



Front Cover

A Bengal (Indian) tiger runs through a spray of water. Tigers (*Panthera tigris*) like water, can swim well, and often carry their prey to water to eat. Tigers hunt alone, actively searching for their prey, rather than waiting in ambush. Their prey is usually large mammals, such as pigs, deer, antelopes, and buffalo, but tigers will eat whatever they can catch. An estimated 4,000 Bengal tigers remain, the largest population of five surviving subspecies, all of which are endangered.

Originally distributed across much of Asia, tigers now are restricted mainly to relatively small reserves. Because tigers are considered a threat to human life and domestic livestock, and are valued as big game trophies, they have been hunted relentlessly. Despite some success in protecting remnant tiger populations in India, the inevitable loss of habitat by logging, elimination of natural prey, spread of agriculture, and expansion of human populations threatens the long-term viability of wild populations.

Back Cover

One of the huge clams (*Tridacna squamosa*, phylum Mollusca, Class Bivalvia) found on Pacific coral reefs. Tissues surrounding the clam's siphons are enormously enlarged and directed upward toward the sun. The siphonal tissues serve as host to huge numbers of unicellular algae called zooxanthellae. Using energy from sunlight to power their photosynthesis, the zooxanthellae provide nutrients both for themselves and for their clam host.

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