



ICONFILMS

World's Deadliest Towns

Across the planet wars are raging between animal and man. Dave Salmoni travels to the frontline of these conflicts, the most brutal killing zones on the planet. Can his unique understanding of deadly animal behaviour uncover the cause of these conflicts?

KILLER ELEPHANTS

100 WORD SYNOPSIS:

Zoologist and predator expert Dave Salmoni is no stranger to danger. But this is his first time on the front line of a war between humans and elephants. Joining forces with an armed elephant squad, Dave helps defend the villages of North East India from rampaging elephants in the dead of night. In the past 10 years hundreds of men, women and children in this region have been trampled to death by the planet's largest land mammal and the situation has just reached crisis point. It's one of the most hostile wildlife warzones on earth but what has happened to make these beasts become so dangerous?

250 CHARACTER SYNOPSIS:

Zoologist and predator expert Dave Salmoni is no stranger to danger. But this is his first time on the front line of a war between humans and elephants. Joining forces with an armed elephant squad, Dave helps defend the villages of North East India from rampaging elephants in the dead of night.

KILLER HIPPOS

100 Word Synopsis

Dave Salmoni understands what makes hippos so deadly, but on Zambia's Zambezi River he's entering a world of African witchcraft and sorcery that makes him rethink everything he thinks he knows about animal attacks. As a zoologist Dave struggles to explain Zambia's most vicious hippo attacks, until his scientific approach meets local beliefs. He enters a world of witches and witchdoctors, where evil sorcerers possess hippos and make them kill. Dave is skeptical, until he witnesses a hippo exorcism ceremony that leaves him amazed and confused. After this journey he will never look at animal attacks in the same light...

250 Character Synopsis

Dave Salmoni understands what makes hippos so deadly, but on Zambia's Lower Zambezi River he's entering a world of African witchcraft and sorcery that makes him rethink everything he thinks he knows about animal attacks...

KILLER TIGERS

100 Word Synopsis

Tigers are terrorising a community in rural India, turning already poor people into destitute victims.

Dave Salmoni is on a mission to find out why this area has become the frontline in the conflict between man and man-eater, and why fatal attacks are on the rise.

Putting himself at risk, Salmoni uncovers one recent case that reveals a shocking development in the tigers' deadly strategy. - helping explain why the crisis is worsening and what might be done to solve it.

250 Character Synopsis

Increasing tiger attacks are putting a rural Indian community at the frontline of conflict between man and man-eater.

Putting himself at risk, Dave Salmoni sets out on a mission to find out why - uncovering one recent case that reveals a shocking development in the tigers' deadly strategy.

TOP FACTS

Elephants

- 1) The average Indian bull elephant weighs over 8000lbs
- 2) Last year 200 people in India were killed by elephants.
- 3) The trunk of an elephant can hold over two gallons of water.
- 4) Elephants are the largest land animals in the world.
- 5) Elephant skin is over an inch thick and largely bullet proof.
- 6) Elephants can easily out run humans over short distances at 30mph.
- 7) Each year male Elephants experience Musth a hormonal condition which sends them temporarily insane.
- 8) Elephants' trunks are sensitive enough to pick up a needles, but powerful enough to tear down a tree.

Hippos

- 1) In Africa hippos are thought to be the number one man killer, responsible for more human deaths than any other large animals. This figure is estimated at 200 people per year, although this is only a best-guess as no comprehensive study has yet been done.

- 2) Hippo society is fiercely hierarchical. Herds of hippos consist of a dominant male, younger subordinate males, and females with their young. The dominant male hippo controls a territory, securing mating rights to all the females there. The dominant bull will only tolerate other males within the pod if they behave submissively. If other males challenge the dominant male, a bloody battle ensues, to prove dominance. Adult males can be killed in these fights.
- 3) In some male hippos the canines can be 18” long. When a hippo wants to show its dominance, it opens up its mouth, showing off its impressive teeth as a warning.
- 4) Hippos are grazers, and come out of the river at night to graze. They can walk up to 6 miles in search of food, and can consume up to 100 lbs of grass in one night.
- 5) Their eyes and nostrils are placed on top of their head, so that it can see and breath, without having to lift its head too far out of the water.
- 6) As aquatic animals, they move gracefully under water, where their specific gravity allows them to sink and literally run along the bottom of the river, holding their breath for up to 5 minutes at a time.
- 7) Hippopotamus literally means ‘river horse’ in Greek.
- 8) Currently, there are thought to be between 125,000 to 148,000 common hippos remaining in Sub-Saharan Africa. Zambia has the largest population, at an estimated 40,000.
- 9) Common hippos are the 3rd largest land animal, in terms of weight, after the elephant and the white rhino. Common hippos weigh between 1.5 to 3 tonnes.
- 10) Despite their stocky shape and short legs, hippos can easily outrun a human, and have been clocked at 30mph on land.

Tigers

1. Tigers are the largest of all the Asian big cats, at the top of the food chain, and one of the most vulnerable and threatened species on the planet.
2. Three tiger subspecies - the Bali, Javan, and Caspian - have all become extinct in the last 70 years.

3. This magnificent animal is a heavily muscled and powerful predator that employs stalk and ambush tactics to bring down large prey, using the characteristic stripy coat as camouflage.
4. Tigers are also man-eaters. It is estimated that tigers have killed 9,550 humans in the last 126 years.
5. The Sundarbans is thought to have the highest level of man-eating anywhere in the tigers current range.
6. Some reliable estimates suggest tigers now cause one human fatality in the Sundarbans every week.
7. Wild tiger numbers have fallen by about 95% over the past 100 years.
8. Tigers survive in 40% less area than they occupied a decade ago.
9. Between 3000 - 5000 tigers are estimated to remain in the wild.
10. Less than 7% of original tiger habitat remains.
11. Unlike other big cats, tigers are good swimmers. This has allowed the Bengal tiger to inhabit the Sundarbans in India and Bangladesh - the largest mangrove swamp in the world.
12. The Bengal tiger is endangered. It is the most numerous tiger subspecies surviving in the wild today, predominantly in India and Bangladesh.
13. Reaching up to 3.3 metres (11 ft) in total length, weighing up to 300 kgs (660 pounds), and having canines up to 4 inches long, the larger tiger subspecies are comparable in size to the biggest extinct felids
14. The pattern of stripes is unique to each animal, and can be used to identify individuals, much in the same way that [fingerprints](#) are used to identify people.
15. Tigers can reach speeds of about 49-65 [kilometres per hour](#) (35-40 [miles per hour](#)).
16. Tigers have great leaping ability; horizontal leaps of up to 10 metres have been reported, although leaps of around half this amount are more typical.