



Chinese regard tigers as a symbol of power and strength. In Japan, it is the emblem of the samurai warrior depicting the virtue of courage. The Malaysian police force feature the tiger on its royal shield. This animal is portrayed on many national flags, emblems, mascots and as icons.

As the largest member of the cat family, the *panthera tigris* is a solitary creature that occupies exclusive territory. Their night vision is six times better than that of man's, which accounts for their prowess in stalking and killing.

The tiger, or harimau as it is called in Indonesia, is at the top of the endangered species list. There are less than 400 Sumatran tigers left in the world today--that is in captivity and the wild. The Sumatran tiger measures between eight and ten feet in length, it weighs around 264 pounds, and this predator can pull down an animal four times its size.

The Minangkabau tribes in West Sumatra adopted a fighting style that utilized the tiger's biomechanics and called it *harimau selik*, known today as harimau pencak silat.

Through my journey in harimau silat, studying the tiger has been the essential part in making my silat effective in combat. You look at how the tiger attacks and pulls down its prey but you also have to look deeper than that. If you look at how the tiger adapts to its environment you can see why it is so efficient in what it does.



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