

**Learning Activity:****A Look Through a Tiger's Eyes**

Activity Type	Creative writing
Focus Areas	Language arts
Time Required	30 minutes

Overview

In this exercise students get to express their imagination and use their creative writing skills by putting themselves in a tiger's world. Students will read facts about tigers and use the information to compose a descriptive journal entry from the tiger's point of view. If technology is available, at the completion of the writing prompt, students can further visualize their stories by using the [WWF Together app](#) to see through a tiger's eyes and compare their visual acuity with that of a tiger.

Objective

At the completion of the activity, students should be able to:

- Gain knowledge and insight into the physical and behavioral characteristics of a tiger, as well as the kind of habitat where a tiger makes its home.
- Use elaborative and descriptive language in the form of storytelling.
- Optional: Utilize technology to participate in visual simulations.

Subject and Standards

Common Core Standards: English Language Arts

- RF. 3.3/4.3/5.3: Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
- RF. 3.4/4.4/5.4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
- RI. 3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
- RI. 3.2: Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.



- RI. 3.4/4.4/5.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3/4/5 topic or subject area.
- W. 3.3/4.3/5.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
- W. 3.4/4.4/5.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- W. 4.9/5.9: Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

● Materials Needed

- [Tiger Educator's Resource Guide](#)
- Paper
- Writing utensil



● Vocabulary

- **Habitat:** a natural environment in which plants and animals live, breed, and get their food, water, and shelter
- **Predator:** an animal that obtains food by killing and consuming other animals; one that preys, destroys, or devours
- **Prey:** an animal taken by a predator as food



● Activity Procedure

Part 1: Introduction and Preparation

- Distribute a handout you have created using content from the [Tiger Educator's Resource Guide](#)—we suggest the sections “Tiger Fun Facts,” “Tiger Q&A,” and “Why Tigers Matter.” You may wish to adjust the language of this content depending on grade level.
- Students can read this content quietly on their own or with partners. Team reading is also an option—you can assign each member of the group a section to read aloud within the group.
- Hold a collective discussion reviewing and reflecting on this information. Depending on the comprehension and grade level of the students, defining specific vocabulary terms as related to tigers (predator, prey, habitat) can be incorporated into this discussion. (See the “Vocabulary” section.)

Part 2: Activity

- Using their fact sheet as a reference, the students will create a “journal entry” from the point of view of a tiger.
- Students should write from the first-person point of view, as if they were the tiger. Guide the students by telling them to imagine they're a tiger who is writing in a diary right before bedtime, reflecting on the day and recapping the things they did and the events that occurred. The students should incorporate what they learned about tigers into the journal entry, creating a descriptive story.

Part 3: Discussion and Assessment

- Let students share their journal entries, either by reading aloud to the class or exchanging with a peer.
- Have the students compare their stories and analyze what was the same and what was different.
- Since different students will choose to include different facts and details, initiate a discussion among students about what made them choose to incorporate certain tiger facts rather than others, and how students may have interpreted and incorporated the tiger information differently in their respective journal entries.



Extended Learning Options

- Download the [WWF Together app](#) and explore the tiger segment. Here you will find an interactive tool that gives students a literal look through a tiger's eyes—showing a side-by-side comparison of a tiger's visual perspective versus a human's. Depending on the technology available to you, explore this within the classroom or encourage parents to try it at home.
- Have students include an illustration with the journal entry, integrating an artistic element. This illustration should be a visual representation of their “look through a tiger's eyes” and include visual details so that someone, without reading the journal entry, could view the picture and be able to describe the tiger's day.
 - For more advanced students, the artistic element above could be used as the first step of the activity rather than the second. Have the students create the illustration first, based on the information, and then exchange drawings with a peer and complete a writing sample based on their interpretation of the peer's drawing.
- Start a class fundraiser to protect tigers and other wildlife and their habitats using WWF's online fundraising tool, Panda Nation. Learn more at www.pandanation.org.

Additional Background Info

You can use the information found at the links below to enhance your discussion with the class, or you may want to share some links directly with students if you determine they are grade-level appropriate.

- **Article:** [WWF Featured Species: Tiger](#)
- **Article:** [Where Do Tigers Live? And Other Fun Tiger Facts](#)
- **Video:** [Sumatran Tiger Cubs](#)—hidden camera footage that shows how two tiger cubs spent parts of their day



For more fun classroom activities with a focus on wild species and conservation, visit wildclassroom.org.