

### Objective

- Students will ask and answer questions about words in a text.

### Resources

- Language Arts Master (page 4)

### Summary

Lions live together in a group called a pride. They work as a team. They take care of the young lions, or cubs. They hunt buffalo and other animals for food. Living in a pride keeps the lions safe and strong.

## WORD WORK

**Sight Words:** *live, how, of, has, know, take, as*

## BUILD VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

- pride
- female
- cub
- lioness
- male
- prey

The words above are used in the article and may be new to students. Pronounce the words for students. Have pictures available that will help students understand the meaning of the words, or use the pictures in the article. Use student-friendly definitions to explain the meanings of the words.

Post the words along with pictures on a classroom word wall. Refer to the word wall throughout discussion of the article, and remind students to use these words as they talk about the article with each other and with the class.

## READ AND DISCUSS

Read the article “Life in a Pride” aloud to students as they follow along. You may want to read the entire article first, and then reread the article, taking time to stop and discuss each two-page spread.

Pages 2–3 Read the title and the text aloud to students. After reading the text on page 2 ask: **Where are these lions?** (*in Africa*) **What is a group of lions called?** (*a pride*). **What do you think we will learn about the pride? What questions do you have that you would like to have answered as we continue reading?** Listen to the

questions students have. You may want to write down the questions on chart paper or on the board. Let students know that good readers ask questions as they read. Continue by explaining: **However, not all questions will be answered. Good readers sometimes have to find answers by continuing to research and read.**

Pages 4–5 Ask: **What does a male lion do?** (*He guards the pride and their land.*) **How does he keep other lions away?** (*He roars.*) **How do female lions help the pride?** (*They hunt and take care of the cubs.*) **What is a female lion called?** (*a lioness*) Have students look at the pictures of the male lion, the female lions, and the cubs. Ask: **How do these lions look alike and different?** (*Students should note the differences in size and appearance among the lions. The male has a mane, and the females do not. The cubs look similar to the females, but smaller. Students may also notice differences in the cubs’ fur.*)

Pages 6–7 Ask: **What do cubs want to do?** (*They want to hunt, but they are too small. Instead, they play with other cubs.*) **How do the cubs practice hunting?** (*They bite, chase, and jump.*) Let students know that this playing helps the cubs learn the skills they will need to hunt when they are older. Ask: **What do the female lions do as the cubs play?** (*They hunt for food, such as buffalo. They work as a team.*)

Pages 8–9 Have students explain what lions do most of the day. Then ask: **Why do you think lions sleep most of the day?** (*Help students infer that because hunting and eating take a lot of energy, the lions need to rest.*)

You may want to revisit some of the questions students had as you began reading. If all of their questions have not been answered, you may want to find out more about lions by researching and reading as a class.

## TALK AND WRITE

Students can respond to the article by talking and writing. Use the following prompts to guide them. You might also want to use the Language Arts Master for this article.

- Talk about something you learned about a pride.
- Write about or draw something you learned about lions.

## SCIENCE

### Objective

- Students will learn that some animals live in groups.

### Resources

- Big Cats poster (Teacher's Edition)
- "Saving Lions" article (Projectable magazine)
- Science Master (page 5)

### Science Background

Lions are one of a number of big cats that include cheetahs, tigers, and snow leopards. They are social animals and are the only big cats that live in groups, or prides. The size of a pride varies depending on the availability of food and water. Some prides can have as few as 3 or as many as 40 lions. Most of the members of a pride are females and cubs. African lions are threatened by loss of habitat, hunting, and various diseases.

Visit "Big Cats in the Classroom" at <http://nationalgeographic.org/projects/big-cats-initiative/education> to learn more about the National Geographic Big Cats Initiative. There you will find photos, videos, and activities to help students understand more about big cats and efforts to save them.

### ENGAGE

To engage students, spend some time gathering pictures of lions. Post the pictures around the room and have students talk about lions by looking at the pictures and describing what they see.

### EXPLORE

Most students know what lions look like, but they may not know much about them. Ask the following questions and explore what students already know about lions. For the questions they do not know the answers to, research and answer them together as a class.

- How big are lions?
- Where do lions live?
- What sounds do lions make?
- What do lions eat?
- What are young lions called?

### EXPLAIN

Read the article to students.

After reading, have students discuss with a partner what they learned about lions. Ask students to talk about what they learned by using the pictures in the article. Say: **With a partner, take turns doing a picture walk through the article. Look at all of the pictures and tell what they show and the information you learned about lions.**

### ELABORATE

With students, research to find other animals that live in groups. Find out what those groups are called. Some you might research include wolves (pack), orcas (pod), elephants (herd), chimpanzees (troop).

Project the article "Saving Lions" and read it aloud to students. After reading, encourage students to think about how Thandiwe's actions can help save lions.

### EVALUATE

Assess students' understanding with the Science Master for this article. You might also use the following prompts.

- What is a pride?
- How do male and female lions take care of the pride?

**LANGUAGE ARTS: Words to Explore**

Find the meanings of the words in the story "Life in a Pride."  
Then write them down.

1. pride:

2. cub:

3. lioness:

Write about lions using three of the words from the Word Bank.

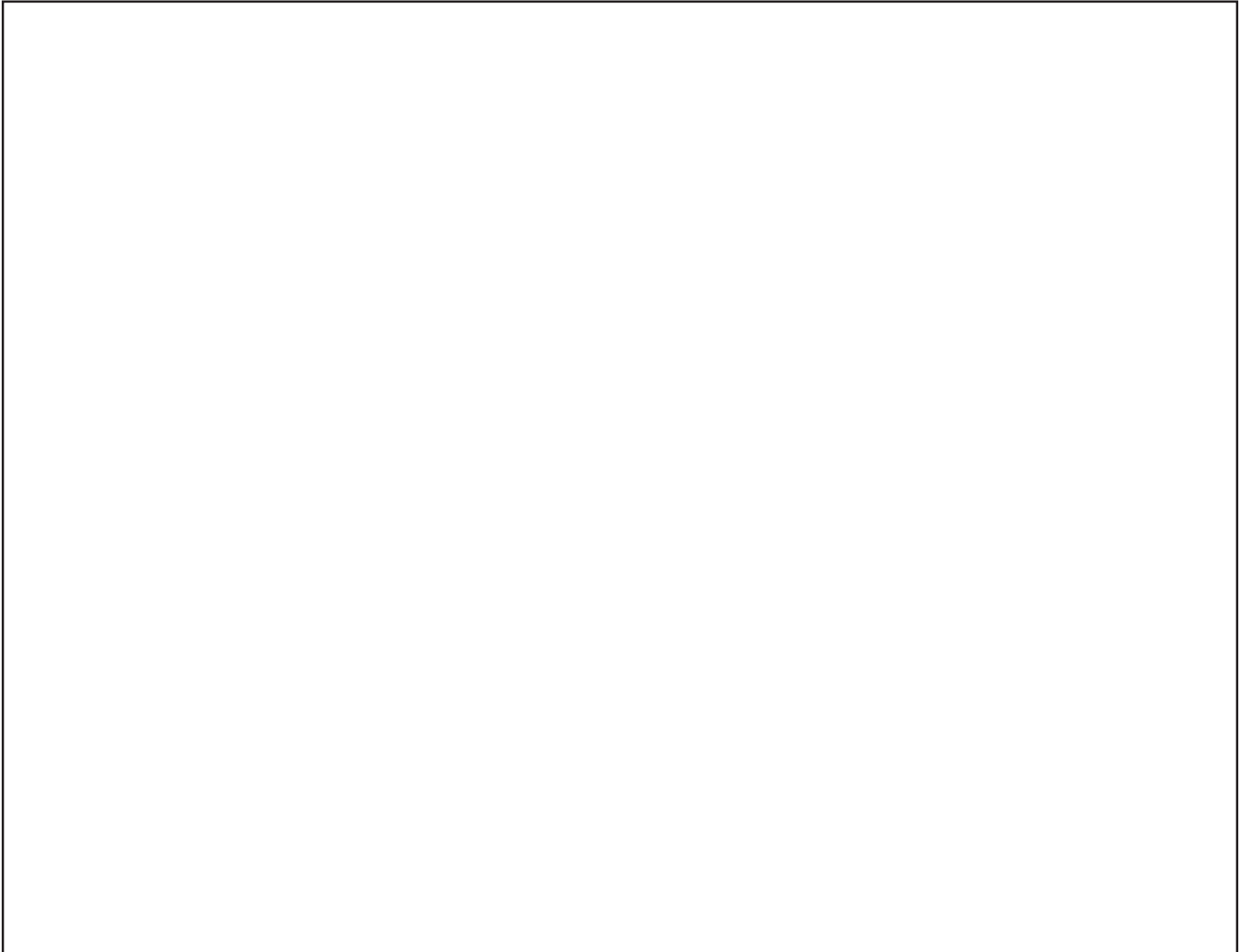
pride cub lioness male female prey

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## SCIENCE: Lions Live in a Pride

Draw a picture of a pride. Write about the pride.



Four sets of horizontal writing lines, each consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, for writing about the pride.

## ANSWER KEY

### Life in a Pride

#### Language Arts: Words to Explore, page 4

Students should find and write the meanings of the words and write about lions using the words from the Word Bank.

1. pride—a group of lions that live together
2. cub—a young lion
3. lioness—a female lion

#### Science: Lions Live in a Pride, page 5

Students should draw a picture of a pride of lions and write about the pride.