

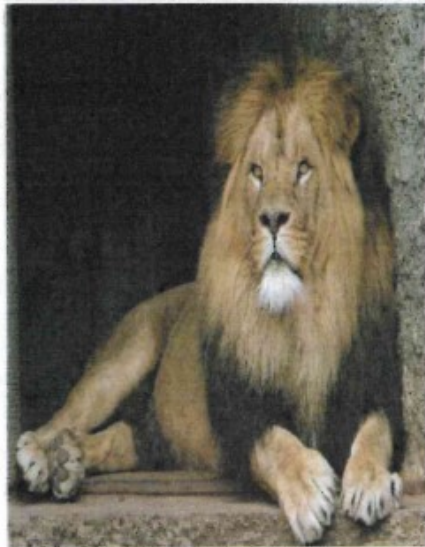
Lions are hunters and they prey on antelopes, zebras and even young giraffes. The lionesses (females) do most of the hunting.



Lions usually catch something to eat every four days or so. They can eat up to 40 kg in a single meal. Afterwards they rest for 24 hours.



Male lions are easily recognizable because of their huge manes. There are usually two to five adult males in each pride and they usually eat before the lionesses and cubs.



The lions in a pride usually spend about 20 hours a day sleeping and resting, and they walk no farther than 10 km or so a day.



Lionesses catch their prey not by speed, but by stealth and strength. They stalk their prey quietly, creeping close to the ground. Then, the lionesses make a sudden dash and pull the victim down with their strong forepaws.



Male lion cubs are driven out of the pride when they are two years old. When a young male is fully grown, he has to fight an older male to join another pride.



Lionesses usually hunt at dusk or dawn, but they have very good night vision, and so will often hunt in the dark.



Lions usually live in grassland or scrub, in families called prides.



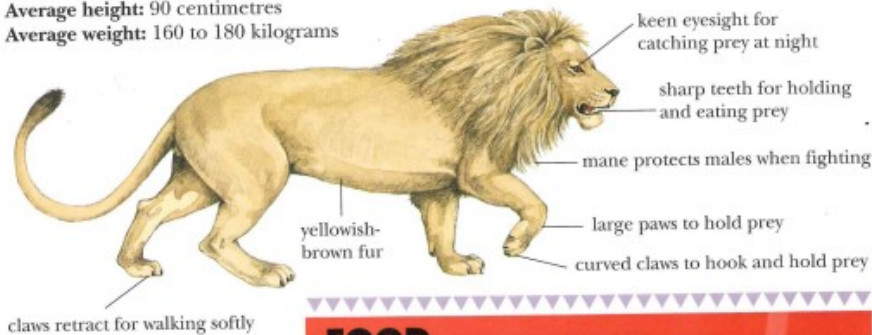
LION

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A lion is a large wild animal. It is a fierce and strong animal, and has a very loud roar. It is a member of the cat family.

PARTS OF A LION

Average length: 2.8 metres
Average height: 90 centimetres
Average weight: 160 to 180 kilograms



claws retract for walking softly

FOOD

Lions eat other animals. They are carnivores.



antelopes

deer

zebras

other hoofed animals

WHERE LIONS LIVE

- Africa
- North-west India



INTERESTING FACT

Lions can run at a top speed of 55 kilometres per hour.

PRIDE OF LIONS

Lions live in family groups called prides. There can be 10 to 35 lions in a pride. They roam on open, grassy plains.



PROTECTED ANIMALS

In the past, many people have hunted lions. Today, lions are protected in India. In Africa, lions live on reserves. Reserves are protected areas.

Lions from a pride hunt in separate places. Usually, the lioness is the hunter. All members of the pride share the catch. Lions eat every three to four days. They kill only when they are hungry.

HOW LIONS LIVE

- Lions spend up to 20 hours a day sleeping and resting.
- Usually two to three cubs are born in a litter. They are blind and helpless at birth. At first, the cubs feed on milk from their mother. At about two months, they eat their first meal of meat.
- Lions can live for up to 25 years.

