



Z.P.G.A. "Cubs Club" Newsletter

September 2021 edition
A focus on Hyena



Welcome to the Z.P.G.A. Cubs Club

Hyenas are not members of the dog or cat families.

Instead, they are so unique that they have a family of their own - Hyaenidae.

There are four members of the Hyaenidae family: the Striped hyena, the "giggly" Spotted hyaena, the Brown hyena, and the Aardwolf (it's a hyena, not a wolf).



Ethics are everything!

Dear Editor,

My name is Liam.

We went camping to my Uncle James's farm in Mangwe. I had my scorpion torch with me. My dad found this rock scorpion using my scorpion torch.

Why does it glow under the purple light?

From Liam



Dear Liam,

This is certainly a fun activity to do, but make sure you always do it with an adult.

Certain molecules in one layer of the cuticle, the tough, but somewhat flexible part of a scorpion's exoskeleton, absorb the longer wavelengths of ultraviolet light and emit it in different wavelengths that are visible at night as a blue-green glow.

In theory, this would help a scorpion hide better at night

Great question!!

Regards,
John Laing
Professional Guide



- The Brown hyena's skull is larger than that of the Striped hyena.
- The male Brown hyena is slightly larger than the female, while the sexes of the Striped hyena are equally sized.
- Both Brown and Striped hyena species are smaller than the Spotted hyena.
- The Spotted hyena female is larger than the male.

So what do we know about Hyenas?

1) Despite what Simba would have you believe, Spotted hyena don't just scavenge for lion leftovers. Spotted hyena hunt and kill in packs. Ninety-five percent of what a hyena eats comes from hunting. A group of hyena can devour an entire zebra, leaving no leftovers—not even the bones—in under half an hour. However, this feeding frenzy comes at a cost; hyena rip, claw, and fight with one another over the remains of their meal.

2) The size of an animal's frontal cortex is believed to be connected to its social intelligence, and hyena have a frontal cortex on par with primates. A study done by Duke University showed that a captive pair of hyena performed better at problem-solving and social cooperation than chimpanzees. Even more amazing is that during the study, the hyena solved all the problems in silence, using only non-verbal signals for communication.

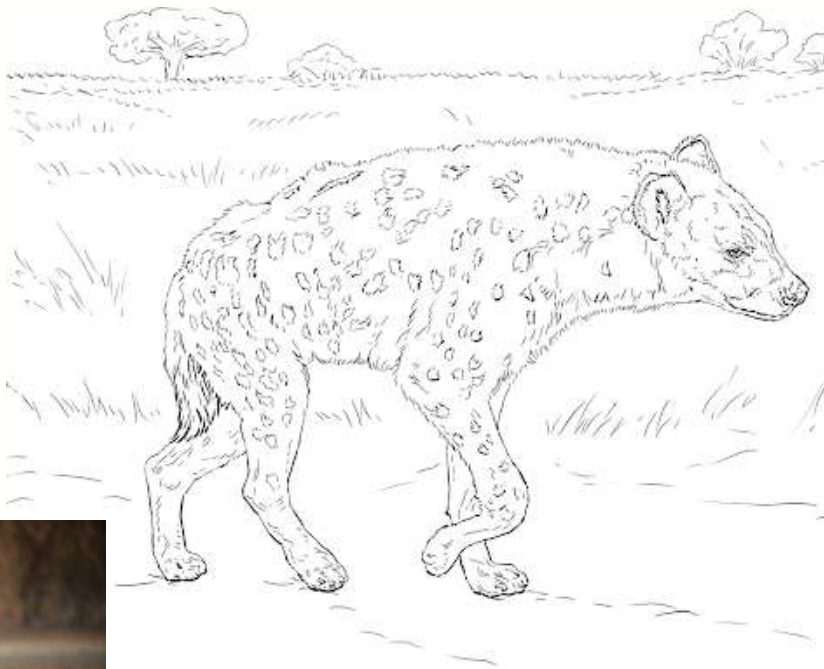
3) Given their reputation as scavengers—and their creepy laughs—it makes sense that plenty of people don't like hyena. In Green Hills of Africa, Ernest Hemingway wrote:

"Fisi, the hyena, hermaphroditic self-eating devourer of the dead, trailer of calving cows, ham-stringer, potential biter-off of your face at night while you slept, sad yowler, camp-follower, stinking, foul, with jaws that crack the bones the lion leaves, belly dragging, loping away on the brown plain..."



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African Countries

S	I	D	Y	I	S	U	I	T	I	R	U	A	M
O	A	Y	R	L	I	B	Y	A	N	S	D	N	A
U	I	O	C	C	O	R	O	M	D	U	C	G	L
T	B	A	I	K	E	N	Y	A	R	D	O	A	G
H	M	I	R	R	R	A	R	A	I	A	M	A	E
A	A	S	A	E	A	C	H	A	D	N	A	W	R
F	Z	I	D	I	C	E	W	U	N	M	L	I	I
R	T	N	N	N	S	G	A	G	Y	E	I	M	A
I	D	U	A	I	A	Y	E	U	A	C	A	I	I
C	I	T	W	G	G	P	K	I	I	C	Y	W	I
A	A	I	R	E	A	T	Y	N	I	M	G	A	M
S	C	A	A	R	D	E	M	E	O	O	G	L	L
I	G	O	A	I	A	A	G	A	A	N	C	A	A
G	S	T	C	A	M	E	R	O	O	N	K	M	L

ZAMBIA
MALI
GUINEA
ALGERIA
SUDAN
SOUTH AFRICA
LIBYA
TUNISIA
MADAGASCAR
RWANDA
CHAD
MAURITIUS
MALAWI
CAMEROON
MOROCCO
EGYPT
KENYA
NIGERIA

Can you find all the African countries listed on the right side of the page?

How many of these countries may you have visited.

Ask your mom and dad how many they have visited.

Which African country is not listed here, which may come as a surprise?



So, last time we spoke about littering and explained that it was important not to litter. What did you do to clean up around your home? Did you perhaps put all the rubbish in the dustbin? Did you clean up around your house a little? There is so much that you can do... Ask your parents to help give you some ideas on how to reduce the plastic you use.