



Animals Concept: Lion Facts

- Most wild lions live on the *Serengeti plains* of Africa, a flat grassland with scattered trees.
- Lions live in a family group called a *pride*. A male lion's job is to keep his *pride* safe, and a female lion's job is to raise her cubs and go out hunting for the *pride*.
- Male lions have fur around the face called a *mane*, but female lions, called *lionesses*, have no *mane*.
- Lion cubs have black spots on the head, back, and legs that fade as the cubs grow.
- Adult lions have big teeth, big claws, and a loud roar.
- During the heat of the day, lions like to rest. Sometimes they sleep in trees.
- A lion is called the "king of the jungle" even though it does not live in a jungle.

Key Vocabulary

- mane
- lioness
- pride
- Serengeti

Lesson Options: Select from these lesson elements to create a single-day or multiday lesson.

Lesson Elements

Digital Playlist: Generally, children will complete the Digital Playlist first, then follow up with some or all of the activities described below. As you select and do those activities with your child, you may wish to reassign some or all of the digital activities for additional practice.

Explore Activity: This activity integrates some of the digital content with your own instructional actions to help your child better understand the topic.

Dig Deeper Activity: This offline activity develops a deeper understanding of some aspects of the topic.

Extend Activity: This offline activity extends the child's understanding and application of the topic.

Explore Activity

Set Up

1. Gather the materials on the list.
2. Create a three-column chart with the header "Cat Facts" in the first column and the header "Pet Cat" in the second column. See the example:

Materials

- Poster board or chart paper
- Markers



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Cat Facts	Pet Cat	

Procedure

1. Start the activity by having your child name some things they know about pet cats.

Sample answers: "They have fur. They have whiskers. They have long tails. My cat sleeps on my bed. We have to feed our cat. Some live indoors. Some live outdoors."

Help your child fill in one fact about pet cats in each row under the first column. You can add more rows later if you need to. Add checkmarks in the column "Pet Cat" to signal the facts that apply to pet cats. See the example:

Cat Facts	Pet Cat	
Has fur	✓	
Has whiskers	✓	
Has a long tail	✓	
Sleeps on my bed	✓	
Eats food that I feed it	✓	
Some live indoors	✓	
Some live outdoors	✓	

2. Have your child follow along with the book *All About Lions* from the Digital Playlist.



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3. Have your child tell you some things that they learned about lions after reading the book. Ask: *Did you notice some things about lions that are the same as pet cats?* Have your child label the last column "Lion." Have them use checkmarks to mark the facts that are also true about lions.

Sample answers: "They both have fur, whiskers, and long tails. Some cats and lions that are wild live outdoors. But the lions are not fed by people. The females go out hunting for food."

4. Help your child add rows to the chart to include the facts they learned about lions that are different from the facts already on the chart.

Cat Facts	Pet Cat	
Has fur	✓	✓
Has whiskers	✓	✓
Has a long tail	✓	✓
Sleeps on my bed	✓	
Eats food that I feed it	✓	
Some live indoors	✓	
Some live outdoors	✓	✓
Males have <i>manes</i>		✓
Females hunt for food		✓
Rests/sleeps during the day	✓	✓
Sleeps in trees	✓	✓

5. Discuss the chart. Point out that lions are members of the cat family known as big cats. The big cats include lions, tigers, leopards, jaguars, lynxes, and cheetahs. All cats are related, so some of the behaviors and characteristics of lions are similar to pet cats.



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Dig Deeper Activity

Set Up

1. Gather the materials on the list.
2. Choose any activities from the Digital Playlist that you think your child would benefit from repeating and have them do so.
3. Print out the How to Draw Lions Printable found at the end of this lesson.

Procedure

1. Explain to your child that they are going to make a collage showing a *pride* of lions in their habitat. Your child can draw their own lions or use the How to Draw Lions printable to help them. Ask: *How many lions do you want in your pride? How many males are in a pride? How many females and how many cubs?* There should be only one adult male in the *pride*, but children can decide how many females and cubs they want to include.
2. Have your child color and cut out their lions.
3. Have your child decide what to put in the *Serengeti plains* environment. Review the characteristics of the *Serengeti plains* (flat grassland with scattered rock outcroppings that stick out above the tall grasses). Allow your child to find out more about the African *Serengeti* by looking at pictures in books or on the internet.
4. Your child can create trees, rocks, and tall grasses using colored construction paper. Have your child first glue the lions on a background sheet of blue or light blue construction paper. They can then create the habitat with their trees and rocks, adding the tall grass last, hiding the lions behind it. They could even add a lion sleeping in a tree!
5. Allow your child to share their collages with family and friends. Have them describe the *pride* and their habitat.
6. Ask your child: *What is something you learned about the lions' habitat as you created your collage?*

Sample answer: "I learned that hiding in the tall grass is a good way to stay safe."

Materials

- Books about lions or internet information and photos
- How to Draw Lions Printable
- Markers or crayons
- White drawing paper
- Green, brown, yellow, and blue construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue or glue stick





Extend Activity

Set Up

1. Research and practice signs for the words related to lions that you would like to teach your child. Here is the sign for "lion."



2. Choose any activities from the Digital Playlist that you think your child would benefit from repeating and have them do so.

Procedure

1. Explain to your child that some people who are deaf or hard of hearing use what is called *sign language*. Explain that sign language is a way to communicate with others by using your hands to form letters and words instead of saying words out loud.
2. Ask your child: *How could you tell someone about lions using sign language?* With your child, look up a few words about lions on one of the sign language websites. Ask: *What are some words about lions that you would like to sign?*

Sample answers: "I think we could learn the words lion, grass, hunt, and tree."

3. Have your child practice the signs. After your child has had enough time to practice, have them tell you something about lions using only sign language.
4. Discuss with your child ways that they could use sign language to communicate with someone who is deaf or hard of hearing. Ask: *How could you use sign language to share information with others?*

Sample answers: "I could learn to say hello and sign my name when I meet someone. I could teach some signs to my friends. I would be learning a new language."



MODIFICATIONS

Beginning Learner	Advanced Learner
<p>Your child might need more time to learn and ask questions about lions. Allow them to read along with <i>All About Lions</i> again, pausing as needed to ask questions or add comments. Then, have them tell what they learned from the book in their own words.</p>	<p>Your child may want to research other kinds of lions and habitats. For example, there are Asiatic lions that live in India. Ask questions such as: <i>How are they like African lions? How are they different?</i></p>

Signs of Success and Needs

One sign that your child is understanding more about lions is if they can name some facts about lions' characteristics and habits, such as:

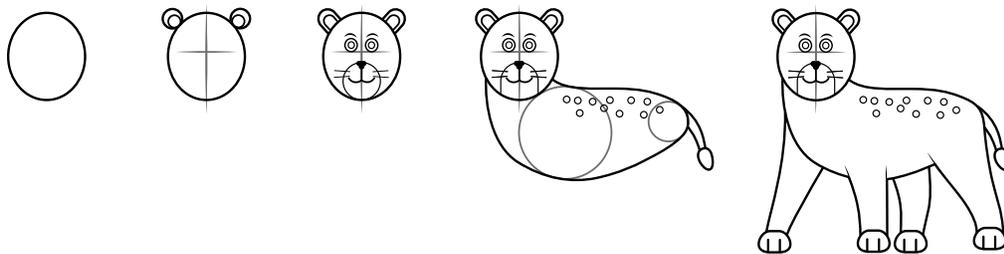
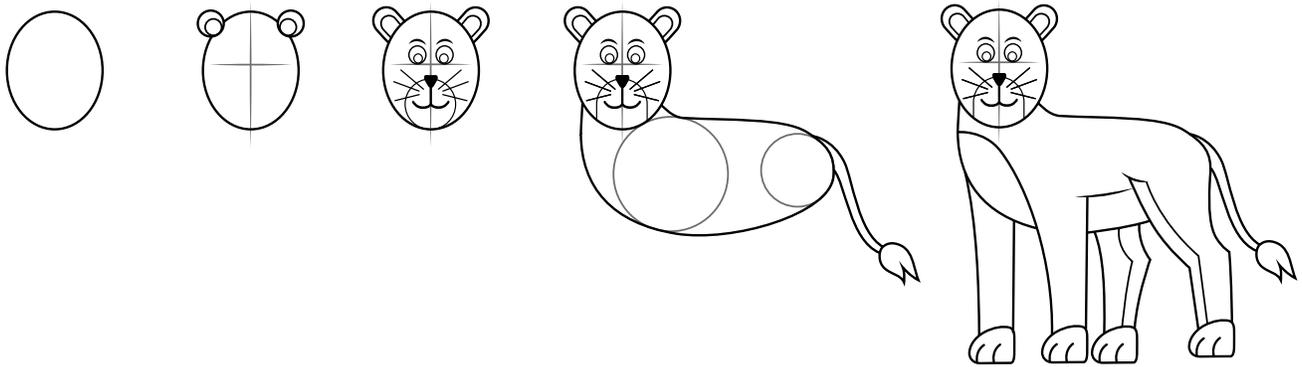
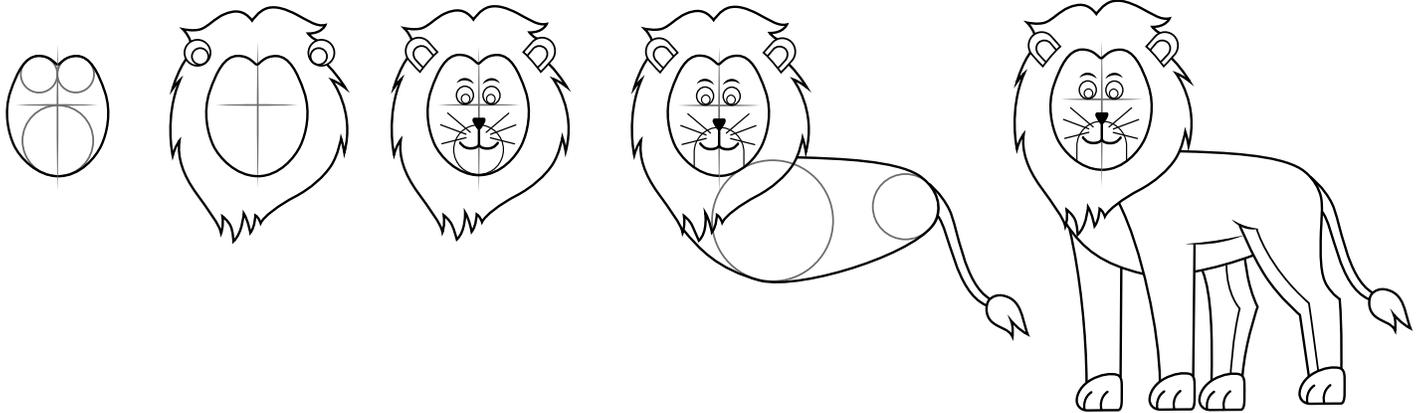
- Most wild lions live on the African *plains*.
- The *plains* are flat grasslands with few trees.
- Male lions have a *mane*.
- Female lions don't have a *mane*.
- Lions live together in a family called a *pride*.

Some children might not realize how big lions are because they have not seen them compared to house cats. You can help them find the average size of a male lion and a house cat, then measure out the size of each, side by side. Measure length and height. Ask your child: *How does your size compare to the lion?*



A Lion's Pride

How to Draw Lions



Our activities are designed to be safe with adult supervision. Please follow directions carefully.