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Introduction

This book is intended to raise our awareness of both the plight of the Siberian Tiger and the land in which it lives. It touches on history, geography, literature and other elements of life in Russia. It links environmental issues, especially the fast-disappearing Siberian Tiger, with the human cultures that share the environment.

The plight of the tiger around the world is serious. Around the turn of the century, about 100 000 tigers existed in the wild. Today, there are less than 5000.

Of the eight subspecies of tigers, three are already extinct. The Bali Tiger became extinct in the 1940s, the Caspian Tiger became extinct in the 1970s, and the Javan Tiger became extinct in the 1980s. In the 1950s, the South China Tiger was hunted almost to extinction. Today, there are 30–80 left in the wild. The Siberian Tiger is the largest of these regal cats.

However, less than 300 are left in the Taiga Forest. Even the Bengal Tiger of India is in danger. There are currently 3300–4500 living in India, but the tremendous increase in human population has placed impossible demands on their habitat.

Although loss of habitat is a major reason for the demise of the tiger, the primary cause is poaching. Many residents of Taiwan, China and Korea believe in the healing properties of various parts of the tiger. Pills are made from the various parts to cure everything from rheumatism to convulsions. Tiger bone potions are even supposed to increase longevity. Also, a tiger skin can fetch as much as \$30,000 on the black market. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, borders opened and foreign trade increased.

In 1994, US President Clinton imposed limited sanctions on Taiwan in response to its lack of effort in stopping the market for tiger parts. China narrowly escaped similar action.

Another threat to the tiger is logging. Logging companies clear-fell forests, leaving no homes for tigers or other forest animals.

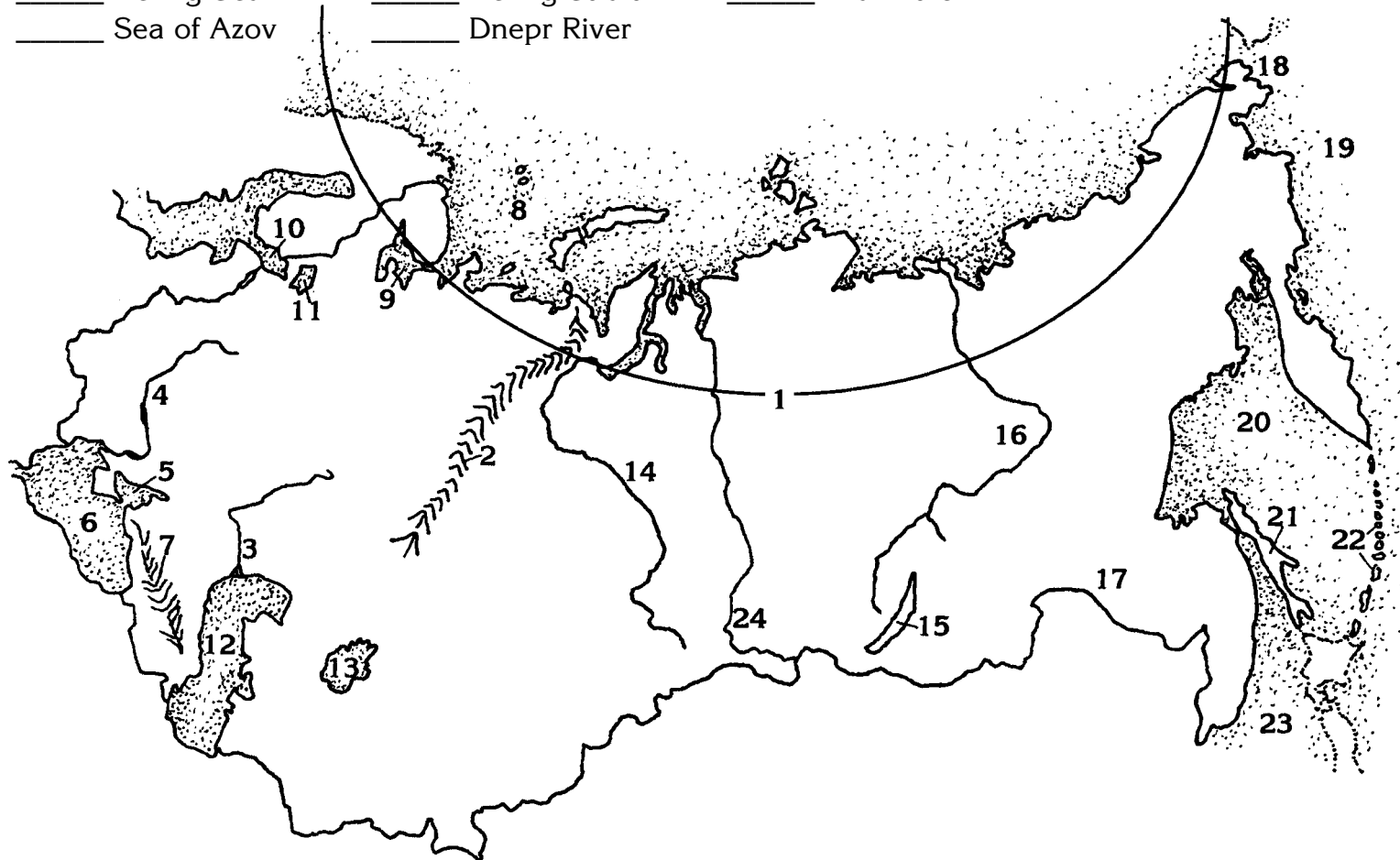
Ultimately, the tiger will disappear from the face of the planet. The sad truth is that if we do not save the tiger now, the other great cats of the world, like the lion and panther, may also disappear.

Physical Features of Russia

Russia is the largest country in the world. It encompasses most of Eastern Europe and all of Northern Asia. Thousands of lakes and rivers run through this vast land.

Identify the following features by writing the correct number in each blank.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| _____ Aral Sea | _____ Sea of Japan | _____ Volga River | _____ Caucasus Mtns |
| _____ Caspian Sea | _____ Sea of Okhotsk | _____ Yenisey River | _____ Arctic Circle |
| _____ Barents Sea | _____ Lake Ladoga | _____ Ob River | _____ Sakhalin Island |
| _____ Black Sea | _____ Lake Baikal | _____ Lena River | _____ Kuril Islands |
| _____ White Sea | _____ Gulf of Finland | _____ Amur River | |
| _____ Bering Sea | _____ Bering Strait | _____ Ural Mtns | |
| _____ Sea of Azov | _____ Dnepr River | | |





Russia and its Neighbours

Use with page 7.

Fill in the names of the countries and independent states in the word puzzle below. Not all the names will be included. Then, on the map on page 7, write all the names from the Word Bank on the map.

Word Bank

Japan	Iran	Finland
Turkey	Sweden	Mongolia
Poland	China	Armenia
Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Lithuania
Uzbekistan	Turkmenistan	Russia
Azerbaijan	Georgia	Latvia
Ukraine	Belarus	Estonia

1. _ _ _ e _ _ _ n
2. _ _ _ _ n _ _
3. _ _ _ l a _ _ _ _
4. _ _ e _ _ _ g _ _ _
5. _ _ a _ _ a n
6. _ _ u _ _ _ _ _ _
7. _ _ _ b _ _ _ i _ _ _ _ _
8. _ _ k _ _ _ i _ _ _
9. _ _ a t _ _ i _ _
10. _ _ s _ _ _ n _ _ _
11. _ _ r _ _ _
12. _ _ _ r _ _ m _ _ _ _ s _ _ _ _
13. _ _ y _ _ g _ _ _ _ t _ _ _
14. _ _ _ l _ _ n _ _
15. _ _ _ z _ _ k _ _ _ _ _ _
16. _ _ u _ _ s _ _ _



Have a Feast!

Use with page 33.

Sibirskije Peljmeni (Siberian Ravioli)

3 cups flour	1 egg yolk, beaten
1¼ tsp. salt	4 cups chicken stock
2 eggs, slightly beaten	3 cups beef stock
3 tbs. water, ice-cold	chopped fresh dill
450 g minced beef, cooked	sliced carrots
1 med. onion, finely chopped	onion rings
¼ tsp. pepper	

1. Stir flour and 1/4 tsp. salt.
2. Stir in 2 eggs and 6–8 tbs. water.
3. Wrap in plastic wrap and let stand for 20 min.
4. Knead dough until smooth and set aside.
5. To make filling, in a large bowl combine beef, onion, 3 tbs. ice-cold water, 1 tsp. salt, and 1/4 tsp. pepper.
6. Divide dough into 4 equal pieces.
7. Roll out each piece until very thin (1–2 mm).
8. Cut dough into 5 cm circles.
9. Brush edges of dough with egg yolk.
10. Place 1/2 tsp. filling in each circle and fold over.
11. Crimp edges with a fork and let stand for 10 min.
12. Pour beef and chicken stock into a large pot.
13. Add sliced carrots and onion rings to stock and bring to a boil.
14. Add ravioli a few at a time while boiling.
15. Reduce heat and simmer for 10 min.

Serve in bowls and garnish with dill.

