

**READ THE PASSAGE** Think about the differences between lions and tigers.

### **Big, Wild Cats**

The roar of a lion or a tiger can make a person shake with fear. These big cats live in the wild, but they live in different places in the world.

Lions live in the grasslands of Africa. Their sandy-colored fur blends with the tall, yellow grasses. Tigers live in forests and jungles in Asia. Their orange fur has dark stripes that help tigers hide among the trees. The weather is hot where lions and tigers live. Lions try to stay dry, but they will go into the water if they have to. Tigers like to cool off in water. Both kinds of big cats live and hunt in an area that covers many miles. This is their territory. Lions live in groups called prides. Each pride has its own territory. A tiger lives alone in its territory.

Lions and tigers are strong hunters with sharp teeth and claws. Both kinds of big cats are meat eaters. They both tend to creep up to their prey and attack by surprise. Lions hunt in small groups, but a tiger hunts by itself.

**SKILL PRACTICE** Read the item. Write your response.

1. Name three ways in which lions and tigers differ.

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2. Name three ways in which lions and tigers are alike.

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3. How does each big cat's fur help it to blend in with its surroundings?

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**STRATEGY PRACTICE** Think of a question about the passage and have a partner answer it.