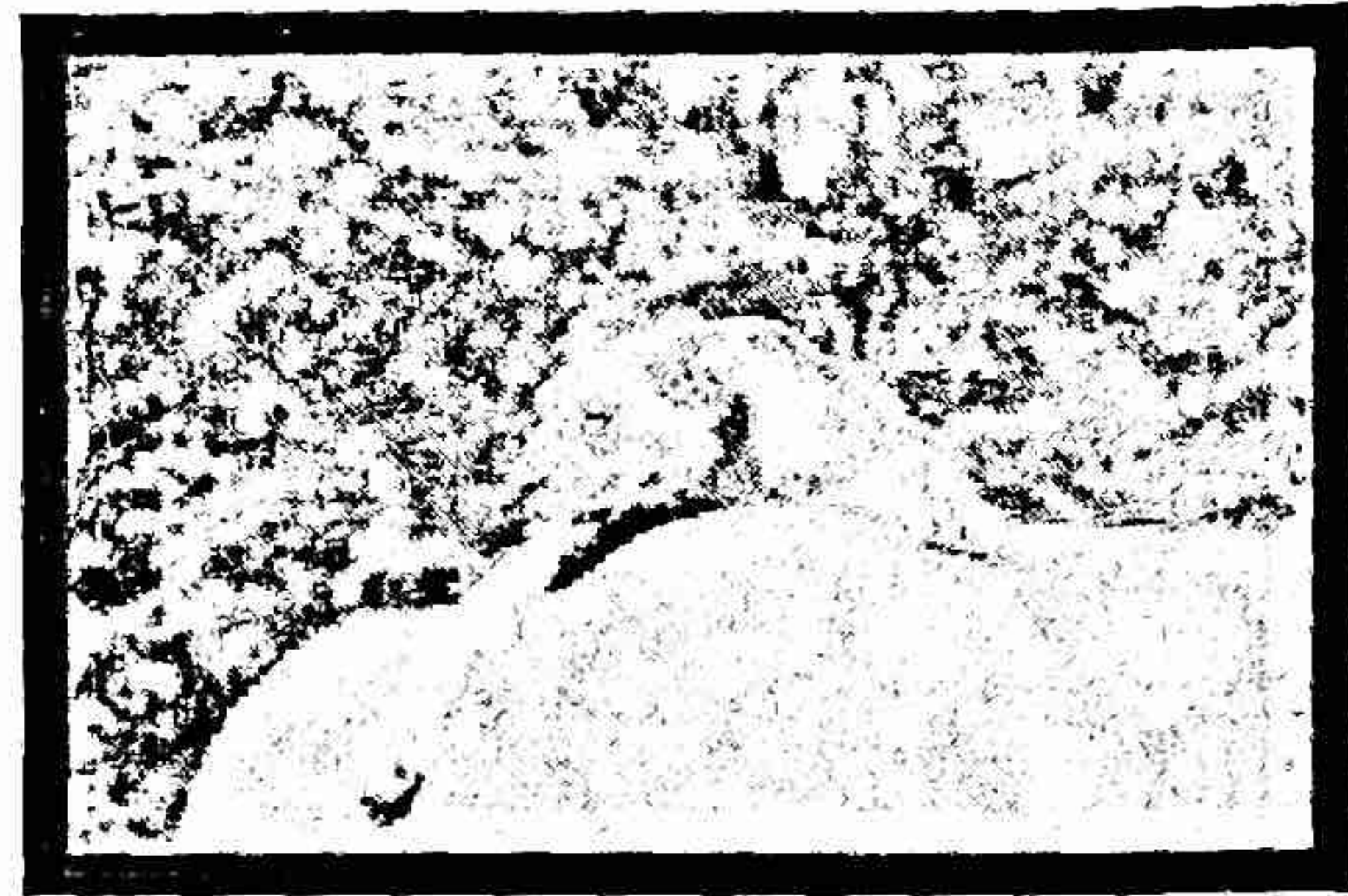


Name _____ 0

Lions

Alone after dusk in the grasslands of Africa, is not a place that a zebra or wildebeest wants to be. Lions do the majority of their hunting from dusk until dawn and they prey on large animals, like zebras.



Lions are carnivores which means they only eat meat. Contrary to popular belief, the female lions do significantly more hunting than males. More than 85% of the hunting is completely done by the lionesses of the pride. They work as a team to surround and kill their prey. Hunting is a huge responsibility because lions eat a lot of food! A female requires approximately eleven pounds of food a day, while males will eat up to fifteen pounds! While the lionesses are out finding food, the males remain back with the pride to protect the others.

Interestingly, for however ferocious and scary lions may seem, they are very social animals. They live in groups called prides. Prides can vary greatly in size, ranging from a group as small as three lions to as many as forty! The pride works together in all aspects of life, from hunting and gathering food to raising and protecting the young. For the most part, the females in the pride are related to one another... mothers, sisters, daughters, and there are generally only one or two males in the group. One lioness will typically give birth to two or three cubs at a time. Remarkably, several lionesses in the pride seem to give birth at the same time so that the cubs can be raised together.

Due to the fact that lions live in groups and are social animals, they need to have a way of communicating with each other. Loud and powerful roars are the way by which they do it! Both females and males have incredibly tough sounding roars that can be heard up to five miles away!