

Week of April 13-17
8th Grade Language Arts
Mrs. Kolo

Hello Students! For this lesson, we will be reviewing some skills that you already know. Please read the following article and answer the questions. I have included additional information that might be helpful in a box after some questions. PLEASE MAKE SURE TO WRITE COMPLETE SENTENCES. Be thoughtful when you answer.

What are we working on? Standard – RI.8.1 Cite the evidence from the text that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says.

Liger or Tigon?

What do you call an animal that is half tiger and half lion, a “liger” or a “tigon”? The answer may surprise you. Rather than one or the other, both of these terms are correct! A liger has a lion father and a tiger mother, whereas a tigon has a tiger father and a lion mother. Although these hybrid felines are often confused, they do contain distinct characteristics.

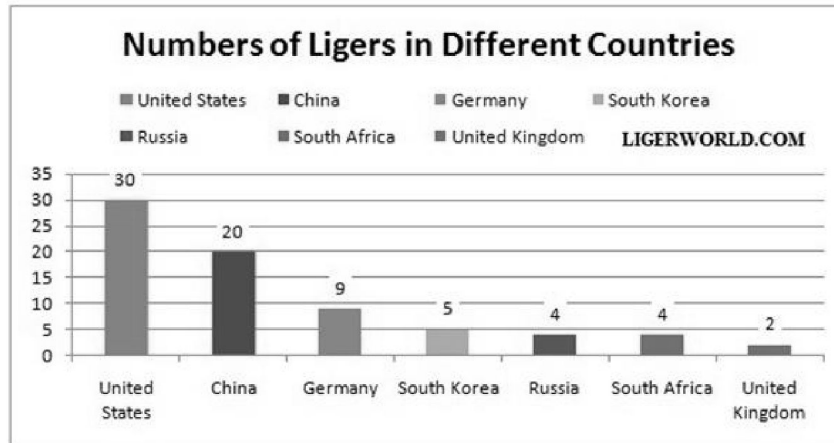
Ligers



Ligers are bigger than tignons, and they are considered the biggest felines in the world. Hercules, a liger in Miami, Florida, is thought to be the largest, and weighs over 410 kg (approximately 904 pounds). His father was a male African Lion (named Arthur the Lion) and his mother is a female Bengal tigress. Hercules is renowned throughout the United States, as well as the world. He has been seen on many daytime television shows such as *The Today Show* and *Good Morning America*.



Ligers are brownish-yellow in coloring, and have both stripes and muted spots. The stripes are on their backs, and the spots are on their bellies. They can make sounds from both lions and tigers. Like lions, they are very social. In fact, they have more lion traits than tiger traits. But when it comes to water, they are more like tigers. Ligers, like tigers, are very good swimmers.



Tigons



Tigons are deep orange in color, and have white bellies. They resemble tigers more than lions. Tigons can roar like a tiger, and growl like a lion. Like ligers, they have both spots and stripes. Tigons are smaller than ligers, and have a tendency to be smaller than their parents. They enjoy both swimming and socializing. Tigons are

not as common as ligers.

The Dangers of Crossbreeding

There are many dangers that come with crossbreeding. Because of this, activists are trying to outlaw the creation of ligers and tigons. These types of hybrid arrive with a bigger risk of diseases. These diseases include cancer, arthritis, and depression. Tigons run the risk of dwarfism, whereas Ligers may develop gigantism. Most crossbred cats in the United States are found in private zoos. Activists claim they are only bred to milk money from tourists. They are hoping that someday this crossbreeding practice will end.

The Benefits of Crossbreeding

Although the voices of the activists against hybrid animals ring loud and clear, there are also

those who are in favor of this type of crossbreeding. They believe that visitors have become bored with the typical zoo animals, and have moved on to other weekend activities like amusement parks where they can satisfy their desires for thrills and excitement. They argue that these tourists are finding their way back to zoos because of crossbred animals like ligers and tigons. These animals provide that excitement for the new and exotic. They also point out that the money made from these new tourists help to feed and take care of all the animals in the zoo. So, in essence, the ligers and the tigons are actually improving the lives of all animals.

Which argument has the most merit? It's up to you to decide.

Name _____ Date _____



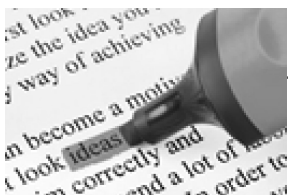
RI.8.1

1. **Analyze** the arguments for and against crossbreeding for ligers and tigons. (**Analyze** means to examine something carefully. So to analyze the arguments, you will carefully explain the reasons for crossbreeding AND the arguments against crossbreeding. It is ok to also include opinions about the arguments.)

2. **Defend a position**. Use the information from the passage to determine whether or not crossbreeding should be banned. Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text explicitly states.

To cite evidence you would say something like: “ page 3/ section 1 states.....” Or “The section on the benefits of crossbreeding states....” **BE SURE TO USE QUOTES.**

3. **Based on the evidence in the passage**, which would be easier to train, ligers or tigons? **Cite the textual evidence** that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text states.



Highlight words from the passage to prove your point of view on question #3. (Change the text color.)

4. What is the author's purpose for writing the article?

How to answer this question:

An author writes with one of four general purposes in mind:

1. To tell a story, an author uses narrative writing.
2. To describe/ tell what something looks like, sounds like, or feels like.
3. To persuade a reader to believe an idea or to take a course of action.
4. To inform or teach the reader.

The author's purpose for writing this article is _____

5. Analyze the text features utilized in this passage. Which one is the most effective? Explain.

Text features are things like pictures, graphs or charts, section headings.
Remember, analyze means to examine closely.

6. What is the author's point of view about the cross breeding of ligers and tigers? Is he or she for or against it? Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text explicitly states.

Point of view is the author's opinion.

Highlight words from the passage to prove the author's point of view. (Change the text color.)

7. Use the bar graph in the passage to determine which countries have the most and least ligers.

Based on what you know about these countries, make a speculation (a guess based on information) as to why these figures came out the way they did.

9. Compare and contrast ligers to tigons.

Write a few sentences summarizing their similarities and differences.