

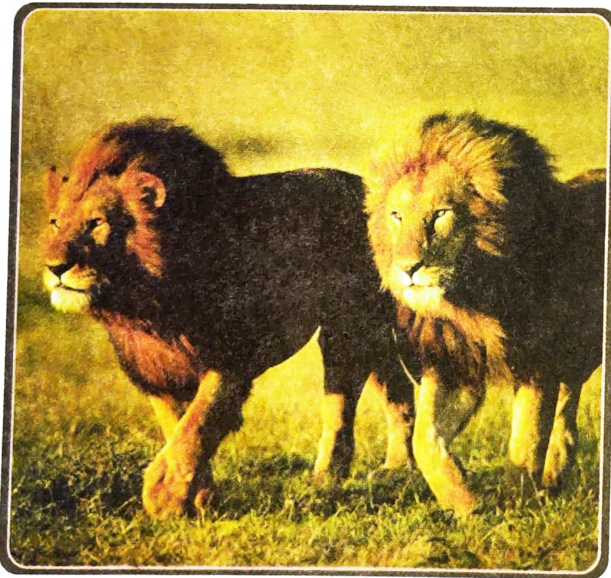


The world is home to a variety of animals and birds most of which can be spotted in wildlife sanctuaries, national parks and bird sanctuaries. Let us begin our wildlife tour and study more about these wonderful places.

Sundarban National Park situated on the world's largest delta, which is shared by Bangladesh and India, contains mangrove forests and is home to the famous Royal Bengal Tiger and large reptiles like Olive Ridley turtles and crocodiles.



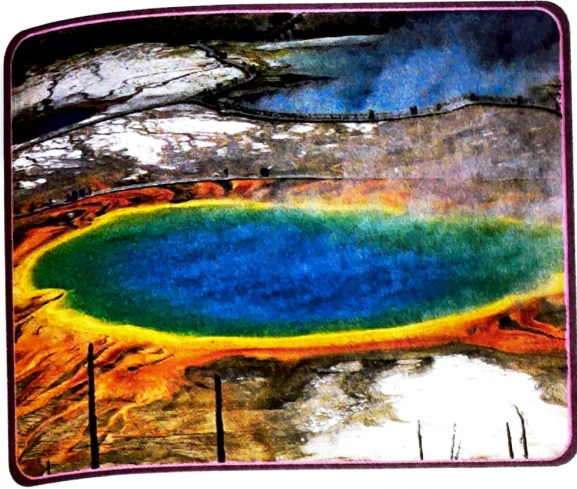
Masai Mara National Park is a large park reserve in south-western Kenya, which is the northern continuation of Serengeti National Park Game Reserve Tanzania. It is most famous for its lions. Black rhinoceros and cheetah are also found although their numbers are severely threatened. Large herds of zebra and Masai giraffe are also common. Besides, 450 species of birdlife including vultures, stork, hornbill, crowned crane, ostrich and African falcon are also identified.



Keoladeo National park located near Bharatpur in Rajasthan it is known for the world famous bird sanctuary. Siberian cranes the large and beautiful migratory birds on the brink of extinction come to this sanctuary for their annual winter sojourn.







Yellow Stone National Park was the first of its kind, and is known for its wildlife and its many geothermal features, especially Old Faithful Geyser. There are almost 60 species of mammals in the park, including the endangered gray wolf, the threatened lynx and grizzly bears. Other large mammals include the bison, black bear, elk, moose, mule deer, mountain goat, bighorn sheep and mountain lion.

Gir National Park is the sole home of the pure Asiatic lions. The carnivores group mainly comprises Asiatic lions, leopards, jungle cats, hyenas, jackals and mongoose. The main herbivores include chital, nilgai, sambar, four horned antelope, chinkara and wild boar. Among the smaller mammals, porcupine and hare are common.



Nestling in the foothills of the Himalayas, the Kaziranga National Park has the highest density of tiger in India. Besides the tiger it is a haven for 50 mammals, 580 kinds of birds and 25 reptile species. The park has elephants, Himalayan black bear, sloth bear, varieties of lesser cats, dhole-the wild dog and entire spectrum of colourful birds including water birds, pheasants, jungle fowl and the Indian hornbill.



Barberspan bird Sanctuary is the largest waterfowl sanctuary in South Africa. Over 350 bird species including pelican, flamingo, grebe, tern, heron, crane wet out the dry season at this conservation area spread in more than 2000 hectares of wetlands.





Fill in the blanks.

1. What are a group of hyenas called?

C LAN

2. What is the fear of animals known as?

Z OO PHOBIA

3. Which is the largest frog in the world?

G OLIATH FROG

4. 90% of the hunting is done by the lion or lioness?

L IONESS

5. What is stored in the hump of a camel?

F AT

6. Which animal has the largest fins?

F IN W HALE

7. Which is the most poisonous Asian snake?

K RAFT

8. Which animal is known as the 'architect' of the animal world?

B E AVER

9. Which animal has the largest eye?

S BUID

10. Which animal can run at a top speed of 97-113 km/hr?

C H EETA



Know More



Horses can sleep in a standing posture and they do not have collarbones.



Tick (✓) the correct option.

1. The powerful claws of birds of prey are called:
  - a. Bills
  - ☒ b. Talons
  - c. Paws
  - d. Proboscis
2. Which of the following are wading birds?
  - a. Parrots
  - b. Pigeons
  - ☒ c. Herons
  - d. Peacocks
3. Which bird is a popular pet in Australia?
  - a. Kiwi
  - b. Rhea
  - c. Emu
  - ☒ d. Budgerigar
4. Which one is a flightless bird of South America?
  - a. Emu
  - b. Kiwi
  - ☒ c. Rhea
  - d. Ostrich
5. Which bird often follows a ship for days without stopping to rest?
  - a. Condor
  - b. Hawk
  - c. Eagle
  - ☒ d. Albatross
6. Which bird builds its nest in giant saguaro cactus to escape the desert heat?
  - a. Vulture
  - b. Partridge
  - c. Toucan
  - ☒ d. Gila woodpecker
7. Which bird has a beak about 23 cm long, much longer than its body?
  - a. Bulbul
  - ☒ b. Toucan
  - c. Sparrow
  - d. Osprey
8. Baby swans are called:
  - a. Ducklings
  - b. Goslings
  - c. Chicks
  - ☒ d. Cygnets
9. Which bird beats its flaps about 90 times per second?
  - a. Swift
  - b. Swan
  - c. Crow
  - ☒ d. Hummingbird
10. Which one is a songbird?
  - ☒ a. Nightingale
  - b. Quelea
  - c. Sparrow
  - d. Condor

### Know More



- ❑ White storks build twig nests on roofs and some people think they bring good luck to the house they nest on.
- ❑ The kea of New Zealand is a parrot that eats meat as well as fruits. It was once wrongly thought to be a sheep killer.
- ❑ The emu of Australia is the best swimmer of any land bird.



White Stork



Kea



Emu