

How Tiger Got His Stripes

a folktale from Vietnam



As told by Rob Cleveland and illustrated by Baird Hoffmire

Story Cove

A World of Stories



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on his golden coat.

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A T L A N T A

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**Many years ago, when the jungle was young, the proudest animal was not the peacock.
No, the proudest animal in the jungle was Tiger.**



Tiger was proud of his long fangs.

Tiger was proud of his sharp claws and big paws.

Tiger was most proud of his beautiful golden coat.



Tiger was not afraid of any animal in the jungle, except Water Buffalo. Water Buffalo was big and strong. He had powerful horns on his head. One morning Tiger saw Water Buffalo hooked to a plow and made to work in the fields. Tiger was confused.



In fact, the strangest animal Tiger had ever seen was telling Water Buffalo what to do! This little animal did not have claws or fangs. It did not even have a beautiful golden coat.



Later, Tiger asked, “Water Buffalo, why do you work for that strange little animal? It does not have any claws or fangs, and it does not have a beautiful golden coat.”



Water Buffalo shook his head and said to Tiger, “You do not understand, Tiger. That animal is Man, and he does not need claws or fangs, or even a golden coat. Man has wisdom.”



**Tiger said, “Well then, I must get some wisdom.”
Water Buffalo just shook his head and walked
away.**

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