

Read the opening paragraph of the 19th century text

1. What 5 things does the writer do to help rear the tiger?

Now read the rest of the account. Underline the key words from the PowerPoint and try to work out their meaning

- Idiosyncrasy
- Temperament
- Rash
- Morose
- Artifice
- Accustomed to
- Juvenile
- Callous
- Heifer

2. What impressions of tigers is the writer giving in the rest of the paragraph?

Now read the modern fact sheet on tigers.

3. How does the writer persuade us that the tiger is in danger of becoming extinct?

The following question is based on both texts:

4. What do both texts say about:
  - How tigers are reared?
  - How they behave with humans?
5. Your local council has decided to set up a tiger sanctuary in the area. Write a letter to them giving your views.

**Below is an account of someone's experiences with tigers in the 19th century:**

The cubs are interesting pets if taken from the mother very young. I have reared several, but only kept one for any length of time. I have given a full description of Zalim and his ways in 'Seonee.' He was found by my camp followers with another in a nullah, and brought to me. The other cub died, but Zalim lived to grow up into a very fine tiger, and was sent to England. I never allowed him to taste raw flesh. He had a little cooked meat every day, and as much milk as he liked to drink, and he thrived well on this diet. When he was too large to be allowed to roam about unconfined I had a stout buffalo-leather collar made for his neck, and he was chained to a stump near the cook-room door. With grown-up people he was perfectly tame, but I noticed he got restless when children approached him, and so made up my mind to part with him before he did any mischief.

I know nothing of the habits of the tiger of the grass plains, but those of the hill tiger are very interesting, the cattle lifter especially, as he is better known to men. Each individual has his special idiosyncrasy. I wrote of this once before as follows: "Strange though it may seem to the English reader that a tiger should have any special character beyond the general one for cruelty and cunning, it is nevertheless a fact that each animal has certain peculiarities of temperament which are well known to the villagers in the neighbourhood. They will tell you that such a one is daring and rash; another is cunning and not to be taken by any artifice; that one is savage and morose; another is mild and harmless. There are few villages in the wilder parts of the Seonee and Mandla districts without an attendant tiger, which undoubtedly does great damage in the way of destroying cattle, but which avoids the human inhabitants of the place. So accustomed do the people get to their unwelcome visitor that we have known the boys of a village turn a tiger out of quarters which were reckoned too close, and pelt him with stones. On one occasion two of the juvenile assailants were killed by the animal they had approached too near. Herdsmen in the same way get callous to the danger of meddling with so dreadful a creature, and frequently rush to the rescue of their cattle when seized. On a certain occasion one out of a herd of cattle was attacked close to our camp, and rescued single-handed by its owner, who laid his heavy iron-bound staff across the tiger's back; and, on our rushing out to see what was the matter, we found the man coolly dressing the wounds of his cow, muttering to himself: 'The robber, the robber! My last cow, and I had five of them!' He did not seem to think he had done anything wonderful, and seemed rather surprised that we should suppose that he was going to let his last heifer go the way of all the others.

Tigers are also eccentric in their ways, showing differences in disposition under different circumstances. I believe that many a shikari passes at times within a few yards of a tiger without knowing it, the tendency of the animal being to crouch and hide until the strange-looking two-legged beast has passed. The narrowest escape I ever had is an instance. I had hunted a large tiger, well known for the savageness of his disposition, on foot from ravine to ravine on the banks of the Pench, one hot day in June, and, giving him no rest, made sure of getting him about three o'clock in the afternoon. He had been seen to slip into a large nullah, bordered on one side by open country, a small water-course draining into it from the fields; here was one large beyr bush, behind which I wished to place myself, but was persuaded by an old shikari of great local reputation to move farther on. Hardly had we done so when our friend bounded from under the bush and disappeared in a thicket, where we lost him. Ten days after this he was killed by a friend and myself, and he sustained his savage reputation by attacking the elephant without provocation—a thing a tiger seldom does. I had hunted this animal several times, and on one occasion saw him swim the Pench river at one of its broadest reaches. It was the only time I had seen a tiger swim, and it was interesting to watch him powerfully breasting the stream with his head well up. Tigers swim readily, as is well known. I believe it is not uncommon to see them take to the water in the Sunderbunds; and a recent case may be remembered when two of them escaped from the King of Oude's Menagerie, and one swam across the Hooghly to the Botanical Garden.

## It isn't easy being the World's Top Cat

### Growing Up Against the Odds

Danger awaits young tigers at every turn. Even under the best conditions, only 20 percent live to establish their own territories. But tigers are adapted to offset such high natural mortality: Females breed early, deliver cubs after just 103 days, and bear litters of two to four cubs.



## TIGERS and HUMANS

### Competing for Resources

The pressing need for food and fuel often pits Asia's human population against the tiger.

Where public land is degraded, people slip into reserves to graze animals, collect firewood, and kill the tiger's prey. Poachers have taken thousands of tigers to supply bones and other parts for traditional medicines.

Living near reserves takes a toll on people, too. Park animals destroy crops, tigers kill livestock--and, sometimes, people.

### What Hope for the Tiger?

Mysterious, powerful, majestic – the tiger stands tall in our imaginations.

But, in truth, tigers are disappearing in the wild. Just a century ago, an estimated 100,000 tigers inhabited the forests of Asia. Now scarcely 6,000 remain, and soon this magnificent cat may only exist in zoos.

Do tigers have a chance? Only if people living near reserves believe that a live tiger is more precious than a dead one.

### Tigers and Humans: Colliding Worlds

Civilization hems in the tiger. Whole forests have fallen across Asia in the last century, shrinking potential tiger habitat to about 170 small fragments of land in 14 countries. Some pockets contain breeding tigers. But most areas are so small and isolated that if any tigers remain, they probably won't survive.

**It isn't easy being the  
World's Top Cat**



## Scientists:

### On the Trail of the Tiger

You can't save an endangered animal like the tiger without knowing what it needs to survive.

Fortunately, in the last 25 years, four long-term, in-depth studies have revealed much about how tigers interact, what factors shape their lives, and what makes them succeed - or fail - at finding new places to live in the face of declining habitat. Such information is critical to international efforts to save the tiger.

## Local People: Making Room for Tigers

Many villagers living near Royal Chitwan National Park in Nepal now have a stake in the tiger's future.

In 1995, Nepal's legislature passed a law giving half the revenues from protected lands to local development. In addition, part of the park's degraded buffer zone came under local control. With an eye to tourism, villagers fenced off one area and allowed it to regenerate. Gradually, wildlife, including the tiger, recolonized.

In 1996 alone, ecotourism revenues from the project built a health unit and three schools.

## Which response will get the highest marks?

### Text A

The writer tells us to take the tiger when it is very young. He also stopped the tiger from eating raw meat. I think he did this in order to stop the tiger becoming savage and out of control. He only gave the tiger a little bit of cooked meat every day – probably to stop the tiger from eating too much and getting used to eating meat. He seems to think that tigers are very difficult to rear.

### Text B

The writer never allowed the tiger to eat “raw flesh” and only gave him a “little” cooked meat each day. He allowed it as much milk as it wanted. When he became too big he gave him a “stout buffalo-leather collar” and he “chained” him to a nearby door.

## Which one of these addresses the question best?

### Text A

The writer starts with a catchy title “it isn’t easy being the World’s Top Cat”. This suggests that life is very hard for cats. The sub-heading “Growing Up Against the Odds” also tells us how life is difficult as they have the odds stacked against them. The writer uses personification “Danger awaits them” this makes the danger seem very real as if it is a person. The writer makes use of statistics to show that so few of them can survive on their own “20 per cent”. The writer uses emotive words “breed early” to show how tough it is being a tiger. The writer also uses a rhetorical question “What Hope for The Tiger?” to grab the reader’s attention. The use of tripling “wonderful, powerful, majestic” also makes us think what great creatures these are. The writer also uses exaggeration “Whole forests” to grab the reader’s attention.

### Text B

The writer suggests how life is difficult in the heading and sub-title “it isn’t easy” and “Growing Up against the Odds”. The writer emphasises the danger by personifying it “Danger awaits...every turn” here the word “every” tells us that danger can be anywhere. The fact that “only 20% live” to establish their own habitat also shows us how few of them survive. Another heading “What Hope for the Tiger?” might suggest that they are running out of hope. The writer emphasises the dramatic fall in population from “100,000” to just “6,000”. The writer also suggests that they might become extinct as they battle with humans for resources summed up by the title “Colliding Worlds”.