

Bittu

THE ADVENTUROUS TIGER

Tigers are the largest cats in the world – the average adult male weighs about 225kg (about the same weight as seven ten year olds, or 1,229 bananas!).

Football loving Bittu still has some growing to do, but that doesn't stop him from battling the bulldozers to save his Himalayan forest home.

Tigers are under threat in the wild – their numbers have dropped by over 95% since the early 1900s. A hundred years ago there were about 100,000 tigers in the wild. Today there are only about 3,500 wild tigers in the world.



MATERIALS

[A] 20g Orange DK
[B] 8g Black DK
[C] 10g White DK
Stuffing
A pair of 8mm black beads
Black cotton thread
A small amount of black felt
Fabric glue

TOOLS

3.5mm straight needles
A chenille needle
An all-purpose sewing needle
Scissors
A stitch holder or a spare needle

TENSION

24 sts x 36 rows for 10 x 10cm tension square
(not essential)

FINISHED SIZE

21cm

PRACTICAL TIPS

Leave a long end at the beginning and end of each piece for sewing.

Sew seams with RS facing, using mattress stitch.

Do not cut yarn A and B while working stripes. Loosely carry unused yarn up the side of the piece.

If you do not wish to use beads for safety reasons, make French knots with black yarn.

HOW TO MAKE BITTU

RIGHT LEG

With yarn C, cast on 12 sts.
Row 1 (WS): Purl.
Row 2: [Kfb] to end. 24 sts
Rows 3-7: Starting with a p row, work 5 rows in st st.
Row 8: K6, [k2tog] 4 times, k10. 20 sts
Row 9: Purl.
Row 10: K6, [k2tog] twice, k10. 18 sts
Row 11: P9, [p2tog] twice, p5. 16 sts
Cut yarn C. Join yarn B.
Rows 12-13: Starting with a k row, work 2 rows in st st.
Join yarn A, keeping yarn B attached to work.
Rows 14-15: With yarn A and starting with a k row, work 2 rows in st st.

Change to yarn B.
Rows 16-17: With yarn B and starting with a k row, work 2 rows in st st.
Change to yarn A.
Rows 18-21: Rep rows 14-17.
Break both yarns, keeping sts on a holder.

LEFT LEG

Work as for Right leg to row 7. 24 sts
Row 8: K10, [k2tog] 4 times, k6. 20 sts
Row 9: Purl.
Row 10: K10, [k2tog] twice, k6. 18 sts
Row 11: P5, [p2tog] twice, p9. 16 sts
Work as for Right leg to row 21. Break yarn B, but do not break yarn A.





Every tiger has a different stripe pattern - it's unique, just like a human finger print.



BODY AND HEAD

Row 22 (RS): K16 sts of Left leg and from holder, k16 sts of Right leg, connecting both legs. 32 sts
 Row 23: Purl.
 Row 24: K12 in A, join yarn C and k8 in C, join another end of yarn A and k12 in A.
 Cross yarn at the colour change to avoid any holes.
 Row 25: Keeping colours correct, [p7, pfb] twice, [pfb, p7] twice. 36 sts
 Row 26: K12A, k12C, k12A.
 Join yarn B.
 Row 27: P8B, p3A, p14C, p3A, p8B.
 Row 28: Keeping colours correct, k to end.
 Row 29: P11A, p14C, p11A.
 Row 30: Keeping colours correct, k to end.
 Row 31: Work as row 27.
 Row 32: K8B, k4A, k12C, k4A, k8B.
 Row 33: P7A, p2togA, p3A, p4C, [p2tog] twice, p4C, p3A, p2togA, p7A. 32 sts

Row 34: K12A, k8C, k12A.
 Break yarn C.
 Row 35: P8B, p16A, p8B.
 Row 36: Keeping colours correct, k to end.
 Break yarn B. Work with yarn A only.
 Row 37: Purl.
 Row 38: [K6, 2tog] to end. 28 sts
 Row 39: Purl.
 Row 40: [K2, k2tog] to end. 21 sts
 Row 41: Purl.
 Row 42: [K1, k2tog] to end. 14 sts
 Break yarn A. Join yarn C.
 Row 43: Purl.
 Row 44: [Kfb] to end. 28 sts
 Rows 45-46: Rep rows 43-44.
 Row 46: (kfb) to end. 56 sts
 Row 47: Purl.
 Row 48: [K1, kfb] to end. 84 sts
 Rows 49-55: Starting with a p row, work 7 rows in st st.
 Break yarn C. Join yarn A.
 Rows 56-57: Starting with a k row, work 2 rows in st st.
 Join yarn B.

Row 58: K28 in B, k28 in A, k28 in B.
 Row 59: Keeping colours correct, p to end.
 Rows 60-63: With yarn A only, starting with a k row, work 4 rows in st st.
 Rows 64-65: Rep rows 58-59.
 Row 65: keeping colours correct, p to end.
 Break yarn B. Work with yarn A only.
 Rows 66-67: starting with a k row, work 2 rows in st st.
 Row 68: [K10, k2tog] to end. 77 sts
 Row 69 and every WS row until row 81: Purl.
 Row 70: [K9, k2tog] to end. 70 sts
 Row 72: [K5, k2tog] to end. 60 sts
 Row 74: [K4, k2tog] to end. 50 sts
 Row 76: [K3, k2tog] to end. 40 sts
 Row 78: [K2, k2tog] to end. 30 sts
 Row 80: [K1, k2tog] to end. 20 sts.
 Row 81: [P2tog] to end. 10 sts
 Break yarn, thread through sts, pull tightly and fasten off.

EARS: MAKE TWO

With yarn A, cast on 12 sts.
 Row 1 (WS): Purl.
 Row 2: [Kfb] to end. 24 sts
 Row 3: Purl.
 Row 4: K9 in A, join yarn C and k6 in C, join another end of yarn A and k9 in A.
 Row 5: Keeping colours correct, p to end.
 Row 6: [K2A, k2togA] twice, k1A, k2C, k2togC, k2C, k1A, [k2togA, k2A] twice. 19 sts
 Row 7: Keeping colours correct, p to end.
 Row 8: K2, k2tog, k3 in A, k5 in C, k3, k2tog, k2 in A. 17 sts
 Row 9: Keeping colours correct, p to end.
 Cast off.

ARMS: MAKE TWO

With yarn A, cast on 14 sts
 Rows 1-2: Starting with a p (WS) row, work 2 rows in st st.
 Join yarn B. Keep yarn A attached to work.

Rows 3-4: With yarn B and starting with a p row, work 2 rows in st st.
 Change to yarn A.
 Rows 5-6: Starting with a p row, work 2 rows in st st.
 Rows 7-14: Repeat rows 3-6 twice.
 Break both yarns. Join yarn C.
 Row 15: Purl.
 Row 16: Cast off 6 sts, sl last st on RH needle back to LH needle.
 Fingers
 *K2, turn. Starting with a p row, work 6 rows in st st on these 2 sts. Keep these sts on RH needle and move on to the next 2 sts.
 Repeat from * 3 more times to create 4 fingers in total.
 Next row (WS): Cast off across the row to connect all fingers.

SIDE WHISKERS

With yarn C, cast on 10 sts.
 Row 1(WS): Purl.
 Row 2: K3, turn. Work on this set of sts.

Row 3: P1, p2tog. 2 sts
 Row 4: K2tog. 1 st
 Row 5: Pfb, 2 sts.
 Row 6: K1, kfb, 3 sts.
 Row 7: P3.
 Row 8: K3. Keep these sts on RH needle.
 Move on to next set of 3 sts.
 Row 2 (RS): K3, turn. Work on this set of sts.
 Row 3: P3.
 Row 4: K3.
 Row 5: P2tog, p1, 2 sts.
 Row 6: K2tog.
 Row 7: Pfb, 2 sts.
 Row 8: K1, kfb, 3 sts.
 Row 9: P3.
 Row 10: K3. Keep these sts on RH needle
 Move on to next set of 4 sts.
 Row 2 (RS): K4.
 Row 3: P4.
 Row 4: K4.
 Row 5: [P2tog] twice. 2 sts
 Row 6: K2tog, 1st
 Row 7: Pfb, 2 sts
 Row 8: [Kfb] twice. 4 sts
 Row 9: P4.
 Row 10: K4.
 Next row (WS): Cast off across all sts.

TAIL

With yarn A, cast on 10 sts.
 Rows 1-2: Starting with a p (WS) row, work 2 rows in st st.
 Join yarn B. Keep yarn A attached to work.
 Rows 3-4: With yarn B and starting with a p row, work 2 rows in st st.
 Change to yarn A.
 Rows 5-16: Repeat rows 1-4 three times.
 Row 17: With yarn B, p to end.
 Break yarn, thread through sts, pull tightly and fasten off.



TO MAKE UP

With fastened-off yarn end, sew head to neck. With cast-on yarn end, sew sole and foot seam. Sew each leg to crotch. Sew back seam, leaving an opening, and stuff body. Close seam. Seam ears and attach them to head. Fold one side whisker piece in half and sew two layers together along cast-on/cast-off edges. Repeat for the other piece. Attach side whiskers to head. Attach eyes. With yarn B, embroider face features. Fold fingers section and sew the cast-off edge to the first cast-off edge of hand. Sew finger layers together along side edges. Sew arm seam, stuff and attach arms to body. Seam tail, stuff and attach it to body. Cut out black felt to the nose template and glue it to face.

**Tiger cubs are kept hidden
away for the first 3-4 months.
When they are 2 years old
they are ready to leave their
mothers and live on their own.**

