

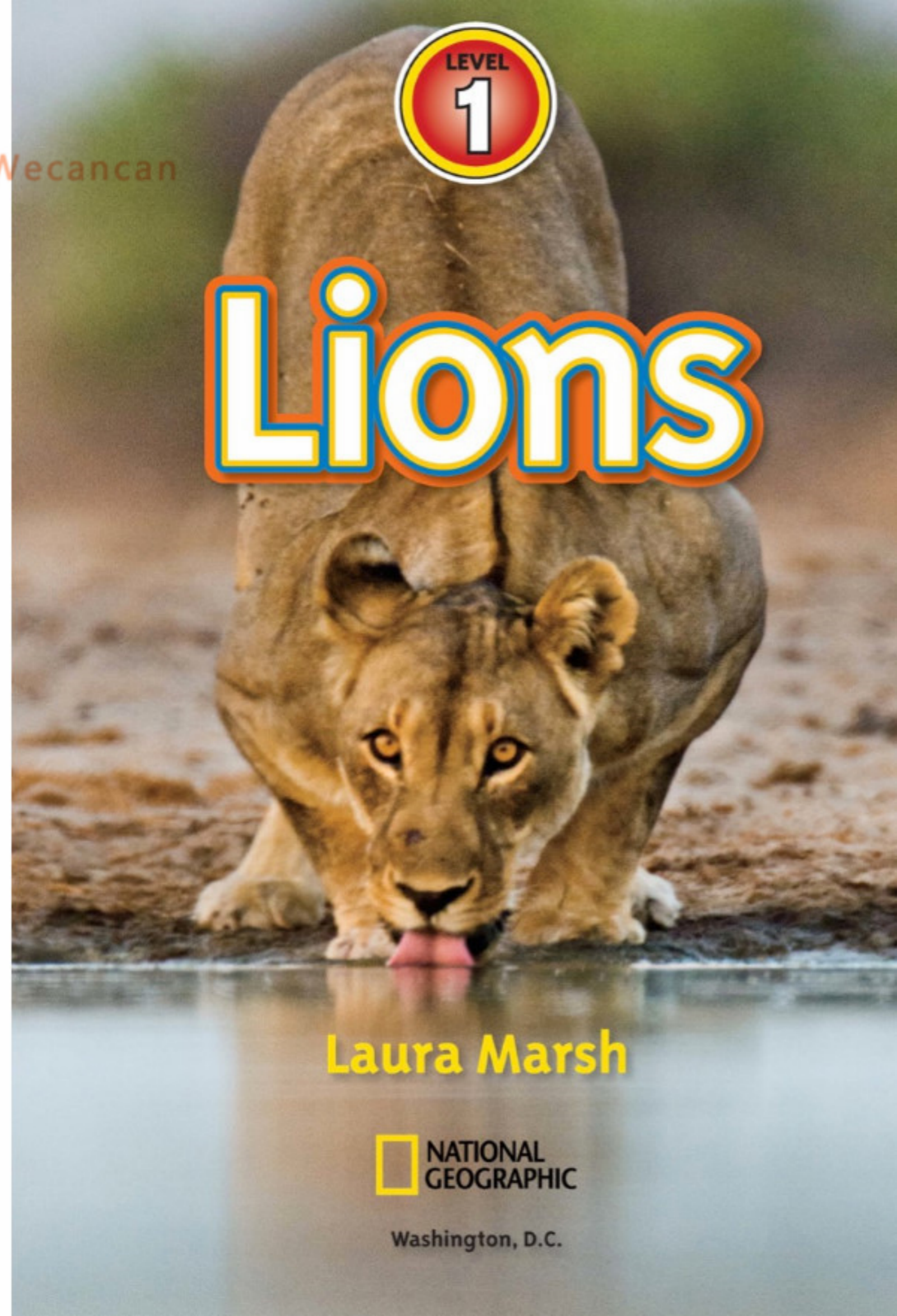
公众号：Wecancan

## National Geographic Readers: Lions


By: Laura Marsh

Roar with lions in this exciting book leveled for early independent reading.

<b>5-7</b> Age Range	<b>5-20 mins</b> Length	<b>410L</b> Lexile <sup>®</sup> Measure	<b>2.5</b> AR Level
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Laura Marsh

 NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

Washington, D.C.

# What Am I?

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I am King of the Beasts.  
And I like a big feast.

I rest most of the day,  
but I like to play.

My legs number four.  
Do you want to know more?

I . . . *roaarrrrrrr!*  
What am I?

**A lion!**



# Big Cats

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Lions are part of a group called big cats. Tigers, leopards, and jaguars are big cats, too.



How big are lions? They are much heavier than you! One lion can weigh more than three men.

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All lions are big. But they don't all look the same. Male lions have a mane.

Female lions don't have a mane. They are also smaller than males.



mane



# Lion Around

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Most lions live on the savanna (suh-VAN-uh) in Africa. It is very hot and dry there.


## Mane Word



**SAVANNA:** A grassy area with few trees that gets very little rain

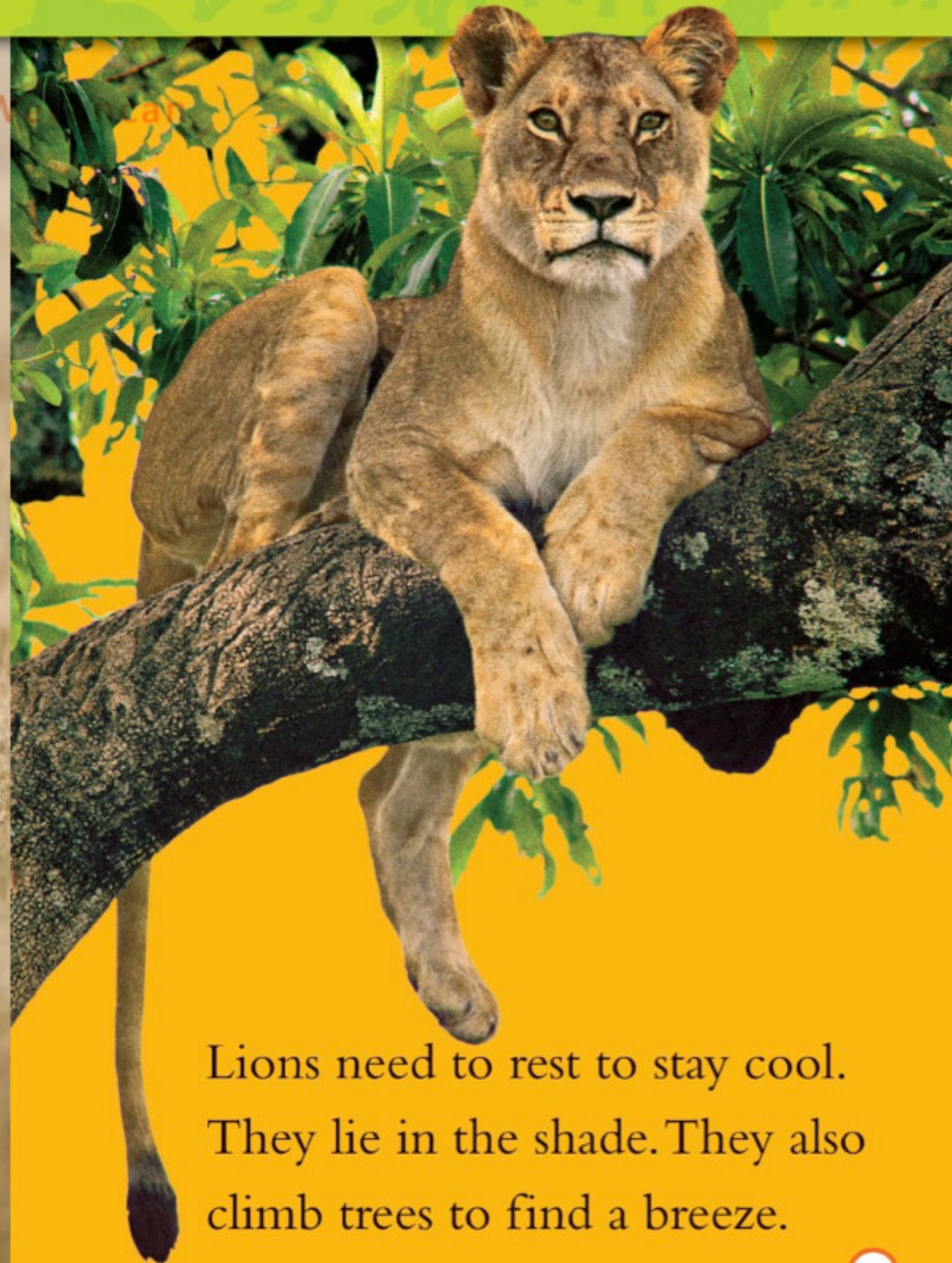


### MAP KEY

 Approximate lion range

0 1,000 miles

0 1,000 kilometers



Lions need to rest to stay cool. They lie in the shade. They also climb trees to find a breeze.



What happens when you cross a lion with a snowman?

Frostbite!



我们可以做什么？

Lions live in a family group called a pride. A pride can be as large as 40 lions. The pride rests, plays, and hunts together.



# Super Hunters

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Lions are meat-eaters. They eat other animals, or prey. A lion's body is built for hunting.

## Mane Word



**PREY:** An animal that is eaten by another animal



**EARS:** They can hear prey more than a mile away.

**EYES:** Lions see well in the dark. They can easily spot prey at night.

**TONGUE:** A super-rough tongue pulls meat off a bone.

**TEETH:** Sharp teeth cut meat.

**CLAWS:** Sharp claws grab prey and hold on.

**TAIL:** A long tail helps a lion balance as it runs and turns.

**LEGS:** Strong muscles help a lion run, crouch, and pounce.

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Lions usually hunt at night.  
It's cooler when the sun  
goes down.

Females do most of the  
hunting. They often hunt  
in a group.

Your favorite  
food might be  
pizza. But zebras  
and wildebeests  
(wil-dih-beests)  
are a lion's  
favorite foods!



zebra



wildebeest



Female lions hunting



# Food Fight

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Q

Why do lions eat raw meat?

They don't know how to cook!

A

Lions might be good hunters. But they are not good at sharing.



The adult males eat first.  
Then the adult females eat.  
The youngest lions eat last.  
Sometimes there is not enough.  
They often fight over food.

# 7 Cool Facts About Lions

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2

Lions are the only big cats with a mane.



1

They can eat up to 60 pounds in one meal. That's about 240 hamburgers!



3

Most pet cats won't go in the water. But lions do. They may jump in to get their prey.



4

Spots around a lion's mouth make a pattern. Each lion's pattern is different. You can tell lions apart this way.



5

Lions keep their claws sharp by scratching trees, just like pet cats do.



6

A lion's tongue has tiny spines that face backward. The spines help a lion remove meat from bones and dirt from its fur.



7

A lion's roar can be heard five miles away.

# Cubs

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Baby lions are called cubs. They are born in a den. There they stay safe from other animals. The mother keeps them hidden for a few weeks.

The cubs grow bigger. Then they join the pride.

**Mane  
Word**



**DEN:** A hidden place in the bushes or a cave





It's playtime!

Cubs love to run, jump, and wrestle (RES-ul). They stalk and pounce.



**Mane  
Word**

**STALK:** To secretly follow something to catch it

The cubs play with almost anything, even mom's tail!

Playing helps the cubs learn to be hunters.

# Lion Talk

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Young lions also learn how all lions “talk” to one another.

A hum or a puff says “Hello.”

A snarl means “Back off!” And a

roar means “Stay off my land!”



**Back off!**



**Hello.**



**Stay off my land!**

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Lions tell each other they are happy. They snuggle and rub heads. They lick each other, too.

Lions in a pride like to be together. They help one another live on the hot, dry savanna.



# What in the World?

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WORD BANK

cubs teeth claws mane tongue pride

These pictures are close-up views of lions. Use the hints below to figure out what's in the pictures.

Answers are on page 31.



HINT: A name for lion babies



HINT: Lions hold down prey with these.



HINT: A family group of lions



HINT: Only male lions have this.



HINT: It helps a lion clean its fur.



HINT: They cut meat.

Answers: 1. pride, 2. mane, 3. cubs, 4. claws, 5. tongue, 6. teeth



**DEN:** A hidden place in the bushes or a cave



**PREY:** An animal that is eaten by another animal



**SAVANNA:** A grassy area with few trees that gets very little rain



**STALK:** To secretly follow something to catch it