

ANIMAL PREDATORS

WHAT IS A PREDATOR?

A predator is an animal that eats other animals, and the prey is the animal that gets eaten by the predator. Predators are wild animals that hunt and prey on other animals. All animals need to live but predator animals need the flesh of the animals that they kill to be able to survive in the wild.

Predators are carnivores, meaning their diet consists of meat. Some predators, such as bears are also scavengers, this means they will eat the carcasses of animals that they didn't hunt themselves. They're not the bad guys! They are simply just animals trying to find food to survive and feed their young.



WHERE DO PREDATORS LIVE?

Predators can be found on any continent of the world. Hot desert climates, icy cold polar climates, rainforests, jungles, mountain tops, valleys, oceans, and lakes. Predators are found in nearly every habitat known to us.



CAN AN ANIMAL BE BOTH A PREDATOR AND A PREY?

Yes, animals can be both a predator and prey. For example: A frog is a predator when it eats an insect. If a hawk eats the frog, it becomes prey.

APEX PREDATORS

An apex predator is an alpha predator that is at the top of the food chain with no natural predators. This means no other animals in their ecosystem can prey on them.



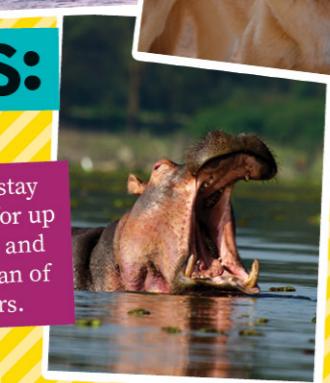
The temperature of the saltwater crocodiles nest in which eggs are laid determines if the baby croc is a girl or boy: lower temperatures produce mostly females; higher temperatures produce males.



FUN FACTS:



Hippos can stay under water for up to 6 minutes and have a lifespan of 40-50 years.



Because sharks lose a lot of teeth and grow them back quickly, they often go through more than 30,000 teeth in a lifetime!



Scorpions can get by on VERY little nutrients. Some scorpions have been known to go over a year between meals!

An adult lion's roar can be heard up to 8 kilometers away

Female lions reach two-thirds of their adult size by the time they are two years old.

THE DEADLIEST APEX PREDATORS:

THE POLAR BEAR: These mighty animals are the largest land carnivores on earth. They have the best sense of smell in the entire animal kingdom and when standing, can reach more than 3 meters high.



THE GREAT WHITE SHARK: With roughly 300 sharp teeth and a deadly sense of smell capable of detecting tiny amounts of bloody from 5 kilometres away the Great White is one of the deadliest predators of the sea.



THE GREY WOLF: These creatures may look cute, but they are far from your loveable pet! Wolves are the largest member of the dog family and like to hunt mostly at night in packs of 6-10 wolves.



THE ALASKAN BROWN BEAR: Although their diet mainly consists of salmon, this grizzly bear weighs a huge 680 kilograms. Human or animal, if anyone gets between a mother and her baby cubs you WILL have a problem. With knife-like claws, an amazing sense of hearing and smell you wouldn't want to go on a hike in the wilderness alone!



HYENAS: Though these animals usually shy away from humans, hyenas have been reported sneaking into camps and adding humans to the menu. Hyenas have bone crushing jaws and are capable of running up to 65 kilometres per hour!



SCORPIONS: The red scorpion of India is by far the most deadly. While it is only small, thanks to its nasty stinger this little sucker sure packs one powerful bite! Most red scorpions don't go looking for trouble, if irritated they bite injecting their venom, causing their victims to have heart problems and can even result in death from one tiny bite.



THE BLACK MAMBA SNAKE: These snakes are large, fast-moving and highly venomous and can be found in Australasia. Their venom is known to paralyse the victim's nervous systems and clot the blood.



THE CROCODILE: Australia's deadly saltwater crocodiles hold the title for the largest living reptiles in the world. These Croc's are super aggressive and can eat up to half their weight in a single feeding!



THE HIPPO: The Hippopotamus is actually a herbivore – meaning they only eat plants. However, if you get between a hippo and the safety of their waterhole you better watch out! Hippos can be extremely aggressive and territorial. They weigh 1,496 kilograms and have been known to attack/capsize small boats.



AFRICAN LIONS: also known as "The King of the Jungle" are at the top of their food chain. Lions usually live in groups of 10-15 animals called prides. These majestic creatures like to hunt in pairs, the male lions spend their time guarding their territory as the female lions go out to hunt at night.