

ANIMAL FACT FILE

The Jungle Book features animals native to India, where author Rudyard Kipling set his story. In the magical world of his book, these animals can talk, but what do you know about the real-life creatures they're based on? Take a look at some of the fascinating facts behind the characters.



THE INDIAN WOLF

(Akela)

- Smaller and more docile than its cousins in Europe and America, the Indian wolf might be the great ancestor of our modern day domestic pet dogs.
- Often found in pairs or small family groupings.
- In real life, they bark like dogs but hardly ever howl.



THE BLACK PANTHER

(Bagheera)

- Known as Black Jaguar in Latin America, as Black Leopard in Asia and Africa, and as Black Cougar in North America.
- A solitary and mainly nocturnal creature.
- Great climbers and can even drag a carcass up a tree to eat in privacy.



THE SLOTH BEAR

(Baloo)

- Eats insects using its long tongue and agile lips to suck up termites, ants and grubs.
- Very noisy. It makes all kinds of grunts, barks, yelps and roars, and Mums will even sing to their cubs.
- Humans have not been kind to them, capturing them for pets and taming them as performing bears.



THE ROYAL BENGAL TIGER

(Shere Khan)

- The Royal Bengal tiger is the national animal of India and was common across the whole country when Kipling wrote *The Jungle Book* more than 100 years ago.
- There are now fewer than 2,500 Bengal tigers left in the wild.
- They can grow up to nine feet from head to tail, and their roars can be heard two miles away.



THE EAGLE

(Chil)

- There are several types of eagle found in India, including the Spotted Eagle, the Golden Eagle and the Hawk Eagle.
- Eagles are birds of prey that feast on snakes, fish, and other small birds and animals, depending on where they live. They have even been known to pick up large deer and other big animals.
- They have fabulous eyesight and sharp talons, which they use for hunting their prey.
- In the original book, Chil is a Kite but has been changed to an Eagle for this production.



THE INDIAN JACKAL

(Tabaqui)

- It mainly eats by scavenging rubbish and food remains.
- They usually live in packs, but some lone animals have been known to form alliances with tigers, following them around and working together to find and kill prey.
- Like the fox in Europe, the Indian jackal is seen as sly, mischievous and sneaky.