

# Tasmanian Tigers

Name:

## Tasmanian Tiger Facts

- The Tasmanian tiger is not a tiger. It is a large carnivorous marsupial that was native to Tasmania.
- Most scientists believe it is extinct. However, each year there are some unconfirmed sightings in remote areas of Tasmania.
- Tasmanian tigers are believed to open their jaws wider than any other mammal, up to 120°.
- From the 1820s, farmers hunted Tasmanian tigers because they killed sheep.
- Tasmanian tigers are also known as thylacines after their Latin name, *Thylacinus cynocephalus*.
- In 1936, the last captive Tasmanian tiger died in the Hobart zoo.
- Tasmanian tigers hunted wombats, wallabies, kangaroos, birds and other small mammals.

Do you know any more facts about the Tasmanian tiger?

## Drawing

The Tasmanian tiger was about 1.5 m long and had light brown fur with dark stripes across its lower back.

The pattern of stripes on each Tasmanian tiger's back is unique.

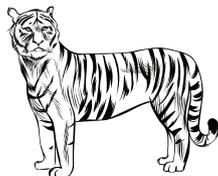
Make a drawing of a Tasmanian tiger showing its distinctive markings.

## Extension Research

The Tasmanian tiger is a marsupial. What makes a marsupial distinct from other mammals?



The Tasmanian tiger has distinctive stripes. List other animals that have a distinctive stripe pattern.



## Poster Design

Since 1788 there are 23 birds, 4 frogs, and 27 mammal species believed to have become extinct since European settlement of Australia.

**WARNING**

Don't let another Australian animal become extinct!

Design a "warning" poster that compares the plight of a presently endangered animal to the extinct Tasmanian tiger.

Include a clear main heading to get the reader's attention. For example:

"WARNING!  
Don't let this happen to the .....!"

Also include pictures to support the main message of saving endangered animals.

## Number Crunchers

If they started hunting Tasmanian tigers in 1824 and the last one died in 1936, how many years did it take for them to become extinct?

The last Tasmanian tiger to be killed in the wild was shot in 1930 at Mawbanna.

How long is it from when they first started shooting them in 1824 to when the last one was killed in the wild?

For how many years has the Tasmanian tiger been extinct?

