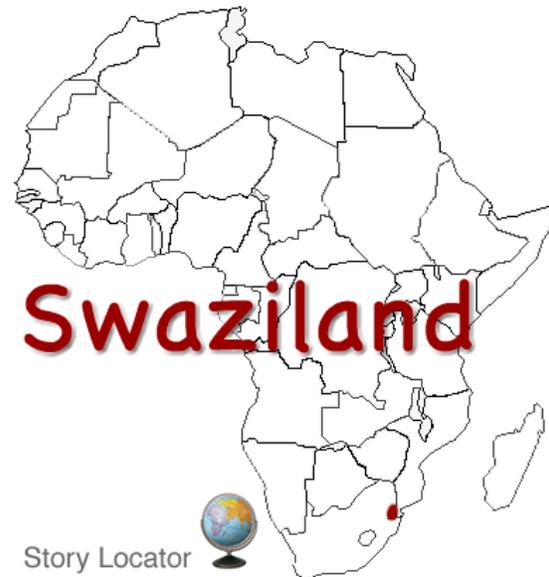
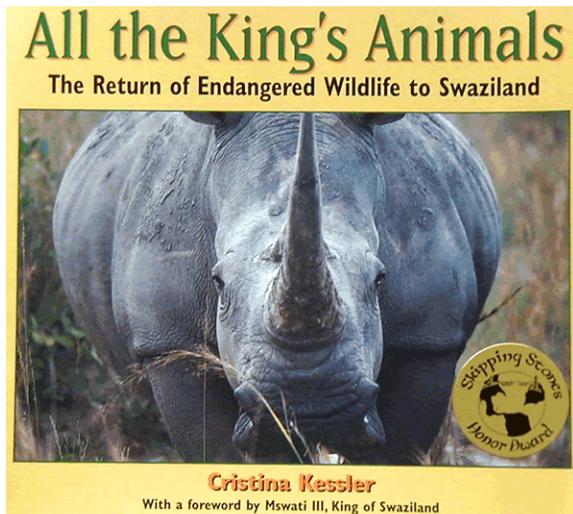




**Cristina Kessler**  
*Learning with the Books*  
All the King's Animals



## Parent-Teacher Guide

### ALL THE KING'S ANIMALS

#### The return of endangered wildlife to Swaziland

<https://www.cristinakessler.com/product/all-the-kings-animals-the-return-of-endangered-wildlife-to-swaziland/>

This was my first nonfiction book. We lived in the neighboring country of Mozambique during the last 1 ½ years of their civil war in the early 90's. Travel was rigidly controlled in Mozambique as roads had landmines and possible danger around every corner. For a break from the pressure of life in a war zone I used to visit Swaziland, now renamed to its traditional name of Eswatini, as often as possible.

It was on my third visit that I had the pleasure of meeting Ted Reilly, the founder of animal conservation in his homeland. Little did he know that King Mswati III would one day name him *Liso Lenkhosi Etinyamataneni* – “The Eye of the King on Wild Animals”.



Inspired by Ted's lifelong dedication to restoring wildlife by creating safe havens for them I decided to write this book, to celebrate a wildlife success story. I hope your students are also inspired by Ted, who faced many challenges in his quest to return endangered wildlife to Eswatini, especially The Big Five. Today there are 1 national park, 3 game reserves, 1 wildlife sanctuary, and 4 nature reserves.

In 1994 I met King Mswati III two times. Our first meeting was in Mkhaya Nature Reserve, as Ted and his crew celebrated the return of lions. The second time was at the Library of Congress, where my publishers, Boyds Mills Press, sponsored a press conference for me to present the book to the king, who was in the states to visit the United Nations, and then top American officials in Washington DC afterwards. Both encounters were exciting.

### **1. The BIG FIVE are:**

1. Lion
2. Leopard
3. Rhino
4. Elephant and
5. Cape Buffalo

### **2. Elephant Facts:**

1. Elephants are also called ellies.
2. They are the biggest land mammal.
3. They have large tusks, which are actually long incisor teeth. These tusks are the source of the rampant poaching that goes on.
4. A female produces a 260-pound (99.7 kgs) baby after 22 months.
5. Male African elephants weigh 13,200 pounds (5987 kgs) and females average 6,600 pounds (2993 kgs).



6. They are herbivores and eat 300 pounds (136 kgs) and 600 pounds (272 kgs) of greens a day.
7. The trunk is packed with 40,000 muscles. It is a giant straw for the 24 gallons (90 liters) per day that an ellie drinks.
8. Elephants can run up to 24 mph (38 kph) per hour.
9. They are famous for having great memories.
10. Matriarchal herds eat, bathe, play, wallow, and rub together.

### **3. Rhino Facts:**

1. Africa has black rhinos and white rhinos.
2. White rhinos are the largest and are also called the square-lipped rhino with a heavy head. They are grazers.
3. Black rhinos are smaller, faster, and more aggressive than whites. They are browsers due to their upright head.
4. Lifespan is 40-50 years.
5. White rhinos can run up to 31 miles (49 kph) per hour, and black rhinos can run up to 34 mph (54 kph).
6. White males weigh up to 5,000 pounds (2267 kgs). Females weigh up to 3,700 pounds (1678 kgs)
7. They have two horns, with the long horn in front.
8. Males grow up to 5 feet (1.5 meters) tall at the shoulder, females grow to 4 1/2 feet (1.3 meters).
9. They gestate for 16 months and give birth every 2-3 years.
10. Rhinos biggest threat are humans.

### **4. Hippo Facts:**

1. Hippos live on both land and in water. Hippopotamus is Greek for river horse.
2. They grow 10.8 to 16.5 feet long (3.3 to 5 meters).



3. Females weigh around 3,000 pounds (1,400 kilos) and males weigh between 3,500 to 9,920 pounds. (1,600 to 4,500 kilos).
4. They live in Sub-Saharan Africa and spend up to 16 hours a day in water.
5. Hippos can't swim so they walk along the bottom of the lake or river they are in.
6. They can stay under for up to 5 minutes, so you never know where a hippo will come up. This is extremely dangerous because they are extremely aggressive and kill more people than any other mammal in Africa.
7. Their ears and nostrils close when they submerge.
8. Hippos live in herds (or pods, bloats, schools) of 10 to 30, both males and females with a dominant male. It is estimated that there are up to 148,000 hippos in the wild.
9. They are mainly herbivores, eating up to 80 pounds a day (35 kilos). They feed at night traveling up to 6 miles (10 kms) to eat fruit and grass.
10. The gestation period is 8 months and the one baby weighs between 50 and 110 pounds (23 to 50 kilos).

## **5. Lion Facts:**

1. Live 10-14 years in the wild.
2. A lion's roar can be heard up to 5 miles away. (8 kms).
3. They can run up to 50 mph (81 kms) but only in short bursts.
4. Lions rest 20 hours a day.
5. Only cats that live in a group called a pride.
6. Called "king of the jungle" but don't live in the jungle. They live in Africa's grasslands and plains.
7. Females do most of the hunting while males provide protection.
8. Females raise the cubs together. They are pregnant for 4 months and have a litter of 2-3 cubs.
9. Lions are the second largest cat, after the tiger.



10. Lion numbers are down to 20,000, thanks to human conflict causing loss of territory and game hunters.

## **6. Giraffe Facts:**

1. Open plains and savannahs. Biggest threats are loss of habitat and hunters looking for meat. Hides and tails.
2. Prehensile black tongue 18 inches (45cms). Legs are 6 feet long and they can run up to 35 miles per hour in bursts, or cruise at 10 mph over long distances.
3. Eat 75 pounds (34 kilos) of food a day, and sleep for 5 – 30 minutes every day. Live up to 25 years in the wild.
4. Tallest on earth, 14 feet (4 meters) to 19 feet (5.7 meters) tall and weigh up to 3000 pounds (1360 kgs).
5. Only needs water every few days which is good because drinking is a dangerous position for a giraffe.
6. Give birth standing up, creating a 6-foot drop and then the baby stands within an hour.
7. They have two horns covered with hair, useful for protection. When two males fight it's called necking.
8. When walking they use both legs on the right side, then the left side.
9. About 110,000 left, meaning they are considered vulnerable to extinction.
10. Four different giraffe species.

## **7. Possible questions for teachers to ask:**

### About Ted Reilly:

1. Where did Ted grow up?
2. What made him so worried about the wildlife?
3. How many game reserves and protected areas has he created?
4. Where has he received animals from?



About the animals:

1. How many mammals are in this book?
2. What are they?
3. How many birds?
4. What are they?
5. How many reptiles?
6. What are they?

About poaching:

1. What do poachers want from elephants?
2. From rhinos?
3. What makes the anti-poaching teams special? Do they work mainly in the day or night or both?
4. What makes their jobs harder?

**8 Questions for kids:**

1. Would you like to be a ranger?
2. What would you do to try and help wildlife?
3. Do you think your kids will be able to see these animals 20 years from now?
4. Have you seen any of these animals in the wild?
5. What did Eswatini used to be called?

