



0. Interesting facts about lions. - Story Preface

1. Cecil's Story: The Lion Who Died as a Trophy

2. The Killing of Cecil

3. Interesting facts about lions.

Since it gets very hot in the day in Africa, lions tend to spend their time in the shade as they don't have many sweat glands which help animals cool.

The lion was honored by early Egyptians and used as a model for the famous sphinx.

Lions are not as big as tigers. Cecil probably weighed about 400 pounds. A female lion weighs around 280 pounds. They are the national animal of Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, England, Ethiopia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Singapore.

Cecil was an African lion. (They are now endangered.) There is also an Asian lion from which the story of "Daniel and the Lion" was probably featured. Other types include the:

- Barbary lion;
- West African lion;
- Congo lion;
- Masai lion;
- Southwest African lion; and
- Kruger lion.

Cecil's ancestors, the cave lions of Europe and America, were the largest cats to ever inhabit the earth. Their common ancestor lived around 124,000 years ago.

Lions are frequently called the kings of the jungle, but the truth is that they live in the plains area where their prey can graze and grow larger.

When a pride of lions see an approaching lion, at least two females will always go out to meet the stranger. The more approaching lions the more greeters making sure they outnumber the strangers. This is one indication that lions appear to have a rudimentary ability to count.

Lions are the only species of cat that habitually live in large groups.

Lions have also been slaughtered during their recent history making them endangered.

Modern lions then evolved into two groups; one lives in Eastern and Southern Africa, the other includes lions in Central and West Africa, and in India.

Scientific name: *Panthera leo*

Male: Avg. Length: 9 ft. (2.7 meters), weight: 350-400 lbs. (157-180 Kg.).

Height: 36 in. (90cm.)

Female: Avg. Length: 8 ft. (2.4 meters), weight: 250-300 lbs. (112.5-136 Kg.).

Height: 30 in. (75 cm)

No. of teeth: 30

Lifespan: 12 years in the wild, 20 years in captivity.

Biggest Jump: 12 ft. (3.7 m.) vertical, 36 ft. (10.8 m.) horizontal.

Gestation period: 105-115 days.

You may wish to find out more about lions by visiting these sites.

Video of Cecil

Lion Aid. Groups that Help Lions

Volunteers working to save lions

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Interesting-facts-about-lions.-Cecil-The-Lion-who-Died-for-a-Wall>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Interesting-facts-about-lions.-Cecil-The-Lion-who-Died-for-a-Wall>

Questions 2 Ponder

How big is a lion's paw?

A lion's paw is between 8 and 12 inches wide. It has four toes with a dew claw part way up each front leg. The toes align in an arc ahead of the ball of the foot, with the smallest toe found on the outside of the track. From this description draw a lion's paw to scale.

To be sure that you've drawn it properly, does it look like this?

Consider Starting a Petition

With an adult's permission, consider creating your own petition about a concern. [Here is an example](#).

Is This a Primary or Secondary Source?

For the story on what allegedly happened to Cecil the Lion, [go to this source material](#).

Is this a primary or a secondary source? Are there parts of each (primary and secondary) in this resource? Explain your answers.

Media Stream



Hercules - Fighting the Nemean Lion

Image, described above, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Lion Pride

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