Smilodon: a quick start

Name _____ Date _____

Read this first

A cat, but not a tiger

Smilodon was a saber-toothed cat. It lived in the Americas. It was not a dinosaur or a tiger.

Built to hunt

Smilodon had strong front legs and long canine teeth. It could hold large prey still before biting. Its teeth could break if twisted against bone.

A. Find two facts

Write short answers from the cards.

1. Where did Smilodon live? _____

2. What helped it hold prey still? _____

B. Explain your thinking

Use the hunting card. Write one sentence.

1. Why would holding prey still help protect the teeth?

_____

_____

Answer keys — for the grown-up

Tear these pages off before the children start.

Smilodon: a quick start

A. Find two facts: 1. The Americas · 2. Strong front legs

B. Explain your thinking: 1. The teeth were less likely to twist against bone and break.

Learning objective: Find facts in a short text and explain how a body feature helped Smilodon hunt.

Source: KidzFeed.com — "Saber Tooth Tiger Facts for Kids: Meet Smilodon". https://kidzfeed.com/saber-tooth-tiger-facts-for-kids/

Facts adapted for classroom use. Updated 2026-09-28. Free to print and copy for classroom and home use.