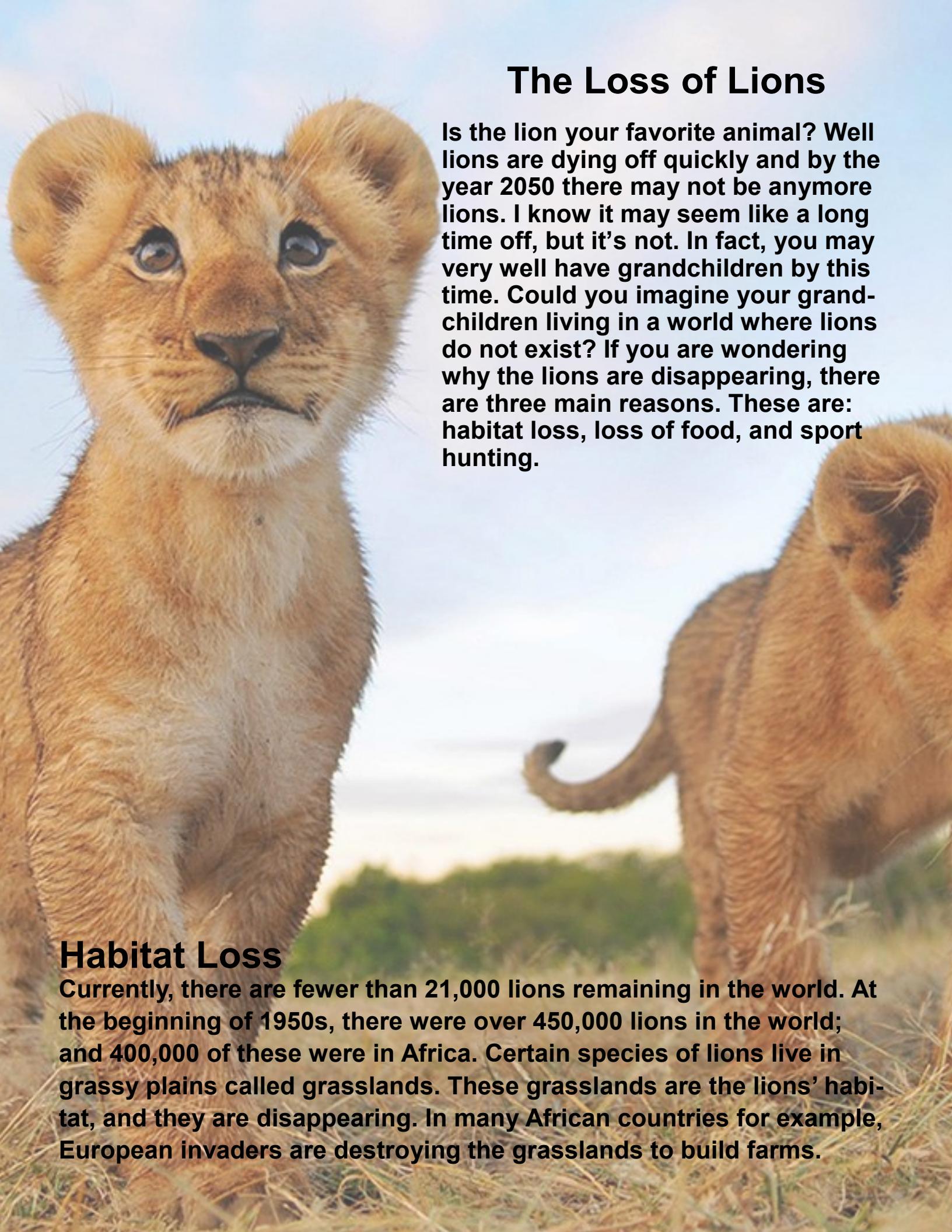


A photograph of a pride of lions in a savanna setting. In the foreground, a lioness with a dark mane is looking towards the right. Behind her, another lioness is partially visible. In the background, several more lions are scattered across the grassy plain under a warm, golden sky.

Are Lions Leaving the Earth?

By: Destinee Harris

The Loss of Lions



Is the lion your favorite animal? Well lions are dying off quickly and by the year 2050 there may not be anymore lions. I know it may seem like a long time off, but it's not. In fact, you may very well have grandchildren by this time. Could you imagine your grandchildren living in a world where lions do not exist? If you are wondering why the lions are disappearing, there are three main reasons. These are: habitat loss, loss of food, and sport hunting.

Habitat Loss

Currently, there are fewer than 21,000 lions remaining in the world. At the beginning of 1950s, there were over 450,000 lions in the world; and 400,000 of these were in Africa. Certain species of lions live in grassy plains called grasslands. These grasslands are the lions' habitat, and they are disappearing. In many African countries for example, European invaders are destroying the grasslands to build farms.

Loss of Food

Lions are carnivores. Carnivores are animals that eat meat exclusively. Their meals includes antelopes, buffaloes, zebras, young elephants, rhinos, Hippopotamus, wild hogs, crocodiles and giraffes. The habitat loss that is causing a decline in the lion population, is also causing a decline in the population of animals that lions eat. Because of this, lions have a limited food supply. A limited food supply might cause lions to seek other places to live, increase in predation, decrease in reproduction.



Sport Hunting

The third reason lions are disappearing is sport hunting. Sport hunting is when humans hunt animals for pleasure as opposed to humans that hunt for food. People that hunt for sport do it for the entertainment or for the purpose of gloating about their “conquest”. Many humans think that it is wrong for other humans to hunt for sport. Another reason why people shouldn’t go sport hunting is because it is very costly. For example last year a man spent \$350,000 just for a permit to hunt a rare black rhino last December. Also every year a hunter spends \$2,484 dollars on average just to go hunt innocent animals.



The main causes of lions dying would be: habitat loss, sport hunting, and loss of food. So as I only have a couple of questions to ask are you going to help be apart of the problem or solution? Some solutions by making your home wildlife friendly, protect wildlife habitat, and or maybe learn about endangered species in your area. And if you are going to be apart of the solution what are you going to do help?