



Number of Wild Tigers in India Has Increased

Why are tiger numbers increasing?

- In 2010, 13 world leaders promised to double the number of wild tigers in their countries.
- In India, wildlife experts and the government have worked together to protect the tiger.

The number of tigers in India has increased! The **endangered species**' numbers have risen from 2226 in 2014 to 2967 in 2018.

Indian prime minister Narendra Modi said the news proved that India was "one of the biggest and most secure habitats of the tiger."

Every four years, India conducts a thorough tiger **census**. This is so they can find out how many tigers there are in the country. It takes a long time to count the number of tigers in the country.

Scientists had to cover half a million square kilometres of forest, searching for evidence of the big cats. They also used 350,000 images and 26,000 camera traps to help them calculate the tiger population.

The numbers of tigers in the wild declined sharply during the 20th century. In 1900, it is thought that there were 100,000 tigers living in the world. By 2010, this number had decreased to 3200.

This resulted in a meeting of 13 world leaders taking place in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 2010. Each world leader represented a country where tigers lived in the wild.

At the meeting, they pledged to double the number of tigers by 2022, the next Chinese year of the tiger. The data shows that India is already making good progress.

Special reserves have been set up to protect the tiger. Experts have also said this is due to the



Photo: The number of tigers has increased in India.

Indian government and wildlife experts working together closely.

While conservationists welcomed the news, they said more action needs to be taken to protect the species.

Wildlife **conservationist** Ravi Singh said that while the news was "encouraging" there was still "immense pressure" on India's wildlife. This is due to building projects happening close to reserves.

There have also been problems when tigers have entered villages. This is because they need a large habitat which reserves can't provide.

Glossary

endangered	At risk of extinction.
species	A group of living things with similar characteristics.
census	An official count of a population.
conservationist	Someone who tries to protect the environment.

Questions

1. The scientists were very determined when completing the tiger census. Find and copy two pieces of evidence that show this.

1. _____

2. _____

2. 'The numbers of tigers in the wild declined sharply during the 20th century'.

Tick the word that is closest in meaning to 'declined'.

- ☐ risen
☐ increased
☐ decreased
☐ equalled

3. Why do you think Narendra Modi believes that India is "one of the securest habitats" for tigers? Explain your answer.

4. Do you think the numbers of tigers will continue to increase? Explain your answer.

5. In the paragraph beginning "Every four years", find and copy an adjective which shows that the scientists are particularly hard-working.

6. Summarise the story in 20 words or fewer.

Answers

1. The scientists were very determined when completing the tiger census. Find and copy two pieces of evidence that show this.

Accept any two pieces of evidence from the text, e.g. the scientists covered an area of half a million squared kilometres; they collected 350,000 images and 26,000 camera traps to help them calculate the tiger population.

2. 'The numbers of tigers in the wild declined sharply during the 20th century'.
Tick the word that is closest in meaning to 'declined'.

- ☐ risen
☐ increased
☒ **decreased**
☐ equalled

3. Why do you think Narendra Modi believes that India is "one of the securest habitats" for tigers? Explain your answer.

Accept any reasonable answer which refers to the story, e.g. I think he believes that India is "one of the securest habitats" for tigers because their numbers have increased in the last four years.

4. Do you think the numbers of tigers will continue to increase? Explain your answer.

Accept any reasonable answer which refers to the story, e.g. I think the number of tigers will continue to increase because scientists and the government are working together closely in India and this has been successful.

5. In the paragraph beginning "Every four years", find and copy an adjective which shows that the scientists are particularly hard-working.

thorough

6. Summarise the story in 20 words or fewer.

Accept any reasonable summary in 20 words or fewer, e.g. The number of wild tigers in India has increased. In 2014, there were 2226 and 2967 in 2018.