

THE STORY OF AN ORPHAN WHO WOULD BE KING



Disney  
**MUFASA**

THE LION KING

ONLY IN CINEMAS  
DECEMBER 19

**ACTIVITY PACKET**

Created in Partnership with Disney's Animals, Science and Environment







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Content Manager  
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**E**xploring the unlikely rise of the beloved king of the Pride Lands, “Mufasa: The Lion King” enlists Rafiki to relay the legend of Mufasa to young lion cub Kiara, daughter of Simba and Nala, with Timon and Pumbaa lending their signature schtick. Told in flashbacks, the story introduces Mufasa as an orphaned cub, lost and alone until he meets a sympathetic lion named Taka—the heir to a royal bloodline. The chance meeting sets in motion an expansive journey of an extraordinary group of misfits searching for their destiny—their bonds will be tested as they work together to evade a threatening and deadly foe.



The film features an all-star roster of talent, including Aaron Pierre, Kelvin Harrison Jr., John Kani, Tiffany Boone, Kagiso Lediga, Preston Nyman, Mads Mikkelsen, Thandiwe Newton, Lennie James, Anika Noni Rose, Keith David, Seth Rogen, Billy Eichner, Donald Glover, Blue Ivy Carter, Braelyn Rankins, Theo Somolu, Folake Olowofoyeku, Joanna Jones, Thuso Mbedu, Sheila Atim, Abdul Salis, Dominique Jennings and Beyoncé Knowles-Carter. Blending live-action filmmaking techniques with photoreal computer-generated imagery, the all-new feature film is directed by Barry Jenkins, produced by Adele Romanski & Mark Ceryak, and executive produced by Peter Tobbyansen. Featuring songs by award-winning songwriter Lin-Manuel Miranda, “Mufasa: The Lion King” only in Cinemas Dec. 19, 2024.







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PROTECT THE PRIDE

Since Disney's "The Lion King" was first released in theaters 30 years ago, we have lost half of Africa's lions. Only 20,000 remain from a population of 200,000 a century ago.

In celebration of Disney's "Mufasa: The Lion King," Disney will once again support the Wildlife Conservation Network's Lion Recovery Fund (LRF) and its partners working across Africa to double the number of lions in the wild by 2050. LRF will support the efforts of local communities in Africa to conserve lions on behalf of the world.

Thanks to your support of Disney's The Lion King "Protect the Pride" campaign in 2019, the LRF has been able to fund more than 300 projects working across 25 countries in Africa, with 20 sites already showing stable or increasing populations of lions.

Learn more about Disney's commitment to "Protect the Pride" at  
[Disney.com/MufasaProtectthePride](https://Disney.com/MufasaProtectthePride)



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# WELCOME TO MUFASA'S WORLD

**B**efore Mufasa became the Lion King, he was an outsider in a land filled with threatening foes and fierce challenges. With the help of loyal friends whom he meets along the way, Mufasa begins to learn more about who he is and the world around him, pushing this extraordinary lion to become a strong and powerful leader. His incredible journey empowers all of us with courage and resilience as we embark on our own journeys, no matter how big they may be.

Lions are naturally strong and powerful. Known as the kings of the savanna they are the top predators in their ecosystem, threatened only by humans. Over the last 30 years, much of the world's lion population has been lost due to poaching and habitat loss. However, as organizations like the Lion Recovery Fund focus their efforts on making an impact to protect the species, there is hope that through collaboration and action, lions will flourish on the savannas once more. As Mufasa said, "we are all connected in the great circle of life."

Your journey awaits as you read ahead in the pages of "Mufasa: The Lion King" Activity Packet. Take steps to learn more about the story of lions in the wild, discover the importance of analyzing change in lion populations, discover the importance of guidance from those around you and reflect on how destiny calls you through life's adventures. Begin your exploration through these topics and more, and don't miss Disney's "Mufasa: The Lion King" in theaters December 20th.



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# MEET THE ANIMALS

## LION

MUFASA, TAKA,  
SARABI, OBASI  
ESHE & KIROS

**Size:** 240–550 pounds (110–250 kg)

**Diet:** Hoofed mammals such as gazelle, zebras, wildebeest and impalas

**Habitat:** Flat, grassy savannas of Africa

African lions are the top predators in their ecosystem, possessing specific adaptations to help catch prey that are bigger, faster and stronger than themselves. Males are recognizable by their majestic manes that range in color from blonde to black, whereas females do not have a mane. A lion's coat is typically yellowish grey, and cubs have spots when they're born which fade with age. Lions live in social family groups, called *prides*, of up to 20–40 individuals.



**MANE** Lions are the only species of wild cat to have manes. Only males grow them and there are many theories about their purpose including mate attraction, protection against bites and a warning sign to potential threats.



**TEETH** Lions have powerful jaws and large, sharp canine teeth to help catch and kill prey quickly.



**TONGUE** Much like the tongue of house cats, lions have rough tongues covered with tiny hooks called *papillae* which help to scrape flesh off bones when eating.



**CLAWS** Like other cats, lions have retractable claws. They are long and curved, like fishhooks, and help them to grab hold of prey when hunting.



**EARS** Lions have an acute sense of hearing and constantly move and rotate their ears for better sound location of prey.



**EYES** Lion eyes have a highly reflective layer which gives them excellent night vision allowing them to move easily in the dark and judge distance when hunting.



**TAIL** Lions have long, powerful tails that aid in balance when running and in communicating with other members of the pride.



**FEET** Lions have padded paws which increase traction while running and allow for a silent approach when stalking prey.



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# HORNBILL

## ZAZU

**Size:** Can range from as small as a pigeon to 4 feet (1.2 m) tall with a 6 foot (1.8 m) wingspan

**Diet:** Fruit, insects and sometimes other small animals like lizards

**Habitat:** Various habitats in Africa and Asia

There are about 60 different species of hornbill which vary in size and color. These birds are recognizable by their long, curved beaks which are sometimes topped with a structure called a *casque*. A casque is made of keratin, the same material that makes up human hair and fingernails. The casque is thought to vibrate when hornbills vocalize to help their sound carry further and louder. Hornbills are *diurnal*, meaning they are most active during the day and they rest at night. They spend most of their day sunbathing, cleaning their feathers and foraging for food.



# MANDRILL

## RAFIKI

**Size:** On average 25-60 pounds (11-27 kg) with males being larger

**Diet:** Small animals, roots, seeds and fruit

**Habitat:** Tropical forests and other thick forested habitats throughout Africa

Mandrills are a species of monkey that live in large patriarchal groups, meaning a dominant male leads a group of multiple females and offspring. Mandrills communicate with a variety of vocalizations and gestures, but primarily rely on grunts to get their point across. These monkeys are known for their colorful markings, including an olive green/brown coat, a blue/purple backside, a bright red stripe down the center of their face flanked by two bright blue ridged patches and a yellow beard. As adults, males are typically larger than females and their coloring is known to brighten during mating season.



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# MEERKAT

TIMON

**Size:** ~1.5 pounds (0.68 kg)

**Diet:** Insects, eggs and small animals

**Habitat:** Open plains and savannas of southern Africa

Meerkats are small mammals that belong to the mongoose family. They are highly social and live in groups of up to 30, called *mobs*, often including several different families. They are most active during the day, but if temperatures get too high they will retreat deep into their cool burrows. While members of the group are foraging, one meerkat, called the *sentinel*, will typically keep watch for predators like birds of prey, snakes or jackals by standing on its hind legs and visually scanning the surrounding area.

# WARTHOG

PUMBAA

Warthogs are a type of wild pig, easily identifiable by their sparse black and brown coat and facial tusks and warts. Their facial warts can vary in size, are made of cartilaginous connective tissue and give them the classically sharp edges of a warthog's face. Warthogs are *diurnal*, meaning they're active during the day more so than at night when they retreat to their burrows. They rely on their burrows and wallowing in the mud to keep cool on particularly hot days.

**Size:** 110-330 pounds (50-150 kg) males are typically larger than females

**Diet:** Primarily grasses but also roots, tubers, berries, bark and carrion

**Habitat:** Grasslands, savannas and woodlands



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# Find Your Place in the Circle of Life

By learning more about the species in this glossary you are already on your way towards helping protect animals! Actions big or small can help make a difference for lions like Mufasa and other wildlife, like hornbills, mandrills, warthogs and meerkats. Consider these actions you can take in order to make a positive impact for wildlife:

## Be Responsible

Many animals need special care and do not always make the best pet. Some even require permits or may be illegal to own. Always do your research before committing to care for an animal and remember to never release unwanted pets into the wild. They can have harmful effects on the local ecosystem and increase the chances of creating invasive species populations.

### Shop Sustainably

When shopping at the store, before you toss an item into the cart, ask yourself if it is sustainably sourced. Purchase products like shade-grown coffee, bamboo products and organic foods.

### Refuse, Reduce, Reuse & Recycle

**Refusing** products like single-use plastics is a great way to help protect wildlife and wild places. **Reduce** your consumption to lessen your impact on Earth's resources. **Reuse** items that normally are just tossed into the trash and **recycle** everything you can.

### Protect Nature

Many birds, including some hornbills, nest in tree cavities. As forests are cut down all over the world, cavity nesters have fewer places to live. By hanging nestboxes for local species as well as leaving trees in place you can make a real difference.

### Connect with Nature

Explore the natural world around you. Take a nature walk or hike with your family and friends to learn more about wildlife in your community. You can also visit an AZA-accredited zoo to observe and learn more about animals such as lions, meerkats, warthogs and many more.

### Make Wise Conservation Choices

Finding alternative ways to travel such as carpooling, biking and walking are all great options to lessen your impact on the environment, helping to keep habitats healthy for wildlife.

### Recycle Electronics

Materials within our small electronics are mined in habitats where mandrills are found. By recycling electronics, we can help to cut down on the amount of mining in Africa for new materials.

### Learn More

Read more about the Wildlife Conservation Network's Lion Recovery Fund. They are working to double the lion population by 2050, help advance conservation across Africa and share with others how lion populations are coming back.





# WE GO TOGETHER

**B**efore he became the wise king we know today, Mufasa was a young orphan cub who was forced to adapt to his surroundings and learn skills that helped him develop the tools to become a great leader. Throughout his travels he is faced with challenges both large and small, but he overcomes them with the help of those he meets along the way. Although we often focus on the final destination, sometimes it is important to reflect on the journey and people that got us to where we are today.

When he is young, Mufasa learns of a legendary place called Milele, a paradise where dreams may come true. It is a place that all animals have heard stories about and becomes a destination that

Mufasa, Taka and their friends search for on their journey. The individuals Mufasa encounters on his trek to Milele eventually become a part of his pride. Companions like Zazu and Rafiki not only take on a special role in Mufasa's life but also within their environment.

《 **It is important to reflect on the journey and people that got us to where we are today.** 》

As much as these species differ, each of their roles help support the ecosystem and those around them. On the next page, think of those close to you and what role they play in your life.



Some species of hornbills hunt with mongooses, acting as a lookout for danger while mongooses stir up insects for hornbills to feed on.



Meerkats take turns doing sentry duty to protect the mob.



Warthogs provide oxpecker birds with a food source as they feed on flies and ticks on the warthog's body.



Mandrills help fertilize the forest after digesting their diet of plants, roots and fruit.



Lions are a top predator helping keep a healthy balance of prey species, specifically herbivores.



# WHO'S IN YOUR PRIDE?

As he begins the journey to find this paradise, Milele, Mufasa meets unique and important characters that help define his destiny. Think of the people in your life and how they have had an impact on you. Fill in the prompts below and see if any of their characteristics are similar to the individuals in Mufasa's life.

Sarabi is persistent and strong. She helps support Mufasa as they face foes and experience triumphs.



**Who in your life always has your back and supports you?**

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Zazu is a loyal advisor who aids Sarabi and Mufasa on their trek.



**Who in your life provides guidance and gives advice?**

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Taka brings Mufasa into his pride as a brother. When faced with outsiders, they band together to overcome great odds.



**Who in your life has welcomed you into their circle?**

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Rafiki encourages Mufasa along his journey and inspires him to follow his destiny.



**Who in your life inspires you and why?**

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**As you think about the impact others have had in your life, think about your own actions and qualities.**

**If a friend or family member were to do this exercise, how would you want them to describe you?**

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# A LEGEND'S STORY BEGINS

**L**ong before they became legends, Mufasa and the prince Taka, who would come to be known as Scar, became brothers. The unexpected story of Mufasa and his rise to power is told to Simba and Nala's daughter by Rafiki.

Passing down knowledge to younger generations is not unique to lions—humans also gain understanding and inspiration through stories. Storytelling is a crucial component of conservation efforts.

By painting a picture through words, individuals can better understand what is happening around the world. This brings much needed awareness to species that are facing threats in the wild and encourages us to take positive action.

On the next page you have the chance to start your own conservation journey by helping Rafiki tell a story about lion behaviors. Use this story to help teach others about lions and their importance in the circle of life.

《 **Storytelling is a crucial component of conservation efforts.** 》



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# CREATIVE CONSERVATION

**W**hen Taka first meets Mufasa, he excitedly welcomes him into his Pride as his brother. They soon begin an extraordinary trek together where they face enemies and challenges that bring them closer together to overcome the odds.

Thanks to Mufasa's creative thinking and wisdom passed down from Taka's mother Eshe, they are able to cover their tracks, and traverse treacherous lands in hopes of reaching beyond the horizon to the legendary Milele.

《 **Conservationists must come together and think creatively.**

In wildlife conservation, challenges that impact many *stakeholders*, or interested individuals, are common and often require thinking outside the box. Conservation is not an easy task when social, political and environmental challenges are in the mix.

For example, in Africa, human-wildlife conflict often occurs when a farmer's livestock are preyed upon by lions. This can be a challenging problem to solve when communities are losing resources that provide food and an income to their families.



Wildlife monitoring

To solve these big issues, conservationists must come together and think creatively to ensure both wildlife and communities are benefiting from their work. Whether it's through wildlife monitoring or creating artwork from snares, solutions can come from unlikely people and places.



# THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

Learn more about real-life conservation projects that use innovative techniques to keep the balance between wildlife and local communities.

Read each project description on the left and decide which animal on the right it helps to protect. Write the name of the matching animal on the lines in the description.

1. Despite being the largest land animal,   are afraid of bees! Beehive fences developed by **Save the Elephants** help this mammal maintain a safe distance from humans, protect and pollinate important crops and provide farmers with additional income from honey sales.

2. The **Gorilla Rehabilitation and Conservation Education Center** collaborates with women's groups to build and install fuel-efficient stoves that reduce the amount of wood needed for cooking and protect habitat for  ,

3. To address loss of nest trees and increase fledgling rates of  , the **Mabula Ground Hornbill Project** developed an artificial 'super-nest' that mimics the best wild nests in size, shape, entrance height, wall thickness and micro-climate, and can keep hatchlings safe during heatwaves.

4. **Cheetah Conservation Botswana's** Livestock Guarding Dog Program helps reduce human-wildlife conflict by placing puppies with Namibian farmers. As they grow, their size and loud bark keeps   and other predators away from livestock.

5. The conservation organization **CLAWS Conservancy** created an innovative alert system that warns local villagers in real-time of approaching predators, like these kings of the savanna. Livestock farmers receive warnings about  directly to their cell phones encouraging preventative actions that reduce human-wildlife conflict and promote coexistence in the community.

## CHEETAHS



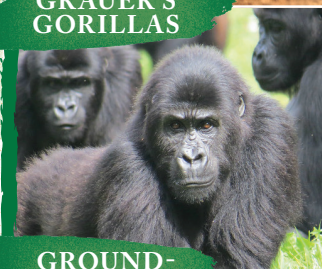
## ELEPHANTS



## LIONS



## GRAUER'S GORILLAS



## GROUND-HORNBILLS



### UNSCRAMBLE ALL THE CIRCLED LETTERS TO ANSWER THE QUESTION!

The best way to be successful in wildlife conservation is to work

\_\_\_\_\_

Answers: 1. Elephants, 2. Grauer's Gorillas, 3. Ground-Hornbills, 4. Cheetahs, 5. Lions  
Unscramble: TOGETHER



# PROTECT THE PRIDE

**J**ust as Mufasa travels across the African continent encountering unique ecosystems, lions in the wild have large ranges. They require vast open spaces to define territories and have adequate space for hunting. From savannas and grasslands to snow-capped peaks, Mufasa's journey is inspired by the diversity of habitats in Africa, all of which are home to a variety of animal species that depend on a healthy ecosystem.

《 **Understanding how habitat loss impacts lions allows us to better protect them and us.** 》

Africa is a continent large enough to fit the United States, China, India, Japan, Mexico and many European nations combined into its land mass. Although the continent is large, spaces that were once habitats for lions have become smaller and smaller due to growing human populations.



Balance is the key to conserving this spectacular species for future generations so that humans and lions may coexist peacefully while the needs of both populations are considered.

Understanding how habitat loss impacts lions allows us to better protect them and us. This strategy is already reaping rewards as 20 sites in Africa are showing stable or increasing populations of lions thanks to projects the Lion Recovery Fund has supported.



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# LION LAND

Historically, lions have been found in many regions throughout Africa, but the impacts of human expansion have resulted in a decline in lion populations.

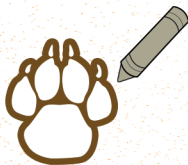
Create a visual representation of lion habitats by filling in the map below to see how their distribution has changed over time.



**HISTORICAL RANGE OF LIONS**



**AREAS WITHOUT LIONS**



**2023 RANGE**

Fill in these countries on the map and color the paw in the key to match.

- BENIN
- BOTSWANA
- BURKINA FASO
- CAMEROON
- CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
- CHAD
- ETHIOPIA
- KENYA
- NAMIBIA
- NIGERIA
- SENEGAL
- SOUTH AFRICA
- SOUTH SUDAN
- TANZANIA
- ZAMBIA
- ZIMBABWE



How has the range of African lions changed over time?

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What trends do you notice in their distribution across the continent?

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# DESTINY AWAITS YOU

**A**s Mufasa strides toward his destiny, he reflects back on the past to the land and family he once called home. The actions Mufasa takes are influenced by his acknowledgment of the past. He uses his own self-reflection to guide his future and find his place in the circle of life.

Reflecting on what we learn along the way is often paired with emotions and actions. The impact of what we learn can only be measured by our future

choices and decisions. With only 20,000 lions in Africa, Mufasa's story helps us to better understand this majestic species and what they face. Hope is a common thread for both Mufasa and lion prides in the wild, if we have courage to make changes.

On the next page, analyze how your actions and choices change after reflecting on what you've learned.



« **The impact of what we learn can only be measured based on our future choices and decisions.** »

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# THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES

Use the context of the sentences to help fill in each blank based on what you've learned about lions and how it makes you feel. Use this information to determine what actions you can take to protect the pride.

Mufasa's story helped me learn about the behavior of lions, and how I can help protect the pride.

I already knew that lions \_\_\_\_\_,

but one thing I learned about lions was \_\_\_\_\_.

I was surprised to learn that lions \_\_\_\_\_.

Although the African continent is vast, lions require lots of space that is **dwindling because of** \_\_\_\_\_.

Lions are a resilient species and have demonstrated they can **recover when provided** with \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

Learning about the **strength and resiliency** of lions made me feel \_\_\_\_\_.

Knowing that **lions need our help to continue to thrive** made me feel \_\_\_\_\_.

**After learning about lion behavior, their needs and reflecting on how that makes me feel, I want to take action to help them. I know small steps have the ability to make a big impact, and simple actions can be the most effective.**



## WHAT IS THE FIRST STEP?

Think about the action you will take to help lions.

What tools or resources might help you take action?

I plan to \_\_\_\_\_ which will help \_\_\_\_\_.

*Action you will take* *Result of your action*

**Just like Mufasa's journey to become The Lion King, I know the people in my pride or community are important.**

I plan to involve my friends, family and community in protecting lions by \_\_\_\_\_.

*How you will involve your community*

I hope by \_\_\_\_\_ we can help protect the pride.

*Action you will take*





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