

COMPREHENSION

Read the following passages carefully and then answer the questions below. Select the **best** answer from option A, B, C or D.

Passage 1

Size

The Tasmanian tiger, also called Tasmanian wolf and thylacine, was neither a tiger nor a wolf, but a marsupial, and closely related to the Tasmanian devil. Tasmanian tigers were 39 to 51 inches (100 to 130 centimeters) long, and the tail added 20 to 26 inches (50 to 65 cm) to its length. They weighed 33 to 66 lbs. (15 to 30 kilograms), according to the Encyclopedia Britannica. Tasmanian tigers looked like dogs with yellowish fur. They had black stripes across the body, and a thin, almost rodent-like tail. While it had a **vicious** appearance, Tasmanian tigers were actually very timid and could be captured without a fight.

Diet

Tasmanian tigers were meat eaters. They hunted kangaroos, sheep and wallabies, reportedly, though there is little research into the eating habits of these animals. These animals could open their mouths almost 90 degrees, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica. However, a study in the August 2011 Journal of Zoology found that the Tasmanian tiger could not kill large prey because of its weak jaw. The authors thought that the animal would have hunted for small marsupials like wallabies and possums.

Offspring

Like other marsupials, Tasmanian tigers had pouches. Their pouches' opening faced their hind legs, though. In her pouch, a female could carry two to four hairless babies at once. As the babies grew, the pouch expanded to accommodate them.

Thylacines likely lived five to seven years in the wild, though they lived up to nine years in captivity.

Extinct, or not?

It is estimated there were around 5,000 thylacines in Tasmania when Europeans settled in the area, according to the National Museum of Australia. The last wild Tasmanian tiger was killed between 1910 and 1920. In 1936, the last known thylacine, named Benjamin, died in captivity in the Beaumaris Zoo in Hobart, Australia. This was just two months after the Australian government made the animal a protected species.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature lists Tasmanian tigers as extinct. However, there have been hundreds of sightings of the Tasmanian tiger over the last 100 years or so. In fact, some of the latest sightings have **spurred** an investigation into their current existence.

Other facts

A research team at the Australian Museum launched the Thylacine Cloning Project in 1999 to attempt to clone a Tasmanian tiger. The research team obtained tissue samples from a female thylacine that had been preserved in alcohol for over 100 years. They were able to extract DNA. And by 2002, they had **replicated** individual genes. However, in 2005, researchers determined that the quality of the DNA was too poor to work with, and the project was scrapped.

(Adapted from *Facts About Tasmanian Tigers* by Alina Bradford
<http://www.livescience.com/58753-tasmanian-tiger-facts.html>)

- According to Encyclopedia Britannica, what was the total length of the Tasmanian tiger?
 - 100 to 130 centimeters long
 - 150 to 195 centimeters long
 - 200 to 250 centimeters long
 - 250 to 295 centimeters long

2. What were the features of Tasmanian tigers?
 - A. The Tasmanian tigers had black stripes across the body, and a thin, almost rodent-like tail.
 - B. The Tasmanian tigers had yellow stripes across the body and a long tail.
 - C. The Tasmanian tigers could weigh up to 45 kilograms.
 - D. The Tasmanian tigers could jump across a valley.
3. Which of the following statements is **true**?
 - A. The Tasmanian tigers hunted kangaroos, sheep and cow.
 - B. A research team at the Australian Museum launched a cloning project and it was a success.
 - C. A research team at the Australian Museum launched the Thylacine Cloning Project in 1997.
 - D. The Australian government made Thylacines a protected species and kept Benjamin in the Beaumaris Zoo.
4. What did the Journal of Zoology suggest in a study in the August 2011 Journal of Zoology?
 - A. The Tasmanian tigers would not have gone into extinction if humans had taken care of them.
 - B. The Tasmanian tigers could have survived if the scientists had put them in captivity.
 - C. They could only hunt smaller prey as their jaws were weak.
 - D. Technology causes the extinction of the Tasmanian tigers.
5. The following statements are true **except** _____.
 - A. the pouch expanded when the baby grew
 - B. Tasmanian tigers could survive longer in captivity
 - C. there were around 5 000 thylacines when Europeans settled in Tasmanian
 - D. thylacines likely lived five to seven years in the wild, though they lived up to twenty years in captivity
6. The word "**vicious**" (line 7) can best be defined as _____.
 - A. occurring at irregular intervals or only in a few places; scattered or isolated
 - B. extremely good or impressive; excellent
 - C. very great in amount, scale, or intensity
 - D. deliberately cruel or violent
7. The word "**spurred**" (line 30) can best be defined as _____.
 - A. caused or promoted the development of
 - B. perceived the intended meaning
 - C. jumped or sprang a long way
 - D. followed
8. The word "**replicated**" (line 36) can best be defined as _____.
 - A. reproduced
 - B. discarded
 - C. removed
 - D. modified
9. Based on this article, what can you infer about the Tasmanian tigers?
 - A. They are extinct.
 - B. They might be in existence.
 - C. They are increasing in numbers.
 - D. They are kept in zoos and museums.
10. What is the most suitable title for this passage?
 - A. The Protection of Animals
 - B. Facts about Tasmanian Tigers
 - C. The Killing of Tasmanian Tigers.
 - D. Importance of Protecting Tasmanian Tigers