



Transcript for *Little Tigers* (Peachtree Publishing Company Inc.) Preview Video

Preview (0:00 – 5:00)

Hi everyone! It's Colleen from the KU Natural History Museum, and I just want to remind you that tomorrow, here on Facebook Live at 10am, Story Book Science is back! And we are going to return to Story Book Science and read the book *Little Tigers*. It's by Jo Weaver, and it is published by Peachtree Publishing. We'll also be reading it with permission from Peachtree Publishing. So thank you so much to them for the permission to read this book!

Now this book is about a group of tigers. It's a Mother Tiger and her two cubs, Sera and Puli, and they're looking for a home: a place where they can feel comfortable and they can feel safe. So we'll learn about their journey to find that place where they can feel comfortable and safe. And we're also going to learn more about tigers.

Now tigers, they are in an order of mammals, so this really big group of mammals, called Order Carnivora. And so what that means is that most, if not all of the mammals in that order, eat meat. Now Order Carnivora is this huge, huge group of mammals. So there are a lot of mammals in this group. And we can further look at all of the mammals, and then put them in families based on characteristics they have. So tigers, they are a member of the Family Felidae, and Felidae means cat.

So this family not only includes tigers, but it also includes lions and cougars and even domestic cats! So if you have a pet cat, it's a member of Family Felidae. Now the characteristics that we look for for members of Family Felidae, they are many, or there are many; but we're just going to talk about a few. So one of them is that they are digitigrade. And that means that when they walk, they walk on their toes. They don't put their heel down on the ground. The other characteristic we're going to talk about is their teeth and what their teeth look like. So tigers and all other cats, they have long, sharp, and narrow teeth. And these teeth are helpful for the food they eat. So these long, sharp, and narrow teeth are good for ripping and tearing meat because cats are carnivores.

Now I don't have a museum specimen of a tiger to show you, but I do have a museum specimen of a domestic cat. So this is the domestic cat skull, and this is the top portion of the skull. And we're going to focus on the teeth. So right here, we have canines. And then along the cheek, right there, those are molars. And what you can see is that the canines, they are long, sharp, and narrow, and the molars are too! They have these sharp bits. And as we've discussed before, these long, sharp, narrow teeth, and these molars that have those sharp parts to them, those are good because the cats need them in order to eat the food. So specifically, meat.

Now I do want to let you know that when we talk about cats, although they have these characteristics, the teeth shape is the same. The actual size can differ. So this is a domestic cat as we've discussed. But if we were talking about a tiger, specifically a tiger's canines, the canine would be one to two inches. Now just to give you some idea of how big that is, my thumb, from the top to where it attaches on my hand, that's about two inches. And compare that to the canine of the domestic cat. It's a pretty big difference! Tigers have canines that are huge compared to the canines of the domestic cat!

So we'll talk about this, and we'll even talk about some more interesting facts about tigers and cats tomorrow after we read our story. So I hope you join me for Story Book Science here on Facebook Live at 10am. I'll see you then! Bye!