... included in this edition is a

PULL-OUT
SHEET

Spot the Difference
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Methods of Studying Cats
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Hi, Flying over! Wow! Am I there yet? Landing, landing.

Hi everyone. It is fun flying. You will only know how I feel if you’ve been on an airplane before. Anyway, I had to fly because the previous edition was about birds and I really wanted to know what it is like up there. It is really fun, flying over various countries, even sometimes over continents, that is what most birds enjoy.

Come to think of it, how many of you have sent in your articles to be published in this edition of Tortoise Magazine. This edition is going to be really interesting because it is all about cats.

Let us learn together by exchanging ideas in this edition.

Till we meet again,

Tortoise
THE LION is arguably the most sought-after of ‘the big five.’ It is synonymous with an African safari. Charismatic, powerful and beautiful, everybody wants to see the appropriately named ‘King of the Jungle.’ So two teenagers discuss the Lion.

Ikenna: Is the Lion one of the big five?
Akachukwu: Yes! It is the most sought of the big five.

Ikenna: Where did the name big five come from?
Akachukwu: Once, hundreds of thousands of lions roamed the world, but today conservationists approximate between 230,000 and 39,000 in the wild and less than 1,500 in West Africa. (www.iucnredlist.org/details/15951/0)

Lions are one of the big five rarely found in the forest and function in prides, usually numbering about 5 to 15, depending on the territory. They are social family animals with females (lioness) as the ruler of the pride alongside a large dominant male that has won the pride in fierce competition with other males. Lionesses stay with the pride, while young males leave at two to three years of age.

Ikenna: Why do the male leave their family at that tender age?
Most cats have eyes which appear to glow in the jungle at night. Young cats (cub and kitten) put scent from their gland on their paws to mark their territory in the jungle.

**Leopard** are skillful hunters. Despite this, they are becoming rare in the rainforests due to destruction of their habitat.

**Cheetah** is the fastest of all the cats. Their backbones are so bendy they can take a huge step as they bound forward. Unlike most cats, they do not retract the claws on their feet. When they run their claws dip into the ground like the spikes on an athlete’s shoes.

**Jaguars** live in rainforests, but sometime stray into farm lands.

**Tiger** hide in tall grass and tick vegetation. It moves little during the day and spend most of its time resting. As the sun fades, it paws softly through the forest floor looking for any animal to catch unaware.

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**Activities to Watch Out For**

June - 2016 World Environment Day  
October - 2016 World Habitat Day  
October - 2016 National Art and Essay  
October - 2016 Walk For Nature

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TRUE OR FALSE

Tick in the box ✓ for True and × for false.

A. Cats can make their tongues into a scoop shape.  
B. The spikes on a cat's tongue are called papillae

(See the answers on back cover.)
Preparation for 2015 World Environment Day by Corona school students.

Niger State Conservation Club planting trees at different locations.

Students of Lagos Civil Service Junior Model College, Igbogbo, Ikorodu, Lagos state.

Students of Lagos Civil Service Senior Model College, Igbogbo, Ikorodu, Lagos state.


Preparation for 2015 World Environment Day by Corona school students.

Niger State Conservation Club planting trees at different locations.
They work better in groups to enhance their hunting, but the group is rarely more than four. Lions are in their prime from five to nine years of age. The males, once they've taken over a pride, have to work hard to keep it. Younger males with attitude are always removed from the pride. That means from that age the lioness will still be with the mother during her generation.

Akachukwu: No! They only need one or two years to become a mother too. Amazingly, their pregnancy is 14 weeks, before they give birth to 4 cubs. Sister lioness stay together.

Ikenna: They only need one or two years to become a mother too. Amazingly, their pregnancy is 14 weeks, before they give birth to 4 cubs. Sister lioness stay together.

There are many techniques used in surveying animals. For cats, camera trapping and transect samplings are best.
The two sketches of the leopard seem identical. If you examine the two carefully, there are differences between them. Identify the 12 differences in B which does not match the sketch in A. Circle those differences in illustration B. See back cover for the solutions.

ADDITIONAL FACTS ON LION

Identification:  
- Male lion
- Female lioness
- Young cub
- Group of males coalition
- Group of females pride

Threat concerns: Threat kinds are habitat destruction and hunting activities by human.

Habitat: Grassland, savannas, and woodlands

Range: Africa and India

Feeding styles: They have taste for impala, wildebeest, giraffe, antelope and zebra.

Body length: The male measures between 1.7 to 2.5 metres, while the female is within 1.4 to 1.8 metres.

Body weight: Male weighs within 150 to 250 kg (330 to 550 lb); Female weighs 120 to 182 kg (265 to 400 lb).

Life Span: In the wild, about 12 years for males and 16 years for females

The lion is of the *mammalia* class. It is a flesh eating animal, hence it is of the *carnivora* order. It belongs to the family known as *felidae*. It is of the genus of *Panthera* and of the *leo* specie

**Did You Know**  
Male lions are driven out of their pride by the time they are four years old.

Lions can run as fast as 60 km/h (37 mph).

A lion’s roar can be heard from a distance of 8 km (5 mi).

Lions can leap distances of up to 12 m (36 ft).

Lions spend about 20 hours a day just lying around.

Female lions never have manes.

**EDUCATION UNIT**  
NIGERIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION  
Email: education@ncfnigeria.org  
Phone: +2349034679399  

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TORTOISE SCARES THE LION

There are two starving lions living near the home of an aged woman. The lions set ambush to catch the old woman for food when she comes out of her home. Surprisingly, both Tortoise and hare came out of the old woman’s house in the premises. The lions find hare ventures more into the open than the Tortoise. They follow hare outside the premises but it keeps dodging for its safety.

One day, one of the lions dies of starvation while the other holds on with its feeble strength till it finally catches hare to satisfy its hunger. Now, the lion is happy. It dances with great excitement and suddenly it sees Tortoise outdoor who is yet safe in the premises.

The lion begins to feel that the Tortoise must be a friend to many hares and would know where they can be found. Now, it stalks, without making a sound, behind tortoise who is now outside the home.

Though, Tortoise is mourning the death of its friend, hare, it plans to avenge its killing against the lion with much boasting. It had previously briefed all the hares in the colony about the mischievous trick it was going to play on the lion. They were very pleased with what Tortoise was going to do.

Tortoise is now going towards the hares’ colony. Lion follows him quietly but thinks Tortoise is not noticing who is behind. Now, the lion comes so close to Tortoise who immediately turns around swiftly and jumps into the lion’s thick mane. This surprise move throws the lion into confusion. It does not know what it is! In a frenzy manner, the lion roars, jumps around madly, and runs aimless through the bush.

All the hares in the colony heard the commotion far away. They saw the lion running fiercely towards them until it thunders pass their colony. They crept out of their burrows to watch the dust far away in the lion’s wake. They marvel that tortoise trick worked for their safety.

Meanwhile, the lion runs to its old friends to help remove what torments it. Tortoise quietly loosens its grips on the mane and drops into a narrow tunnel, made by other rodents.

Far away, Tortoise emerges at the other end of the tunnel waving, shouting and mocking the humiliated lion.

The friendly lions laugh about the episode. The shamed lion shows bitterness against Tortoise. He swears never to do anything against the crafty Tortoise and the hares.

My advice is don’t get involve in any deal with tortoise.

I'm bleeding. This hurts me. Take it apart gently.

We can’t imagine what causes the lion to flee. Tortoise had done something terrible to it than what it told us.

Your mane commands the fear in all beasts. Now you have nothing to show for it. Perhaps, your next encounter with tortoise might cost you losing your claws.

Its friends pluck every bunch of the mane till there was none left but bare skin and funny looking face.

Your mane commands the fear in all beasts. Now you have nothing to show for it. Perhaps, your next encounter with tortoise might cost you losing your claws.

So, that is the little brat which scares you!
Rat have been playing happily but cautiously faraway from the cat. One day, Tortoise came by and gave a friendly smile to the rat. The rat questioned itself if it could trust this stranger. Tortoise persistence smile made it to accept and went close to him. But Tortoise asked why it feared and ran away always from the cat. It told him cat was dangerous. Well assured of its safety by Tortoise, the rat went to the cat. It did not work out well for the rat as Tortoise said it would be, but it was eaten by the cat.

This story teaches children a lesson not to trust strangers, no matter how friendly they present themselves.