

Why are Tigers Orange?

Pete Nesbitt
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pete @ linux1.ca

A little while ago I saw a Television documentary that explained that one of a tiger's primary prey is deer because the deer can not see orange, their eyes cannot see hues of red including orange (long wavelengths).

They then went on to say that the tiger had evolved to a colour that a deer cannot easily see.

That got me thinking about evolution, and how little sense it makes to claim that tigers evolved that way. As I understand evolution, an entities body will adapt over time to better accommodate changes in the environment or other factors. If that is the case then the tiger probably had to try being many different colours before settling on orange with black stripes. That's ridiculous, tigers have no way to know what colours a deer can see. There are two much more likely scenarios to consider.

The most interesting and entertaining case would be to accept that the tiger did in fact evolve to be camouflaged from the deer. For that to be the case then evolution does not happen within the species but the species is modified based on external information and third party perspectives. Now that touches on religious aspects which I won't discuss, but those bits aside, it would take another entity that could shape and change things on the fly, at least in evolutionary time, based on a larger plan potentially impacting several species at a time. That brings about an interesting question.

Have you ever considered *Mother Nature* to be a real thing and not just a figure of speech to describe natural events that we cannot control? Seems crazy, but other entities exist. Wind for example has no physical presence, is not a life form, and cannot be contained, yet it carves away and changes the face of the earth continually. We think we know why because we can predict the winds based on weather models, but that is a tiny snapshot in time. When trade winds shift a bit we find an explanation which is correct in the small perspective, but what if the trigger is more of a result than a cause. What if Mother Nature is calling the shots, carefully choreographed over expanses of time, maybe even consciously directing them. Chess against the humans if you will :]

In the most basic situation, did a high pressure front move and a low filled in, or did the low push the high out of the way, whose idea was it anyway? Like the tiger and the deer, the atmospheric conditions just "evolve" into place. Was Mother Nature shifting things around?

Maybe it's a 10,000 year remodelling plan, just trying a few things first ...or maybe she's raining out an important ball game for a team who destroyed a forest to built a stadium.

Okay, that was fun and maybe something to consider over a beer but I think it's most likely tigers ended up hunting deer because they were successful a larger percentage of time compared to their other prey. Tigers have no idea what colours the deer can or cannot see, and I doubt single-species evolution plays guessing games. Pretty simple really, tigers can catch deer so they do. They don't know why, and don't care why. The deer know that something that looks a lot like a grey bush keeps eating them. Like the tigers, the deer don't know why, and neither can do anything about it.

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