

## Hero mother saves son from mountain lion attack

1st September, 2021



A woman in California has been hailed a hero after fighting off a mountain lion that was carrying away her five-year-old son. Her maternal instincts kicked in as she dragged her little boy from the jaws

of the big cat. She fought off the wild animal with her bare fists in the garden of her house on Thursday morning. Her son had been playing in the garden when the lion pounced. The boy suffered bites and lacerations to his head and torso, but is now in a stable condition in a local hospital. He is expected to make a full recovery. Patrick Foy, a spokesperson from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, said: "The true hero of this story is his mom because she absolutely saved her son's life."

Officials reported that the mountain lion was a juvenile and was less than a year old. They said the attack probably happened because the creature was young and was practising its hunting skills. They shot a lion near the boy's home that was acting in an "aggressive" nature. The officials later stated: "Wildlife forensics scientists analyzed samples from underneath the claws of the suspect lion carcass and isolated traces of human tissue and blood with a DNA profile that matched the young victim." They added: "Results were conclusive that it was the attacking lion that was shot by the wildlife officer on scene." Another mountain lion was found at the scene. It was shot with a non-lethal tranquilizer and released.

Sources: [usatoday.com](http://usatoday.com) / [foxnews.com](http://foxnews.com) / [yahoo.com](http://yahoo.com)

### Writing

Everyone is brave enough to fight a dangerous animal. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

California / hero / lion / maternal / instincts / wild animal / bites / stable / torso / life / juvenile / creature / hunting / aggressive / forensics / DNA / results / tranquilizer

### True / False

- 1) A mountain lion attacked a 5-year-old boy in Kenya. T / F
- 2) The boy's mother beat the lion off with her fists. T / F
- 3) The boy is doing well in a hospital. T / F
- 4) The boy is expected to be back to normal. T / F
- 5) The lion was 10 years old. T / F
- 6) The article says the lion was an expert hunter. T / F
- 7) DNA was used to confirm which lion attacked the boy. T / F
- 8) A different lion was tranquilized and set free. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1. <b>hailed</b>        | a. totally    |
| 2. <b>maternal</b>      | b. cuts       |
| 3. <b>bare</b>          | c. undeniable |
| 4. <b>lacerations</b>   | d. motherly   |
| 5. <b>absolutely</b>    | e. location   |
| 6. <b>creature</b>      | f. praised    |
| 7. <b>traces</b>        | g. sedative   |
| 8. <b>conclusive</b>    | h. signs      |
| 9. <b>scene</b>         | i. uncovered  |
| 10. <b>tranquilizer</b> | j. animal     |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) Have you ever been a hero?
- b) Who are your heroes?
- c) Would you fight a mountain lion?
- d) What do you think of the mother's actions?
- e) Are there any wild animals living near your town?
- f) Should the woman be given a medal?
- g) What do you know about mountain lions?
- h) What advice do you have for the little boy?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. A woman in California has been hailed  | a. to his head and torso |
| 2. Her maternal                           | b. the young victim      |
| 3. She fought off the wild animal         | c. juvenile              |
| 4. The boy suffered bites and lacerations | d. with her bare fists   |
| 5. He is expected to make                 | e. skills                |
| 6. the mountain lion was a                | f. a hero                |
| 7. practising its hunting                 | g. scientists            |
| 8. forensics                              | h. lethal tranquilizer   |
| 9. blood with a DNA profile that matched  | i. instincts kicked in   |
| 10. It was shot with a non-               | j. a full recovery       |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What would you do if you saw a lion in your garden?
- Should the officials have killed the lion?
- What does a forensics scientist do?
- Would you like to work with wildlife?
- What is the world's most dangerous animal?
- Has anyone ever come to your rescue?
- What questions would you like to ask the mother?

## Spelling

- Her maternal ctnnitiss kicked in
- when the lion pcendou
- The boy suffered bites and lnsrctoiaea
- to his head and oorts
- in a satebl condition
- she soellutyba saved her son's life
- the mountain lion was a enjeuilv
- the eautrerc was young
- acting in an svgaergeis nature
- sfrnsieco scientists
- lion ascacrs
- a non-lethal qituinzlraer

### Answers – Synonym Match

|      |      |      |      |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. f | 2. d | 3. i | 4. b | 5. a  |
| 6. j | 7. h | 8. c | 9. e | 10. g |

## Role Play

### Role A – Lions

You think lions are the most dangerous animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their animals aren't as dangerous. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): sharks, crocodiles or snakes.

### Role B – Sharks

You think sharks are the most dangerous animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their animals aren't as dangerous. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): lions, crocodiles or snakes.

### Role C – Crocodiles

You think crocodiles are the most dangerous animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their animals aren't as dangerous. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): sharks, lions or snakes.

### Role D – Snakes

You think snakes are the most dangerous animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their animals aren't as dangerous. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): sharks, crocodiles or lions.

## Speaking – Animals

Rank these with your partner. Put the most dangerous animals at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| • Lion    | • Elephant  |
| • Buffalo | • Blowfish  |
| • Snake   | • Crocodile |
| • Shark   | • Mosquito  |

### Answers – True False

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 F | 2 T | 3 T | 4 T | 5 F | 6 F | 7 T | 8 T |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.