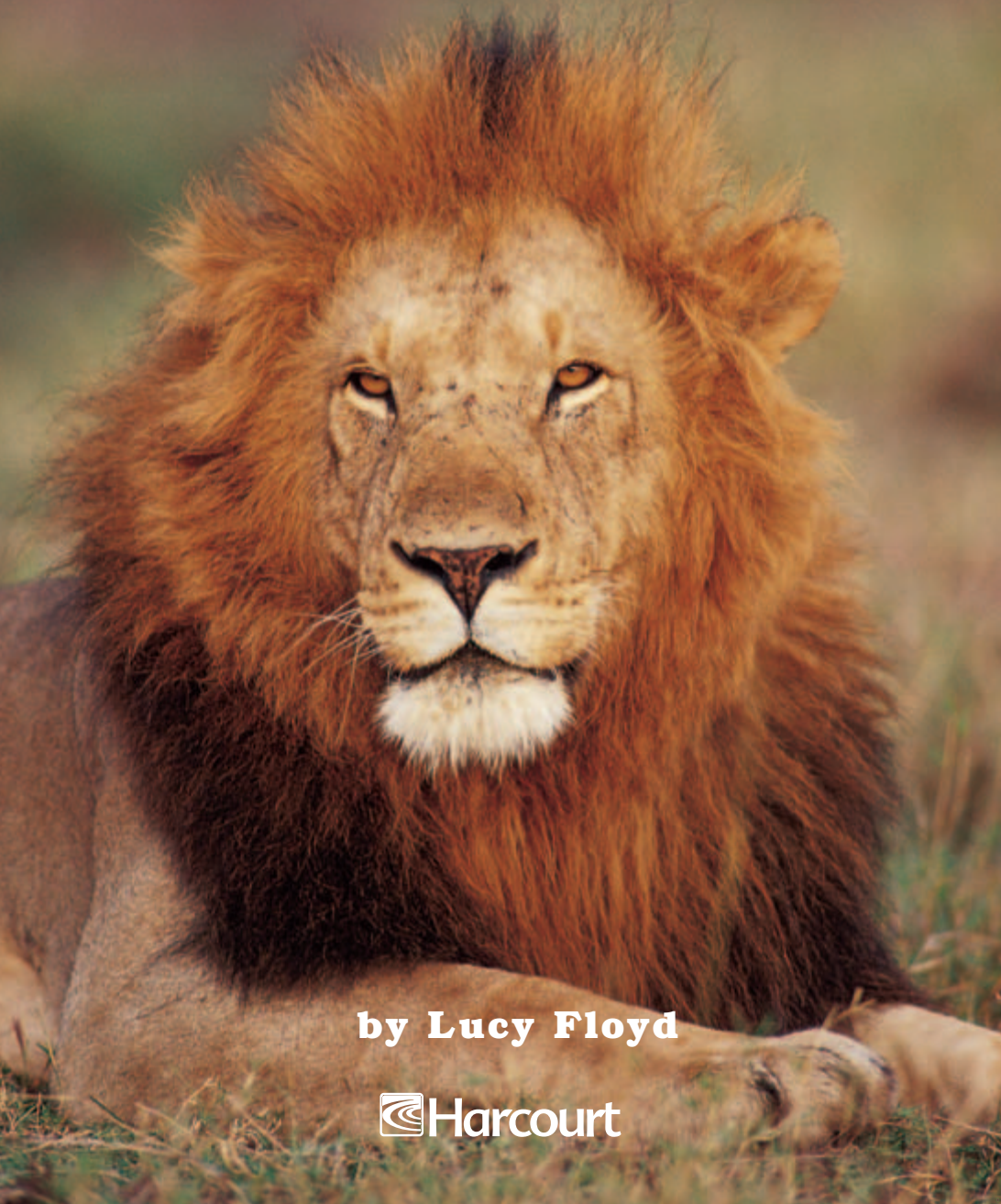


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LIONS



by **Lucy Floyd**

 **Harcourt**

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Printed in China

ISBN 0-15-323025-8

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- ||| Lions are very big cats.
- ||| People who write about lions call them the “king of beasts.”



▶ The female lion is called a *lioness*. The male has a mane around its cheeks and neck.



🔊 Lions are seen in places like this. They do not like to be near lots of trees. Lions need room to move around.



🔊 Lions also need to be where they can find meat to eat.



🔊 Lions hunt for meat. They seek out other animals. They eat anything they can catch.



🔊 Lions have sharp teeth. They need those sharp teeth to catch animals. They also need them to eat the meat.



🔊 Back from a hunt, lions greet each other. They rub their cheeks together. Lions seem to like each other!



🔊 Lions live together in groups called *prides*. Each pride has a place to live. Other lions are kept out.



Female lions are the real hunters in the pride. They see and hear well. Their speed helps them be good hunters.



🔊 Male lions have the job of keeping animals away. Other animals could take meat the pride needs.



▶ Young lions are called cubs. A cub cannot see at first. The lioness spends a great deal of time near her cubs.



🔊 This cub needed to be moved. It's too weak to walk so the lioness moves her cub.



🔊 Cubs seem to be very hungry. They feed only on milk when they are little. In about six weeks, they should be eating meat.








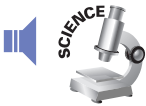
🔊 Cubs like to play. This teaches them skills they need. The lioness teaches them, too. They will soon know how to hunt.



🔊 The king and queen of
beasts are very big cats.
They also are very beautiful.

Think and Respond

-  **1** What is a female lion called?
-  **2** How do lions get food?
-  **3** What is a group of lions living together called?
-  **4** How do lions work together?
-  **5** What do you think is the most important job in the lion community? Explain.



Label a Lion Draw a picture of a lion. Label different body parts.



School-Home Connection Discuss where lions live in the wild. Use a map or globe to find Africa.

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