

# How the Tiger Got Its Stripes

Once upon a time, a long, long time ago, there were tigers that didn't have stripes. They were just plain. Can you imagine that? They looked very different from the tigers you see in pictures and in the zoo! Now, let's find out how the tiger got its beautiful stripes.

## Step 1: The Beginning of Tigers

Tigers are big cats, and all big cats have a family, just like how you have a family. A long time ago, this family of big cats lived in places with lots of trees and tall grass. They had to hunt for their food, like deer and even smaller animals.

## Step 2: Blending in with Nature

When the tigers didn't have stripes, they found it hard to hide from their food. Can you picture a big cat with no stripes, running through green grass? It would be easy for their food to see them! So, the tigers that were a bit darker or had some patterns started to blend in with the trees and the shadows when they hid to pounce on their dinner.

## Step 3: The Magic of Evolution

Over many, many years, the tigers that could hide better were able to catch more food and survive. Those tigers had babies, and the babies also had dark fur and started to get stripes! This is called evolution. It's like a long game of hide and seek, where the best hiders are the ones that survive and have babies!

## Step 4: Why Stripes Are Important

The stripes help tigers not only to hide, but they also help them look beautiful and unique. Each tiger has a special pattern of stripes, just like how each person has different fingerprints! The stripes are like a superhero's special outfit, helping tigers be great hunters!

## Step 5: Learning from Darwin

A smart scientist named Charles Darwin told us a lot about how animals, like tigers, change over time to fit in better with where they live. This is called adaptation. Adaptation is when animals learn to do things better for their home. Tigers adapted by getting stripes, so they could hide and be much better hunters.

## Conclusion

So, that's how the tiger got its stripes! It's all about blending in, surviving, and doing a great job at being a tiger. Isn't nature amazing?