



Why did
the tiger
want to eat
the man?

The Tiger in the Trap

Once there was a traveler just getting ready to stop for the night when he heard a low moaning. He found a tiger caught in a deep pit.

The tiger saw the man and begged, "Please free me from this trap, and I will be grateful to you for the rest of your life."

The traveler agreed and lowered a large branch into the pit for the tiger to climb. As soon as the tiger was free, he fell upon the man.

"Wait!" said the traveler. "I thought you were going to be grateful to me."

"It was men who trapped me," answered the tiger. "So a man should suffer for it."

Just then a hare hopped by and asked what was happening. The tiger told it and then asked if the hare agreed with him.

"First I have to see the pit. Where were you?" the hare asked the tiger.

"Down here," the tiger replied and jumped into the pit.

"Was the branch there too?" asked the hare.

"No," said the tiger. And so the hare took the branch away.

Then the hare turned to the traveler and told him to be on his way.

The tiger cried out in **dismay** as the man walked off down the trail. "How could you betray me?"

"I judge each according to his own and not by his fellows," answered the hare. "You have the fate you deserve, and so does the man."

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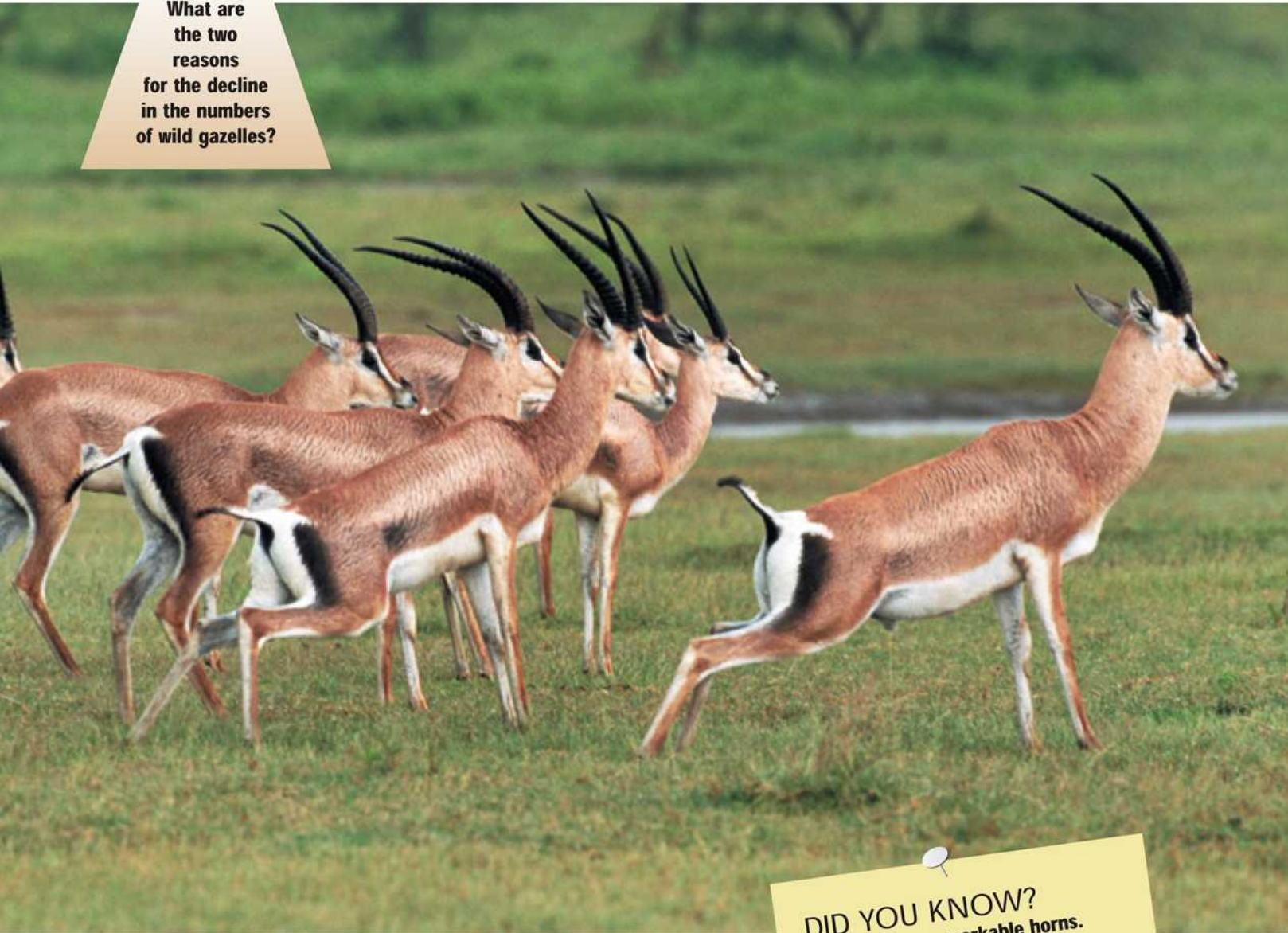
Despite the many stories, tigers seldom eat people. Usually, a tiger will attack a person only if it is sick or is unable to hunt for its natural prey.

Answer: It was men who had trapped the tiger, so the tiger thought this man should pay for it.



SEARCH LIGHT

What are the two reasons for the decline in the numbers of wild gazelles?



Tanzania's Serengeti Plain is rich in wildlife. These male Grant's gazelles live in Serengeti National Park.
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DID YOU KNOW?
Gazelles have remarkable horns. Male gazelles sometimes lock horns and fight fiercely over territory.

The Bouncers

Gazelles are a graceful fast-moving kind of antelope—part of the family that includes cattle and sheep. Gazelles live on the open plains and **semidesert** regions of Africa. They're usually found in herds of 5 to 20 animals. Sometimes hundreds of gazelles move together, forming one large herd.

Gazelles are herbivores. That means they eat mainly herbs, bushes, and rough desert grasses. Some gazelles need more water than many plains animals. These gazelles often eat early in the morning or at night, when leaves contain more water than they do in the heat of the day.



Thomson's gazelle in Tanzania.
© Tom Brakefield/Corbis

Gazelles do one very unusual thing. As they travel in the herd, some of them bounce on all four legs. They keep their legs stiff, and as they hop, all four legs leave and touch the ground at the same time. It's not clear why they sometimes move this way. Perhaps they're just playing and having a good time. But there

may be a more important reason for doing this. As they bounce in the air, the gazelles can see enemies moving toward the herd. The rest of the herd can then be warned of danger, and all can run to a safe place. And gazelles are swift runners.

Gazelle meat is a good source of food for people in areas where gazelles are found. The gazelle is also food for **predators** on the plains. But the population of some kinds of gazelles is shrinking because they are often overhunted for their meat. Their **habitat** is also disappearing. Desert areas are becoming drier with fewer trees, so these areas are becoming less suitable for gazelles.

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Answer: The numbers of gazelles in the wild have declined because they are being hunted too much for their meat and because their natural habitat is disappearing.

The Sea in the Middle of Land

The Mediterranean Sea gets its name from two Latin words: *medius*, meaning “middle,” and *terra*, meaning “land.” The Mediterranean Sea is almost entirely surrounded by land. It’s right between Africa, Europe, and Asia.

The Mediterranean is a bit larger than the African country of Algeria. But more important than its size is its location. Its central position made the Mediterranean an important waterway for a number of classical cultures, such as those of Italy, Greece, Egypt, and Turkey.

Many **channels** connect the Mediterranean with other bodies of water. The Strait of Gibraltar connects the Mediterranean with the Atlantic Ocean. The Dardanelles and the Bosphorus connect it with the Black Sea, between Europe and Asia. And the Suez Canal is a man-made channel connecting the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea, which lies between the Arabian **Peninsula** and North Africa.

Three major rivers also lead into the Mediterranean Sea: the Rhône in France, the Po in Italy, and the Nile in Egypt. But the water from most of the rivers **evaporates** very fast. Instead, the Mediterranean Sea gets most of its water from the Atlantic Ocean. So Mediterranean water is very salty.

There are many popular tourist **resorts** along the Mediterranean. These include some of the Mediterranean’s many islands, such as Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, Malta, Crete, and Cyprus. Tourists often like to take a **cruise** across the Mediterranean. They get to visit many different countries all at once, try lots of different food, and see the **remains** of various ancient civilizations.

DID YOU KNOW?
Various Mediterranean regions have special marriage customs. One area’s custom is to cut the groom’s tie into many pieces, which are then sold to the wedding guests for honeymoon money.

Bosphorus

Dardanelles

Turkey (ASIA)

AFRICA

Egypt



What ocean provides the most water to the Mediterranean?

Answer: The Atlantic Ocean supplies most of the Mediterranean's water.