

**Saber-tooth Tiger Reading Comprehension**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Around twelve thousand years ago, during the end of the Ice Age, the legendary saber-tooth tiger, became extinct. Saber tooth tigers are first thought to have existed around 55 million years ago. They lived in both North and South America, and lived alongside wholly mammoths and other creatures that are also extinct today.

Though this prehistoric mammal has “tiger” in its name, it actually was nothing like tigers today, and therefore is not classified in the same family. In fact, it may have been bear-like in build than cat-like! The “saber tooth” part of the name came from their elongated canine teeth, which could grow to eight inches long. Their long teeth were visible even when their mouths were closed. These massive cats, which could weigh up to 650 pounds, probably preyed upon bison, deer, and camels. They lived in forests or grasslands and could live up to forty years.

Scientists disagree concerning why saber-tooth tigers became extinct. Some attribute their extinction to climate change, as they went extinct around the end of the Ice Age. Others believe that people hunted them to extinction.

**1. According to the passage...**

- A. saber tooth tigers were similar to today’s tigers.
- B. saber tooth tigers were more closely related to lions.
- C. saber-tooth tigers were unrelated to today’s tigers.
- D. saber-tooth tigers were similar in appearance to today’s tigers.

**2. Which of the following IS NOT true?**

- A. Saber-tooth tigers lived alongside dinosaurs
- B. Saber-tooth tigers lived alongside wholly mammoths
- C. Saber-tooth tigers lived in North America
- D. Saber-tooth tigers became extinct during the last ice age.

**3. Which of the following facts does the author find especially interesting?**

- A. That saber-tooth tigers could weigh up to 650 pounds
- B. That saber-tooth tigers were found in both North and South America
- C. That saber-tooth tigers preyed on large animals
- D. That saber-tooth tigers may have looked more like bears than tigers

**4. Why did the saber-tooth tiger become extinct?**

- A. People hunted them
- B. Climate change
- C. Because of the ice age
- D. Scientists aren't sure