for their rowdy behavior and criminal records. Many painted quotes on their caps that read "Lincoln's Life or a Tiger's Death" and "Tiger by Nature." Maj. Chatham Wheat was in charge of Company B, one of the six companies that would make up the First Special Battalion, Louisiana Volunteers. Eventually, all the infantrymen from Louisiana became known as "Louisiana Tigers." They were recognized for their incredible courage and ferociousness during battle in the Civil War and "tigers" represented their heroism. Maj. David Boyd, one soldier in the 9th Louisiana Regiment, would later become LSU's second president.

The first LSU football team was organized in 1893 by head football coach Dr. Charles E. Coates, who was instrumental in getting LSU accepted into the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association (SIAA). The team became nationally known in 1896 after a perfect 6-0-0 record and the SIAA co-championship. The LSU student body soon wanted a nickname for their team. It is unclear whether Coach Coates or David F. Boyd chose the tiger as the university and the football team's symbol.



Image Caption 1:
Capt. Alex White. Photo courtesy
of Fort Tejon Historical Association.

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A couple of Tiger Rifles from a
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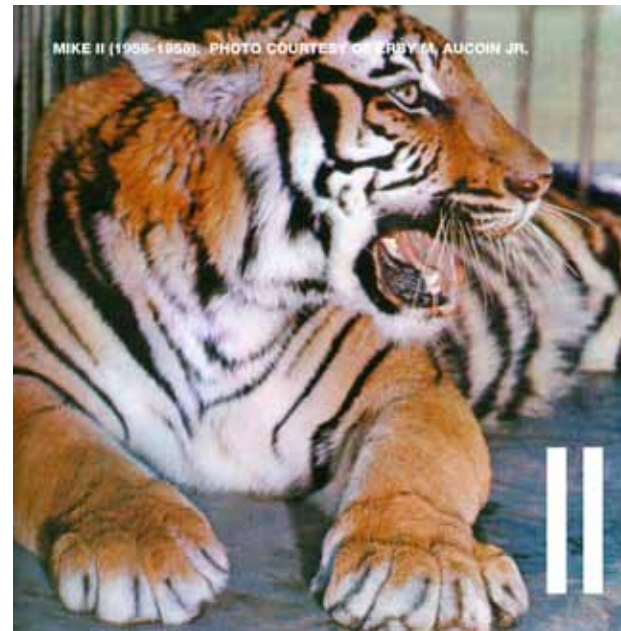
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1: Growl. 2: Roar. 3: Chuff. 4: Moan. 5: Mike I's Roar.

Press the button to hear Mike I's roar. This is a real recording taken in the 1950s of LSU's first Mike the Tiger.



LISTEN TO A TIGER'S SOUNDS

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Caption 1:
Growl.

Caption 2:
Roar.

Caption 3:
Chuff.

Caption 4:
Moan.

Caption 5:
Mike I's Roar.
Press the button to hear Mike I's roar.
This is a real recording taken in the 1950s of LSU's first Mike the Tiger.

The Skull of a Tiger

Take a look at this replica of a Bengal tiger skull. Notice how big it is. Can you tell by the size of the skull whether this was a female or male animal? How many teeth does the skull hold in it? This is a male Bengal tiger's skull.

Male tiger skulls range from 10 to 15 inches long. The female's skull is only 8 to 12 inches long. You may notice that the skull is round and very solid, to provide the necessary support for the tiger's jaws. Tigers have very powerful jaw muscles that are attached to the skull by a bony ridge that lies on top of the skull. This ridge is called the sagittal crest. The jaw muscles are used to rapidly clamp down on the tiger's prey with crushing force.

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A Worldwide Decrease in Tiger Numbers in the Wild



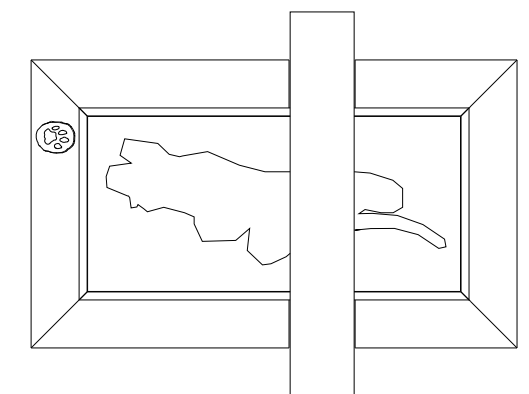
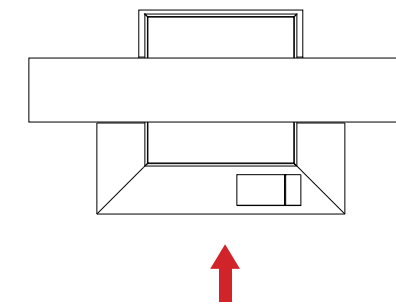
Since the 1900s, tiger habitat loss has been one of the main reasons for the decrease in tiger populations. This map shows tiger populations in their native habitat in 1900.

Slide the map to see tiger populations in the same habitat in 2006. Can you see how much the population has decreased? The number of tigers living in the wild today has decreased by 90% since 1900 to only approximately 3,200 tigers. Worldwide conservation efforts are underway to try to increase the number of tigers in the wild.

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The First Mike the Tiger

Other mascots were proposed during the first 40 years of LSU's football team, but the tiger mascot stuck. From 1896 to 1924, students made papier-mâché tigers that they took to football games; however, these man-made mascots were quickly destroyed by opposing fans.

In 1924, a former LSU student donated a small South American cat to the university to be its live mascot, but after an unsuccessful football season, the cat was sent away. By the 1930s, the student alumni wanted a live mascot, a real symbol of the team's spirit. In 1934, several members of LSU's Athletic Department began to raise money to purchase a Bengal tiger by collecting 25 cents from each student. They raised \$750 and a 200-pound, 1-year-old tiger was purchased from the Little Rock Zoo. The man most responsible for making this happen was LSU's trainer Chellis "Mike" Chambers, and the young tiger was renamed Mike in his honor. This was Mike I, the first live tiger mascot of LSU.

Mike I arrived on LSU's campus on Oct. 21, 1936, to an amazing show of LSU's school spirit. The Cadet Corps, together with the student body, closed the university down by barring all access to the campus, forcing LSU's President James M. Smith to declare Oct. 21 a university holiday. Three days later, Mike I traveled to Shreveport to take part in the half-time show between LSU and Arkansas. From that game on, Mike traveled with the football team regularly.

Mike was at first housed at the City Park Zoo, a small facility north of LSU's campus. In 1937, he was moved into a tiger house and outdoor cage next to the football stadium, where he lived until 1956. From the beginning, the Athletic Department was responsible for Mike's day-to-day care, and students were hired from the swimming team and fraternities. Mike I was sometimes transported by train, but he usually traveled in a trailer donated by the Louisiana Highway Department. During his life as the mascot, Mike I traveled to all of the schools in the Southeastern Conference.

In the Museum of Natural Science on campus, you can see the actual pelt of Mike I that was preserved so that he could be displayed in perpetuity. Mike I lived on the LSU campus from 1936 to 1956. He died from kidney disease on June 29, 1956, at the age of 20 years and eight months. Mike I was the first in a long tradition of tigers who have been LSU's live mascot. Mike the Tiger represents the heart and soul of LSU athletics. There have been six tigers since Mike I, because there were two Mike IIs. Today, Mike VI lives in his home near the football stadium.



This papier-mâché tiger was made for the Arkansas-LSU football game in 1920. Photo courtesy of Clarence A. Ives, Jr.



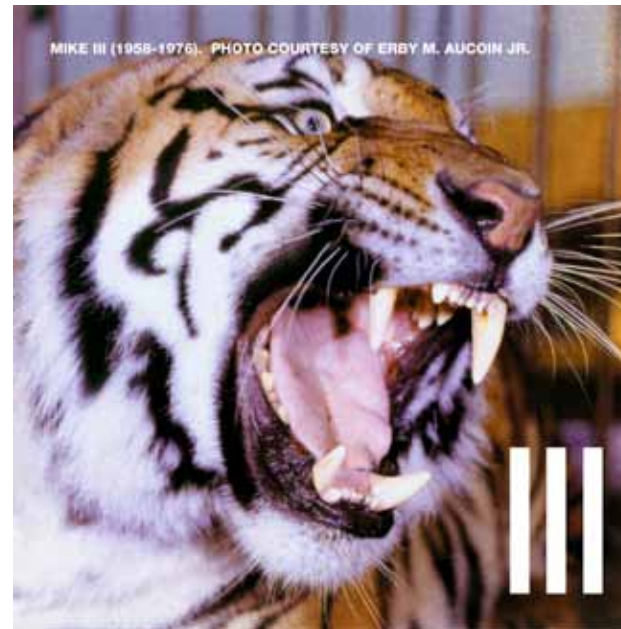
Chellis "Mike" Chambers visits Mike I at his first home at the Baton Rouge City Park Zoo. Photo courtesy of "Pop" Strange.



LSU students barred all entrances to the university on Oct. 21, 1936, forcing LSU's president to declare Mike I's arrival a university holiday. Photo courtesy of Gumbo, 1937.



Mike I's new home on LSU's campus in 1937.



MIKE III (1956-1976). PHOTO COURTESY OF ERBY M. AUCCOIN JR.

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The Six Tiger Subspecies

Today, there are six subspecies. At the beginning of the 20th Century, there were nine subspecies of tigers worldwide, but three – the Bali, Javan and Caspian – have become extinct. All six surviving subspecies – the Amur, Bengal, Indochinese, Malayan, South China and Sumatran – live in Asia. Take a look at the tiger images on the flip panels. Can you tell which tigers are which? Open the flip panels to find out.



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<p>THE AMUR (OR SIBERIAN) TIGER</p> <p>Scientific Name: <i>Panthera tigris altaica</i></p> <p>Range: Eastern Russia, a few in northeastern China and northern North Korea</p> <p>Habitat: Coniferous, scrub oak and birch forests</p> <p>Fact: The Amur tiger is the largest subspecies of tiger in the world. Amur tigers were on the verge of extinction in 1940, but due to conservation efforts their numbers have become stable. They have the broadest stripes of all surviving subspecies.</p>	<p>THE BENGAL (OR INDIAN) TIGER</p> <p>Scientific Name: <i>Panthera tigris tigris</i></p> <p>Range: Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar and Nepal</p> <p>Habitat: Deciduous forests (wet and dry), grasslands, and temperate and mangrove forests</p> <p>Fact: A few Bengal tigers have been both white or orange-colored. Most of Bengal have orange bodies or stripes, but a few have been found in the wild. This is very rare and is due to a recessive gene.</p>
<p>MALAYAN TIGER</p> <p>Scientific Name: <i>Panthera tigris jacksoni</i></p> <p>Range: Southern tip of Thailand and Peninsular Malaysia</p> <p>Habitat: Mixed broadleaf forests (tropical and subtropical)</p> <p>Fact: The Malayan tiger, although smaller than the Indochinese tiger, is so similar that until 2004 it was thought to be the same subspecies.</p>	<p>INDOCHINESE TIGER</p> <p>Scientific Name: <i>Panthera tigris corbetti</i></p> <p>Range: Wide range throughout Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Viet Nam, Myanmar and Vietnam</p> <p>Habitat: Deciduous forests located in hills to mountainous regions</p> <p>Fact: Due to the remote locations where Indochinese tigers live, field studies have been limited and little is known about the status of these tigers in the wild.</p>
<p>SOUTH CHINA TIGER</p> <p>Scientific Name: <i>Panthera tigris amoyensis</i></p> <p>Range: Central and eastern China</p> <p>Habitat: Evergreen forests in mountainous, sub-tropical regions</p> <p>Fact: It is believed that in the 19th, the South China tiger is extinct. There are 47 of these tigers that live in 18 zoos in China. If any are living in the wild, they would be found in southeast China.</p>	<p>SUMATRAN TIGER</p> <p>Scientific Name: <i>Panthera tigris sumatrae</i></p> <p>Range: The Indonesian island of Sumatra</p> <p>Habitat: Mountainous and lowland forests, peat swamps and freshwater swamp forests</p> <p>Fact: Although Sumatran tigers are protected by law in Indonesia and there is an increased effort in tiger conservation, there is still a large illegal market for Sumatran tiger body parts and products.</p>

THE SIX TIGER SUBSPECIES

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Fact: The Amur tiger is the largest subspecies of tiger in the world. Amur tigers were on the brink of extinction in 1940, but due to conservation efforts their numbers have become stable. They have the fewest stripes of all surviving subspecies.

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THE BENGAL (OR INDIAN) TIGER

Scientific Name: *Panthera tigris tigris*

Range: Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar and Nepal

Habitat: Deciduous forests (wet and dry), grasslands, and temperate and mangrove forests

Fact: A few Bengal tigers have been born white or cream-colored. Most of these have been born in captivity, but a few have been found in the wild. This is very rare and is due to a recessive gene.

3

MALAYAN TIGER

Scientific Name: *Panthera tigris jacksoni*

Range: Southern tip of Thailand and Peninsular Malaysia

Habitat: Moist broadleaf forests (tropical and subtropical)

Fact: The Malayan tiger, although smaller than the Indochinese tiger, is so similar that until 2004 it was thought to be the same subspecies.

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INDOCHINESE TIGER

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Habitat: Remote forests located in hilly to mountainous regions

Fact: Due to the remote locations where Indochinese tigers live, field studies have been limited and little is known about the status of these tigers in the wild.

5

SOUTH CHINA TIGER

Scientific Name: *Panthera tigris amoyensis*

Range: Central and eastern China

Habitat: Evergreen forests in mountainous, sub-tropical regions

Fact: It is believed that in the wild, the South China tiger is extinct. There are 47 of these tigers that live in 18 zoos in China. If any are living in the wild, they would be found in southeast China.

6

SUMATRAN TIGER

Scientific Name: *Panthera tigris sumatrae*

Range: The Indonesian island of Sumatra

Habitat: Mountainous and lowland forests, peat swamps and freshwater swamp forests

Fact: Although Sumatran tigers are protected by law in Indonesia and there is an increased effort in tiger conservation, there is still a large illegal market for Sumatran tiger body parts and products.

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Conservation of Tigers Worldwide



LSU's official mascot.



An aerial photo showing former forestland in Borneo, now converted to large palm-oil plantations. Photo courtesy of Sally Kneidel of Veggie Revolution.



A tiger law enforcement expert and a high ranking Thai police official discuss tiger trafficking issues in front of poached tiger skins at a meeting in Thailand. Photo courtesy of Wild Aid Thailand.



A female tiger moves her cub. This photo was taken with a camera trap used to record tiger activity for conservation efforts in Huai Kha Khaeng in Thailand. Photo courtesy of the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Mike, LSU's beloved mascot, is not only a symbol of the university's school spirit and pride, but also a key in the education of the public about the preservation of tigers and the conservation of their habitat worldwide. 100,000 visitors come to see Mike each year. Mike the Tiger's new home is also a prime example of the research that is being conducted on keeping tigers in better habitats in captivity.

Until 1900, there were about 100,000 tigers living in the wild in Asia. There were nine subspecies that roamed from Turkey to the Caspian Sea and from southeastern Russia to the islands of Indonesia. Today, three of the subspecies are extinct and 90% of the world's wild tiger population is gone, leaving only approximately 3,200 wild tigers alive, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

The main reasons for the dramatic loss of tigers are hunting, loss of habitat, lack of food sources, and fragmentation of population groups. In the past, tigers were poached for their skins, but recently there has been a growing illegal market in tiger bones and other parts used in medicines in Asia.

Tigers have lost much of their natural habitat to agriculture and the timber industry, which has also led to a decline in numbers of their natural prey. The animals that tigers once lived on are now also hunted for human consumption. Due to this lack of prey, tigers have killed livestock and sometimes humans, resulting in revenge tiger killings and a general fear of tigers by local villagers.

As tiger habitats become smaller, distances between tiger population groups become larger, reducing the number of breeding partners and weakening the gene pool. By the 1970s, tigers clearly were on the brink of extinction, but new conservation laws helped preserve and protect these magnificent animals.

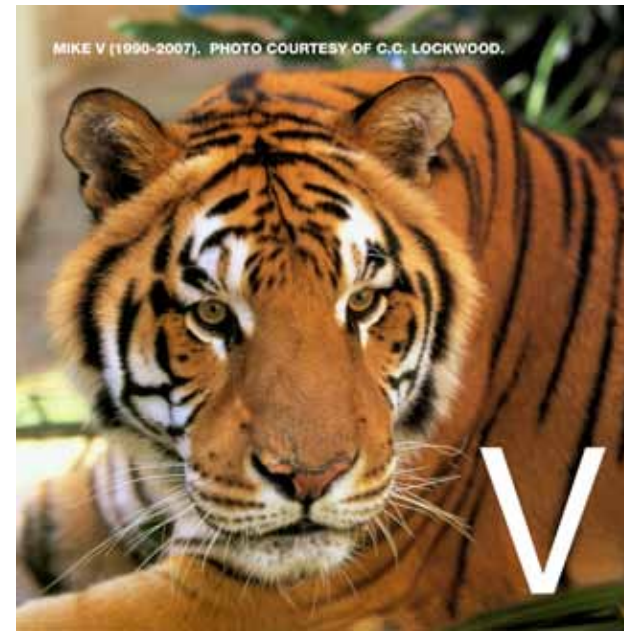


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The Importance of Preserving and Protecting Tigers



Damai, a Sumatran tiger, lives at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. Photo courtesy of Megan Murphy.



This Amur tiger cub was born in captivity at the Great Plains Zoo in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Photo courtesy of the Great Plains Zoo.



World leaders attend the International Tiger Forum in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 2010. Photo courtesy of the Environmental Investigation Agency.



One key tool toward saving tigers in the wild is to educate the public about these great animals. The Bali Safari and Marine Park launched a campaign in 2010 called "Safari Goes to School," teaching children about the preservation of tigers and other wild animals. Photo courtesy of the Bali Safari and Marine Park.

Since the 1970s, there has been a growing effort to preserve the number of tigers in the wild and increase the numbers in captivity. One of the most important acts, the Species Survival Plan (SSP), was formed as a joint effort by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association and conservation organizations, whose main goal was to establish and manage healthy endangered animals in captivity.

The SSP created a master plan for managing tigers with recommendations for mate selection, shipping conditions for breeding animals, and supporting programs that protect the species in the wild. In 1992, it was decided that 100 tigers from each subspecies should be kept in captivity. These tigers have been raised in zoos across North America in cooperation with tiger conservation programs in Europe, India and Southeast Asia. Other international tiger programs also exist, including the Tiger Global Animal Survival Plan (GASP), which devised several areas of scientific study, such as molecular DNA studies, that are thought to be critical for the survival of tigers worldwide. There have also been advances in other scientific programs, such as in the fields of genome banking, *in vitro* fertilization and contraception.

For the past 40 years, there have been many international and national laws, guidelines and regulations for the protection of tigers. The most fundamental of these is the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which specifically bans the international trade of tigers and tiger body parts. To date, 175 countries have signed the CITES agreement. Many regional conservation programs also exist, such as the Global Tiger Forum in India, whose goals are to eliminate the trade in tiger parts, support efforts to preserve tiger habitat, and promote local training and research in tiger conservation. Several local governments in Asia have also enacted laws to protect tigers.

However, despite these efforts, much work still needs to be done to protect tigers. Local governments must work to help villagers who have lost property due to wild tiger attacks, who rely on the natural resources in tigers' habitats, and who think that tiger parts are essential in their medicine. Educating these local villagers about the benefits of tiger conservation is crucial. In addition, collaborative work must be carried out between those who are helping to protect tigers in the wild and those who are raising tigers in captivity. The overall global goal is that by 2022, the Chinese Year of the Tiger, the population of wild tigers will have doubled.



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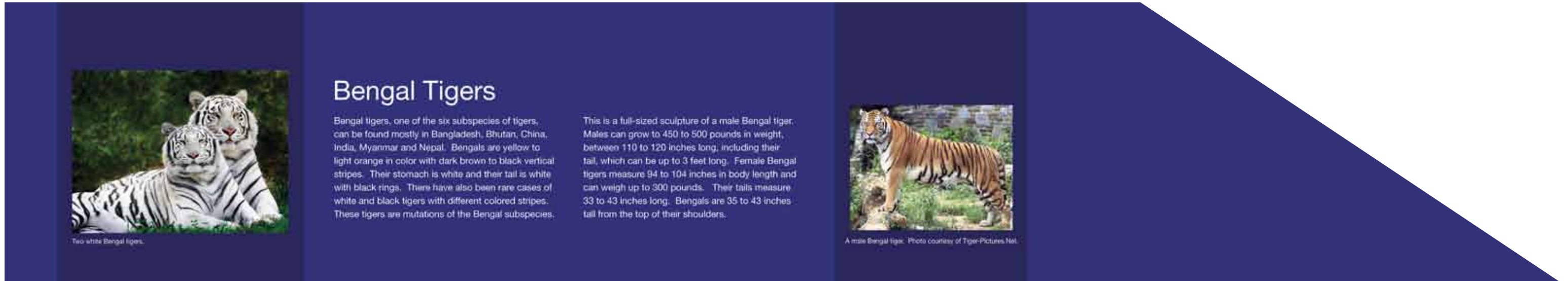
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Bengal Tigers

Bengal tigers, one of the six subspecies of tigers, can be found mostly in Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar and Nepal. Bengals are yellow to light orange in color with dark brown to black vertical stripes. Their stomach is white and their tail is white with black rings. There have also been rare cases of white and black tigers with different colored stripes. These tigers are mutations of the Bengal subspecies.

This is a full-sized sculpture of a male Bengal tiger. Males can grow to 450 to 500 pounds in weight, between 110 to 120 inches long, including their tail, which can be up to 3 feet long. Female Bengal tigers measure 94 to 104 inches in body length and can weigh up to 300 pounds. Their tails measure 33 to 43 inches long. Bengals are 35 to 43 inches tall from the top of their shoulders.

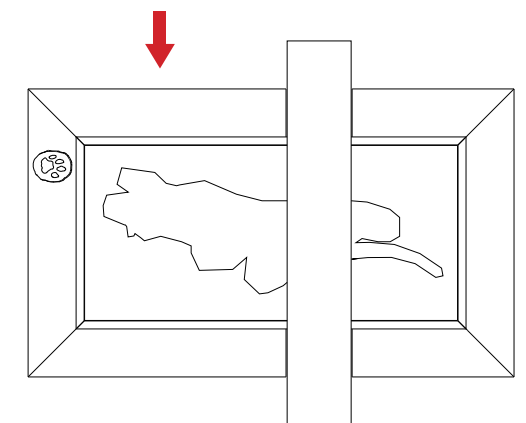
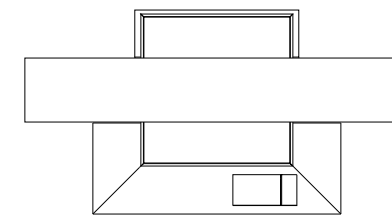
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Two white Bengal tigers.

Image Caption 2:
A male Bengal tiger.
Photo courtesy of Tiger-Pictures.Net.





A Tiger Pugmark

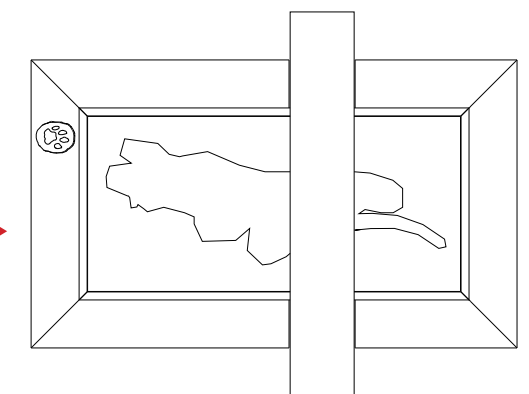
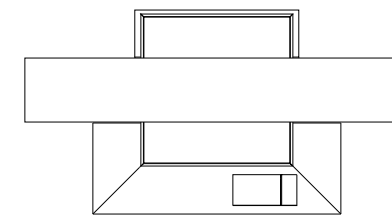
Place your hand on top of the Bengal tiger paw print. Is your hand smaller or bigger than the tiger's paw? How big do you think this tiger was? This paw print comes from an adult male Bengal tiger. Adult males can grow to 8 to 10 feet long, weigh as much as 450 to 500 lbs., and have tails as long as 3 feet.

A tiger's paw print is called a "pugmark." A "pugmark" is the word used to refer to an animal's footprint, especially a large animal. The word "pug" means foot in Hindi.

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A tigress with two of her cubs at the Bandhavgarh National Park in India. Photo courtesy of the World News Network.

Bengal Tigers

Tigers are solitary animals, unlike lions which live in prides. They do not live as family units. Male tigers live alone, only moving outside of their territory to find a mate. Female tigers will occasionally share their territory with other females. Tiger cubs become independent of their mothers at the age of 18 months, when they are expected to find their own territories and fend for themselves. Tigers live to be eight to 10 years old in the wild, and can live to be 16 to 18 years old in captivity.



A male sambar deer.

Tigers are carnivores that usually hunt large, hoofed animals such as chital, sambar and gaur, as well as water buffalos, serow and takin. They also hunt medium-sized animals such as wild boar and hog deer, and small prey such as porcupine and hare. They love the water, and often chase their prey into the water where they kill it. In recent years, tigers have been known to kill domestic livestock as humans encroach more and more on their native habitat.

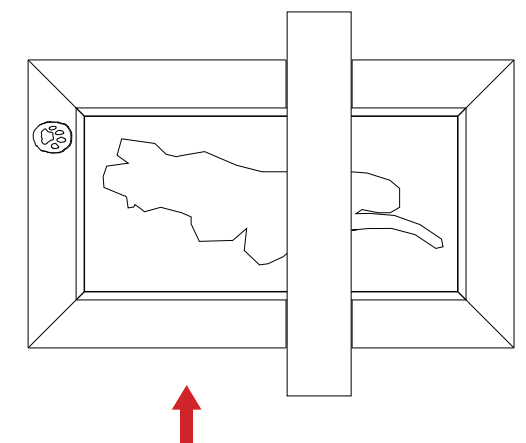
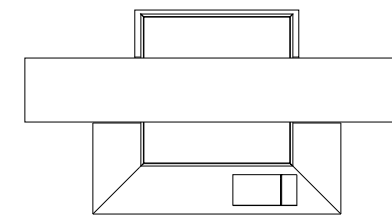
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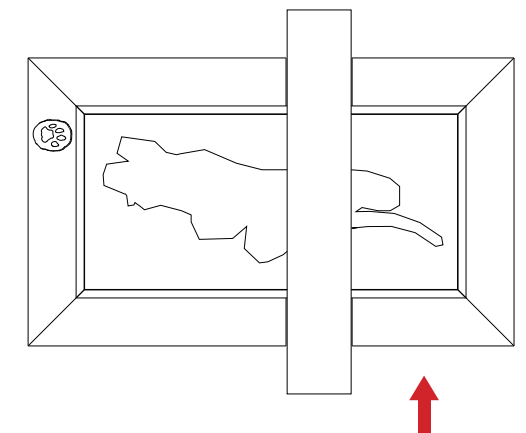
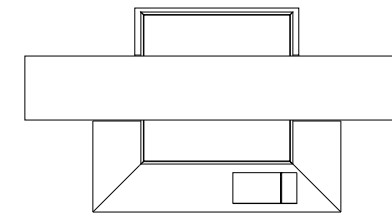




A Bengal tiger will stalk its prey from behind.
Photo courtesy of New Technology Tips.

Bengal Tigers

There are only approximately 3,200 tigers in the wild today; about half of these are Bengal tigers. Tigers are endangered animals with dwindling numbers. Conservation efforts are underway to save these magnificent animals.



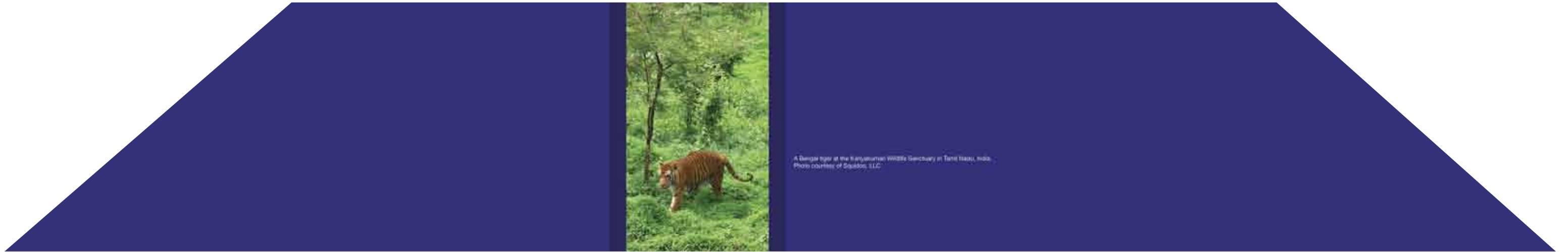
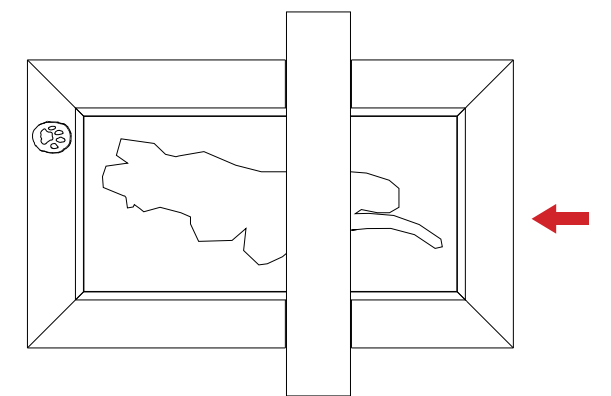
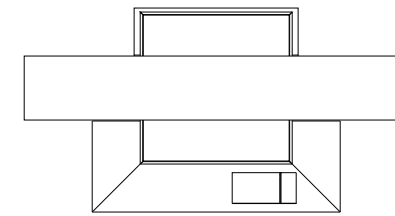


Image Caption 1:
A Bengal tiger at the Kanyakumari Wildlife
Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu, India. Photo
courtesy of Squidoo, LLC.



Bengal Tigers

Tigers are stealthy hunters who ambush their prey, which they approach from the back and get as close as possible before attacking and biting them on the necks or throats. The neck-bite, which severs the spinal cord, is used on smaller prey, whereas the throat bite, which causes suffocation, is used on large prey. After killing their prey, they will drag their kill to a safe place where they will consume it over a number of days. Wild tigers will gorge themselves, eating up to 40 pounds of meat at one time.



A Bengal tiger enjoys the water.

