

## UNSEEN COMPREHENSION

**1** Read this account on Bengal tigers aloud to your teacher.

### Bengal Tigers

Many of the tigers found in India are called Bengal tigers. We do not know how many tigers there are in India, but some people say there are between 3000 and 5000 tigers.

Bengal tigers live in the warm, wet forests of India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and China. They like living in thick forests, but they also like rocky hills.

Tigers are like cats. They are the largest members of the cat family. If you have a pet cat, you will know that it likes to catch and eat mice. Tigers, too, like to eat meat. They hide and wait. When a small animal comes by, they jump on it and kill it. They eat small animals such as rabbits and badgers. They also catch larger animals such as buffaloes, goats, wild boar and deer. Sometimes, they kill and eat cattle. They eat a lot of meat at one time. Then they rest. They can live without food for many days.



Baby tigers (cubs) are usually born between November and April. When they are young, they cannot see. They feed on the mother's milk. After about eight weeks, the cubs start eating meat. The mother tiger hunts and brings meat for the cubs. When the cubs are about 18 months old, they begin to hunt other animals on their own.

People live for many years. Some people live to the age of 100 or more. Tigers only live for about 15 to 20 years. A 20-year-old tiger is an old tiger!

Tigers are very strong. They can leap over 30 feet. They are good swimmers too. Tigers can swim for 18 miles! They roar very loudly. You can sometimes hear a tiger's roar from over two miles away.



**2 Answer the following questions about the passage.**

- a. How many tigers may there be in India?
- b. In which countries do Bengal tigers live?
- c. How do tigers find their food?
- d. When are cubs usually born?
- e. Do tigers live for as long as people?

**3 Select the best answer to fill the blanks.**

- a. Tigers can leap a distance of .....
  - i. 30 inches
  - ii. one mile
  - iii. 30 feet
- b. Tigers like to live in .....
  - i. deserts
  - ii. warm, wet forests
  - iii. beaches
- c. A tiger's roar can be heard .....
  - i. two miles away
  - ii. twenty miles away
  - iii. 18 miles away