



National Geographic Readers: Tigers

by Laura Marsh

Did you know that tigers are capable of swimming up to eighteen miles a day? They are very fast sprinters clocking speeds up to 32 mph! Is any animal from the equator to the frozen tundra safe from this mighty predator? Yet, tiger mothers are loving and protective, taking care of their cubs' needs until the cubs are around two years old. These ferocious cats purr to soothe their babies.

Humans have a fascination with tigers. Tigers appear in ancient literature, such as: myths and folklore. Yet, in the future will there be a wild population? The World Wildlife Fund has stated that over the last 100 years the global wild population has decreased by 97%! At this time, tigers are listed as Endangered. During the Third Reading, you'll find questions requiring the formation of **conclusions** and **predictions** about the present and future existence of these animals in their natural habitat. These two forms of thinking require the reader to blend the information in the text with information that the reader already has to form a new thought – an **inference**. **Forming Inferences** about what is read is a Reading Comprehension Best Practice.

Laura Marsh is a popular National Geographic author, writing thirteen titles. In *Tigers* she skillfully creates a suspenseful mood by blending text and photographs with an appropriate level of ferociousness that our Practickle readers can handle. This book is a short (32 pages) paperback, not a full reference book. However, it has great text features unique to informational text: a Table of Contents, chapters, and a glossary. As in our previous selection, *Penguins*, you'll notice jokes in the borders. There is even a quiz titled 'Stump Your Parents'!

Another Practickle selection is *Mr. Tiger Goes Wild*, a great fictional story! Your listeners will compare the behavior of wild tigers, learned from this book, to the behavior of a very cultured Mr. Tiger.