

STRIPES IN THE FOREST

The Story of the Last Wild Thylacine

Thylacine Facts

- The thylacine is also known as the Tasmanian tiger or Tasmanian wolf. Other names include: marsupial wolf, zebra wolf, kangaroo wolf, marsupial tiger, tiger cat, hyena opossum and Tasmanian pouched wolf.
- Thylacines once inhabited mainland Australia, New Guinea and Tasmania but were eventually confined to Tasmania.
- Thylacines were yellow-brown or grey in colour. They had around fifteen to twenty dark stripes across their back, from their shoulders to their tail. Their head was shaped like a dog's, and they had a stiff tail and short legs.
- Both male and female thylacines had a back-opening pouch.
- Female thylacines usually gave birth to litters of four pups. Young were born hairless and blind.
- Thylacines were carnivorous. Their diet consisted mainly of kangaroos, marsupials, small rodents and birds.
- Thylacines hunted at night, although they were also active during the day.
- When startled, thylacines hopped on their two hind legs.
- The last known thylacine died in captivity on 7 September, 1936. Thylacines are believed to have become extinct due to competition from the dingo, hunting by humans and possibly disease.
- Fossilised thylacines have been found in Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Queensland. Some fossils date back thirty million years.
- National Threatened Species Day is held on 7 September and has been held annually since 1996 to commemorate the death of the last known thylacine. It is a time to reflect on what happened in the past and how we can protect our threatened species in the future.