

# Teacher Resource

## Tassie Tiger

### Focus Questions

1. Before watching the BTN story, record what you know about the Tasmanian tiger.
2. What is a thylacine?
3. Tasmanian tigers only ever lived in Tasmania. True or false?
4. Why did the Tasmanian tiger become extinct?
5. The Tasmanian tiger was a...
  - a. Monotreme
  - b. Marsupial
  - c. Reptile
6. What did they eat?
7. What was the name of the last known living Tasmanian tiger?
8. When did he die?
9. Describe what was found at the National Film and Sound Archive recently.
10. What can we learn from the extinction of the Tasmanian tiger?

### Activity

#### What do you know about the Tassie tiger?

As a class discuss the BTN *Tassie Tiger* story. Ask students to record what they know about Tasmanian tigers. Ask students to record any questions they have. Here are some questions they can use to help guide their research. Students can display the information as a Tasmanian tiger fact file.

- What is a Tasmanian tiger? Describe its appearance.
- What is another name for a Tasmanian tiger?
- When did they become extinct?
- Why did they become extinct?
- What are some common myths about Tasmanian tigers?

### Activity

#### Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words and terms that relate to the BTN *Tassie Tiger* story. Here are some words to get you started.

Thylacine	Extinct	Marsupial
Carnivorous	Bounty	Captive

### Key Learning

Students will develop a deeper understanding of the Tasmanian tiger and why it became extinct.

### Curriculum

#### Science – Year 6

The growth and survival of living things are affected by physical conditions of their environment.

#### Science – Year 7

Scientific knowledge has changed peoples' understanding of the world and is refined as new evidence becomes available.

Interactions between organisms, including the effects of human activities can be represented by food chains and food webs.

#### History – Year 4

The diversity of Australia's first peoples and the long and continuous connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to Country/Place (land, sea, waterways and skies).

#### Did You Know?

Did you know that the word thylacine means dog-headed pouched-dog?

## Activity

### Inquiry Questions

After watching and discussing the BTN *Tassie Tiger* story, what questions do students have and what are the gaps in their knowledge? Students will develop their own question/s for inquiry, collecting and recording information from a wide variety of sources. Students may develop their own question for inquiry or select one or more of the questions below.

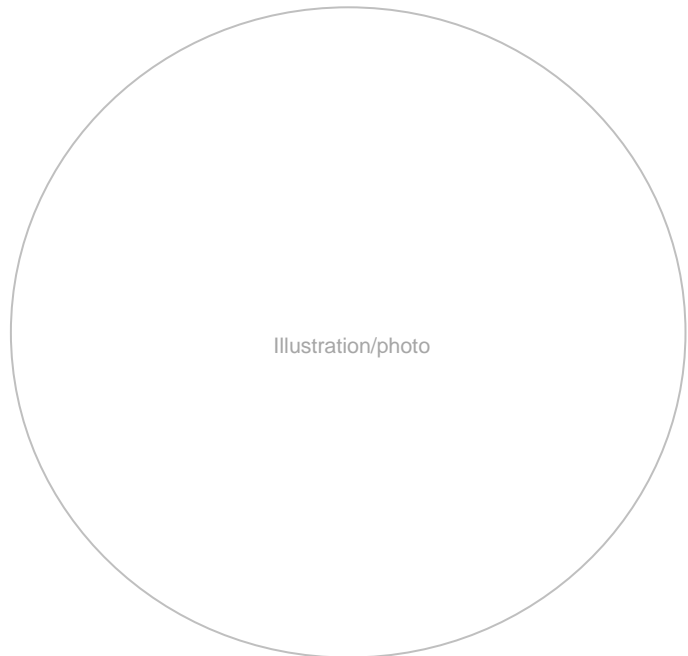
- What evidence is there that the thylacine is really extinct?
- What impact did European settlers have on the thylacine?
- What can we learn from the extinction of the thylacine?
- How will our knowledge of the thylacine help make informed decisions about species preservation?
- How have views of the significance of the thylacine changed over time?

## Activity

### Tassie Tiger Profile

**Common Name:**  
**Scientific Name:**  
**Life Span:**  
**Size:**  
**Diet:**  
**Appearance:**

**Habitat:**



**When did it become extinct? What were some of the causes of its extinction?**

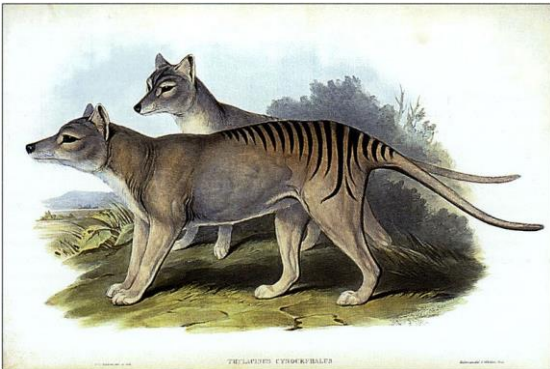
**Interesting features or facts:**

## Activity

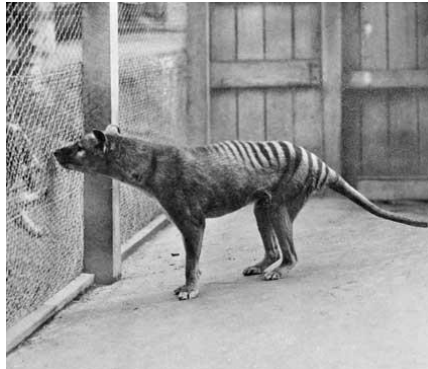
### Visual Literacy

In this activity students will examine a range of images of thylacines. Students will choose one or more of the images below and respond to the following:

- Write a short paragraph describing what you see in the image.
- What does the image tell you about thylacines?
- Do you think it's an important image? Why or why not?
- Create a caption for each image.
- What question/s would you like to ask about the image? Choose one of your questions to investigate in more detail.
- Choose an image and write a fictional story about it.



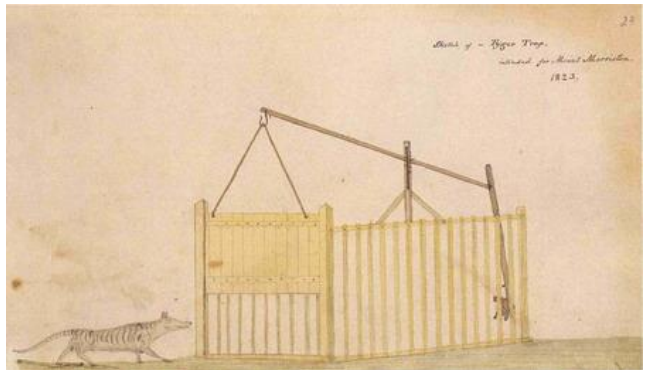
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## Activity

### Indigenous People and the Thylacine

Students will explore Indigenous people's connection to the thylacine through Aboriginal rock paintings and Dreaming stories. Aboriginal rock paintings of thylacine-like animals have been found in the Northern Territory and the Kimberly region of Western Australia. Explore some of these images [here](#). Listen to Aunty Doris Stuart Kngwarreye [share a Dreaming story](#) of the Arrernte people from Mparntwe (Alice Springs) being guarded by Akngwelye, a thylacine.



*How the Tasmanian Tiger Got Its Stripes* is a Dreaming story of the Nuenonne people of Bruny Island off the coast of Tasmania. The book should be available in most libraries or to purchase.

## Activity

### BTN Stories

#### [Tassie Tiger story](#)

1. What is the scientific name for the Tasmanian tiger and what does it mean?
2. What do experts say caused the thylacine to become extinct?
3. How is it being brought back to life?
4. Explain what scientists did with the DNA from the thylacine.
5. How did they know the DNA was in the mouse?
6. Do you believe scientists should be able to conduct experiments such as these? Explain your answer.



#### [Megafauna Fossil Footprints story](#)

1. On which island were fossils found?
2. What is the name of someone who studies fossils?
3. Explain what scientists found on the island.
4. Name three facts you learnt about the Tasmanian tiger.
5. What does Aaron say about the possibility of the thylacine being alive today?
6. What can the footprints found on Kangaroo Island tell us?



## Activity

Quiz Questions	Your Answer
1. The Tasmanian tiger was a... <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Monotreme</li> <li>b. Marsupial</li> <li>c. Reptile</li> </ol>	
2. Tasmanian tigers were... <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Herbivores</li> <li>b. Carnivores</li> <li>c. Omnivores</li> </ol>	
3. Both male and female thylacines had pouches <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. True</li> <li>b. False</li> </ol>	
4. When did the last thylacine die in a Hobart zoo? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 1936</li> <li>b. 1946</li> <li>c. 1956</li> </ol>	
5. Thylacines were related to tigers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. True</li> <li>b. False</li> </ol>	

Answers: 1b, 2b, 3a, 4a, 5b

## Useful Websites

Newly discovered footage of last-known Tasmanian tiger released - ABC News

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-05-19/tasmanian-tiger-thylacine-footage-released/12263548>

The Thylacine – Australian Museum

<https://australianmuseum.net.au/learn/australia-over-time/extinct-animals/the-thylacine/>

Extinction of a Thylacine – National Museum Australia

<https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/extinction-of-thylacine>

Tassie Tiger BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/tassie-tiger/10541360>