

CISD Grade 5 ELAR Unit 02B

Some questions (c) 2012 by CSCOPE.

## A Letter to the Editor

March 21, 2009

Dear Editor,

1) I am a sixth grader who has been watching *Animal Planet*. After watching a special on the tiger, I wanted to do what I could to save the tiger. I want to prevent the tiger from becoming extinct. I am very passionate about this issue. I have been researching and writing reports about the plight of the tiger since I was in first grade.

2) Visualize the following statement: The great beast seems to materialize out of the dusk. It is a striped cat of might and mystery. Hunger is the reason for the hunt. Fortunately, Nature has given tigers the ability to prey upon larger creatures. Sadly, some of my research has shown that these magnificent animals are disappearing faster than any other large mammal. The only possible exception is the rhinoceros.

3) In my research, I found information about an organization that wants to protect the endangered tiger species. Over the last decade, Save the Tiger Fund (STF) members have been working diligently to better understand basic tiger needs. This organization studies predator-prey relationships and current habitats. Its work has greatly contributed to our understanding of the species.

4) Save the Tiger Fund works with many organizations throughout Asia. It studies the impact of diminishing habitats and lack of prey. Without this initiative our most threatened species will continue to be on the brink of extinction.

5) Since learning of this project, I have volunteered with organizations that support "Save the Tiger." I also decided to become involved with tigers themselves. There may be fewer than 3,000 wild tigers remaining around the world by the end of the year. Thus, the time is short to save these tigers.

6) Why is saving the tigers so important? Several items concerning these endangered tigers have surfaced in the news recently. For one, tigers are one of the strongest predators of the wild world. They have powerful jaws and dagger-like teeth that can make quick work of the kill. They hunt animals that graze on forestland. Tigers help keep their populations under control. The population of herbivores, like deer and gazelles, will continue to multiply and start depleting the trees and grasslands. Thus, entire forests will be wiped out. The soil will be unprotected and result in mass soil erosion. Without water, land, and trees, human beings cannot survive for very long either.

7) Why is it important to act right now? Tigers have disappeared at an alarming rate,

from 7700 tigers in the wild to less than 3200 in the world most recently. Many of the current population of tigers are in captivity rather than roaming freely in jungles.

8) Reading such critical information, I chose to be known as "He Who Walks with Tigers." I thought that the fate of the tiger and my own fate were linked. We have a dependent relationship just as everything in nature is linked. Without the tiger, considered the keeper of the forest, the forest system begins to break down. I didn't want to lose another of this species. I even completed the following poem to support my own cause.

### **TIGERS**

**T**ough predator  
**I**mportant balance  
**G**raceful hunter  
**E**ndangered species  
**R**egal cat  
**S**ave the TIGERS

9) These days people are so busy with their own lives that they are not noticing the decline in the number of tigers in the wild. The decline is so swift that around the next decade we could lose the tiger forever. You can't just be a spectator. Thus, I ask you to join with me to help save the tiger. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.



We walk together in saving the natural wonders in our world.



- 1** In Paragraph 1, what is the meaning of the word *plight*?
- A** power
  - B** beauty
  - C** situation
  - D** health
- 2** Which of the following sentences, if added to the passage, would be contradictory to other information in the article?
- F** If tigers lose their habitat, tigers will starve.
  - G** Volunteering for a cause is as important as donating money to the cause.
  - H** Capturing and holding tigers is the best way to help them.
  - J** In general, most people are not aware about the loss of tigers.

- 3** Choose the BEST main idea statement for Paragraph 6 from the following:
- A** Keeping soil from eroding from around tree roots is important in saving the tiger.
  - B** If we don't save the tigers, the impact on the environment will have terrible consequences for human beings.
  - C** Tigers are strong predators who have powerful jaws and dagger-like teeth that help them in hunting.
  - D** Unlike tigers, deer and gazelles are herbivores.

**4 sur\*face (sur'fis)**

- 1. n. upper layer of something**
- 2. adj. apparent rather than real**
- 3. v. to rise to the top, especially of water**
- 4. v. to bring to people's attention**

Use the dictionary entry above to answer the following question.

All of the above are possible definitions for the word **surface**. Which definition shows the appropriate meaning for how the word **surfaced** is used in Paragraph 6?

- F** Definition 1
  - G** Definition 2
  - H** Definition 3
  - J** Definition 4
- 5** What is the meaning of the word **linked** as it is used in Paragraph 8?
- A** looped in a chain
  - B** joined by a computer
  - C** to be connected
  - D** clasped together

- 6** What is the author's purpose in writing the letter to the editor?
- F** to solve the problem of volunteering
  - G** to explain how tigers live in the wild
  - H** to entertain the reader with a story
  - J** to persuade people to donate or volunteer

- 7** In Paragraph 9, the word **spectator** has a Latin root that means to —
- A** view
  - B** break
  - C** carry
  - D** bring forward

- 8** What information in the letter supports the conclusion that nature will be out of balance with the extinction of the tiger?
- F** Trees and grasslands are necessary for the protection of topsoil and ground water.
- G** Not many people are noticing the decline in the number of tigers in the wild.
- H** There may be fewer than 3,000 wild tigers remaining around the world.
- J** I not only want to prevent the tiger from becoming extinct, but to secure a long future for the species.
- 9** What do you believe the author's purpose was for including the visual of the footprints?
- A** to show that man is superior to tigers
- B** to show that man and tiger need each other
- C** to show that tigers are harmful to man
- D** to show that man is bigger than a tiger

- 10** Complete the following analogy:

save : rescue :: prevent : \_\_\_\_\_

.

- F** allow
- G** stay
- H** stop
- J** include

- 11** Which of the following idioms could the author of this letter have included to MOST CLOSELY express his feelings about the issue in the letter?

- A** *bark up the wrong tree*
- B** *be a piece of cake*
- C** *labor of love*
- D** *skeleton in their closet*

- 12** Which of the following strategies does the author use to support his position about saving the tiger?

- F** He compares the situation of the tiger to other great losses.
- G** He predicts the negative effects if the problem isn't solved.
- H** He explains the opposing viewpoints of others.
- J** He uses a real story to make a personal connection.





