

# Science in the Language Class

Japanese at Highland Wildlife Park

## How to use this book:

This book contains fact sheets on some of the animals you will find at Highland Wildlife Park.

Foreign animal names are usually written in katakana. Animal names native to Japan are written in hiragana. Apart from the snow monkey, the other species in this booklet are not found in Japan but a related species may be native to the country and in this case the 'general' animal name would normally be written in hiragana. This booklet is designed for learning to recognise katakana but the hiragana is noted where relevant.

Each page has the name of the animal in English and in Japanese but some parts of the words are missing. Try to complete the Japanese names.

Each page is laid out like this:

photo of animal



English & Romaji name

tiger

taigaa

Each sound has been placed over each kana to help you find the missing kana.

ta i ga makes the vowel sound longer

タイガ

Japanese name – written in katakana.

Write the missing kana in this box.

イ ー ラ ミ

Choose from the kana listed here.

animal facts

The Amur tiger (*Panthera tigris altaica*) is a subspecies that is now only found in a small area of eastern Russia and northeast China. The Amur river runs through their Russian habitat which is why their name changed from Siberian to Amur tiger.

The Amur tiger is the largest of all tiger subspecies. There are 6 remaining subspecies of tiger – Amur, Bengal, Malayan, Indochinese, Sumatran and South China. The South China tiger is believed to be extinct in the wild.

Habitat loss and hunting for the illegal trade in traditional medicines are the main threats to tigers.



tiger

taigaa

ta

i

ga

makes the vowel sound longer

タ

イ

ガ



イ

ー

ラ

ミ

The Amur tiger (*Panthera tigris altaica*) is a subspecies that is now only found in a small area of eastern Russia and northeast China. The Amur river runs through their Russian habitat which is why their name changed from Siberian to Amur tiger.

The Amur tiger is the largest of all tiger subspecies. There are 6 remaining subspecies of tiger – Amur, Bengal, Malayan, Indochinese, Sumatran and South China. The South China tiger is believed to be extinct in the wild.

Habitat loss and hunting for the illegal trade in traditional medicines are the main threats to tigers.



red panda

(literally translated as lesser panda) ressaapanda

re s sa pa n da

レ ツ サ ー  ン ダ

[double consonant sound]

ハ パ バ ペ

The red panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) is found in central and south China, Nepal, Bhutan, India and Myanmar. It lives in mixed bamboo forests.

Red pandas have been previously classed with the giant pandas and then thought to be in the raccoon family but it is now known to be in its own separate family.

Both the red panda and the giant panda have an overgrown wrist bone that acts as a sixth digit or thumb.

The main threat to the red panda is habitat loss.



camel

kyameru

kya

me

ru

キ

ヤ



ル

ヤ

ア

メ

リ

The Bactrian camel (*Camelus ferus*) is found in the Gobi desert of northwest China and Mongolia.

The humps contain fat, not water. They are used for nourishment when food and water is scarce and they can sustain the camel for up to four days.

Camels eat grass, leaves, grains and shrubs. They have very tough mouths which lets them eat thorny desert plants.

Wild camels have been hunted for their meat and skin. They have also been bred with domesticated camels which means only a small population of pure-bred wild camels remain.



owl

auru

a

u

ru

ア



ル

Please note another name for owl is fukurou and the snowy owl would be shirofukurou しろふくろう in hiragana.

ラ

レ

ア

ウ

The snowy owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) has beautiful white feathers with some dark markings. The male is nearly all white, while the females are marked with the dark bars.

Their wingspan can reach 1.5m.

The snowy owl hunts during the day rather than at night locating their prey using both sight and sound. They eat mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and insects.

The snowy owl was listed as 'Least Concern' but it has seen population decline in North America, Europe and Russia and in 2017 has been uplisted to 'Vulnerable'.



horse

uma

u

ma

ウ



Please note that this would normally be written in hiragana うま

ガ

マ

ゲ

レ

Przewalski's horse (*Equus ferus przewalskii*) is the only true living wild horse. They are found in China and Mongolia.

They have a stocky body with strong legs, short neck and a powerful jaw.

They live in steppe and semi-desert habitats.

They were extinct in the wild but with the few hundred horses in various zoos around the world, a successful and continuing re-introduction programme has seen the Przewalski's horse returned to its natural environment. They are classed as Endangered.



crane

tsuru

tsu ru



ル

Please note that this would normally be written in hiragana つる

テ

ツ

ン

シ

The Eurasian crane (*Grus grus*) is one of the most widely distributed of all crane species. They breed across Europe and Asia. They are a large and impressive water-bird with a long neck, beak and legs. They have a wingspan of 180-200cm.

They eat leaves, roots, berries, insects, small birds and mammals.

The Eurasian crane suffered from habitat loss but it is now legally protected in most of its range. With the protection of suitable wetland habitats, populations have started to return .





monkey

saru

sa ru

サ

Please note that this would normally be written in hiragana さる

レ

グ

フ

ル

Snow Monkeys or Japanese macaques (*Macaca fuscata*) are medium sized monkeys. They have long, thick fur, a short tail and bare skin on their faces.

The Japanese macaque is the most northerly living non-human primate. They are native to Japan and can be found on three of the four main islands - Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu and also on many of the smaller islands.

The macaques are adapted to a wide range of habitats – sub-tropical forest at the southern end of the distribution and sub-arctic forests at the northernmost.

# Katakana reference tables

a	i	u	e	o
ア	イ	ウ	エ	オ
ka	ki	ku	ke	ko
カ	キ	ク	ケ	コ
sa	si (shi)	su	se	so
サ	シ	ス	セ	ソ
ta	ti (chi)	tu (tsu)	te	to
タ	チ	ツ	テ	ト
na	ni	nu	ne	no
ナ	ニ	ヌ	ネ	ノ
ha / wa	hi	hu (fu)	he	ho
ハ	ヒ	フ	ヘ	ホ
ma	mi	mu	me	mo
マ	ミ	ム	メ	モ
ya		yu		yo
ヤ		ユ		ヨ
ra	ri	ru	re	ro
ラ	リ	ル	レ	ロ
wa		(wo) o		n
ワ		ヲ		ン

# Katakana reference tables

ga	gi	gu	ge	go
ガ	ギ	グ	ゲ	ゴ
za	zi (ji)	zu	ze	zo
ザ	ジ	ズ	ゼ	ゾ
da			de	do
ダ			デ	ド
ba	bi	bu	be	bo
バ	ビ	ブ	ベ	ボ
pa	pi	pu	pe	po
パ	ピ	プ	ペ	ポ

kya	kyu	kyo
キャ	キュ	キョ
sha	shu	sho
シャ	シュ	ショ
cha	chu	cho
チャ	チュ	チョ
nya	nyu	nyo
ニャ	ニユ	ニョ
hya	hyu	hyo
ヒャ	ヒユ	ヒョ
mya	myu	myo
ミャ	ミユ	ミョ
rya	ryu	ryo
リャ	リュ	リョ

gya	gyu	gyo
ギャ	ギユ	ギョ
ja	ju	jo
ジャ	ジュ	ジョ
bya	byu	byo
ビャ	ビユ	ビョ
pya	pyu	pyo
ピャ	ピユ	ピョ

Also note that ー is to indicate a long vowel and small っ is to indicate a double consonant.