



# Tiger Mask

## **Audience**

Activity is designed for 4 years old and up, adult supervision recommended.

## **Goal**

Students will learn about tiger's coloration and how camouflage helps tigers in their environment.

## **Objectives**

- To identify a type of camouflage.
- To make and color a tiger mask.

## **Conservation Message**

Asia is the largest and most populated continent. It is in the Eastern and Northern Hemispheres and covers 9% of the Earth's total surface area. Asia has extremely diverse climates, geographic features, animals, and plants. Unfortunately, the unique biodiversity of Asia is under threat because of habitat loss and overexploitation of species. You can help mitigate these threats by supporting local zoos and aquariums that participate in species survival plans and other conservation efforts.

## **Background Information**

Tigers are native to nearly all of Asia's tropical and temperate forests and serve an important purpose in their ecosystems. They are the largest cat species and are considered an apex predator, meaning they are at the top of the food chain. They eat primarily deer and wild boar with the occasional monkey or crocodile. Tigers are generally an orange brown color with dark stripes that run along their bodies. While one would assume this predator would be easily seen, it is the opposite! Tigers crouch and stalk prey in tall grasses and their stripes and color blend in well making them camouflage. This type of camouflage is called disruptive coloration. Disruptive coloration is when animals have spots, patterns, or stripes to break up their outline, so it does not stick out against the background. Other animals that have disruptive coloration are zebras, leopards, and some species of fish. Tiger stripes are not the same

on every tiger, making each one individually unique. Take a look at the pictures below and observe how well the tiger blends in!



### Materials Needed

- Tiger Mask (provided, separate document)
- Crayons or Markers
- Scissors (adult supervision recommended)
- Yarn or String

### Length of Activity

30 minutes

### Procedures

- Print out the Tiger Mask.
- Color the tiger mask using colors like orange, brown and black.
- Have an adult cut out the tiger mask including eye holes.
- Punch a hole on each side of the mask for the string. Tie a string to each side of the mask.
- Place the mask over your face and tie the string together behind the head so it stays in place.