

# Can You Picture This?

## Discussion Starters

1. All of these animals—a tiger, elephant, cobra, and rhinoceros—are from a country in South Asia that starts with the letter “I.” Do you know the name of the country?

**Answer:** The country is India.

2. Which colors do you see on the markings of the tiger? Do you know what kind of tiger this is?

**Answer:** The colors are white, orange, and black. It is a Bengal tiger.



3. What color are the tiger’s eyes?

**Answer:** The eyes are green.

4. Do you think the tiger looks friendly or mean?

**Answer:** If the tiger was staring straight at you, you would probably think it looked mean.

5. What would you do if a tiger walked up to you?

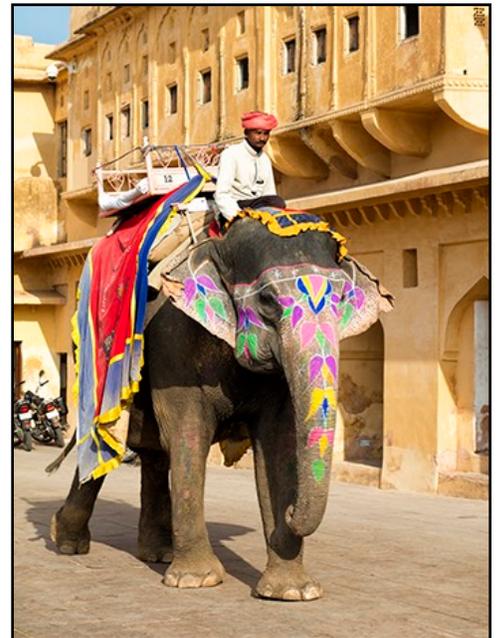
**Answer:** Would you slowly back away? Would you run as fast as you could? Or would you say, “Nice kitty,” and try to pet it?

6. What do you see on the elephant’s face and trunk?

**Answer:** Colorful or designs that look like flowers or leaves.

7. What is the man riding on the elephant wearing on his head?

**Answer:** He is wearing a turban. A turban is a headdress worn by men in India. It is fashioned by winding a long piece of cloth wound around and around the head.



8. Would you want to ride on an elephant in a carrier like the one on top of this elephant?

9. How many snakes can you see?

**Answer:** There are two snakes.

10. Do you know what kind of snakes they are?

**Answer:** They are king cobras. The king cobra is the deadliest snake on Earth.

11. What is the man with the flute doing?

**Answer:** He is a snake charmer. This is an age-old Indian art. The person playing the flute (known as a punji) pretends to hypnotize the snake. In reality, he has trained the snake, remains outside striking distance, and maybe has even removed the snake's fangs and poison.



12. How do you feel about snakes? Have you ever owned one? Have you ever touched one?

13. How would you describe a rhinoceros?

**Answer:** The rhino most closely resembles a dinosaur. Its body looks like it is made of plates of armor and it has a prominent horn on its nose.

14. What animal do people often mistake a rhinoceros for?

**Answer:** A hippopotamus. Both are large animals, but beyond that they are very different animals. Hippos like to be near water, and rhinos are land animals. A rhino has a horn, but hippos do not. A hippo has tiny ears, and a rhino's ears are larger.



15. Do you think you could outrun a rhinoceros?

**Answer:** Rhinos can run about 30 miles per hour, so a human could probably not run that fast.

## Animal Facts

Here are some interesting facts about the four animals we have featured:

### Tiger

- The Bengal tiger is the national animal of India, and the majority of them live there. Most likely, you have seen one on a visit to the zoo.
- A tiger's roar can be heard two miles away. So, you can't say you weren't warned.
- Bengal tigers usually rest in the shade or around water during the day and hunt at dusk or at night.
- Adult Bengal tigers are loners and only come together for breeding. Females will remain with their young until the cubs are approximately 24 to 30 months old.

### Elephant

- There are two kinds of elephants, African and Asian. An African elephant lives in Africa and an Asian elephant that lives in India, Nepal, and parts of Southeast Asia.
- The main difference between African and Asian elephants is the size of their ears. African elephants have very large ears and Asian elephants like the one you are looking at have smaller ears.

- Elephants are the largest land animals in the world and can live to be 70 years old.
- As a means of communication, elephants purr like cats. They cry, play, laugh, and, of course, have amazing memories.

### Cobra Snake

- The king cobra is the longest snake in the world. They normally grow to between 10 and 13 feet long.
- When threatened king cobras spread their hoods to make themselves look bigger. They can rise six feet off the ground and look a person in the eye and also make a loud hissing sound that resembles the growl of an angry dog.
- King cobras can climb trees and are able to swim for short distances. That makes getting away from them harder. Its poison is so powerful it can kill an elephant within three hours after one bite.
- King cobras can live to be over 20 years old in the wild.

### Rhinoceros

- The Indian rhinoceros primarily lives in northern India and Nepal. They differ from the rhinos native to Africa in that they have only one horn. Rhinos are in danger from poachers as their horn is valued for a variety of uses around the world (such as in Chinese medicine or as a status symbol).
  - Despite their massive size, rhinos can jump and quickly change direction.
  - The rhino's diet consists of grass, leaves, fruit, and farm crops.
  - During the hot midday heat, rhinos like to submerge themselves in water to stay cool.
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