

All About Leopards

Leopards, tigers, lions and jaguars are all called big cats. Big cats are different from pet cats. They are much bigger and they can roar.

Habitat

Leopards live in jungles, mountains, grasslands and even swamps! They live alone for most of the time.

Diet

Leopards hunt for food at night. They are carnivores and eat deer, fish, monkeys and birds. They are good climbers and watch their prey from trees. Then, they jump and pounce on their prey. After that, they drag the prey up to the branches and eat it in safety.

Fun Facts

- A baby leopard is called a cub.
- A leopard's tail is as long as its body!

Did You Know...?

- Leopards look similar to jaguars but they are smaller.
- There are different types of leopards but sadly they are all endangered in the wild.



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Questions

1. What are leopards, tigers, lions and jaguars all known as? Tick **one**.

- little cats
- big cats
- pet cats

2. Where do leopards live? Tick **one**.

- in the desert
- in the Arctic
- in jungles, mountains, grasslands and swamps

3. What do leopards eat? Tick **one**.

- plants
- trees
- meat

4. What is a baby leopard called? Tick **one**.

- a cub
- a jaguar
- a carnivore

5. Which other animals do leopards look similar to? Tick **one**.

- tigers
- jaguars
- deer

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All About Leopards

Leopards are part of the cat family. This family includes big cats, such as lions, cheetahs, jaguars and tigers, and also pet cats. There are many different types of leopard but they are all endangered. For example, there are only about 70 Amur leopards living in the wild.

Habitat

Leopards can live in many different places. Some like to live high up in the mountains and others prefer to live in rainforests, grasslands, deserts or even swamps! All leopards are excellent climbers and are very strong. They use their long tails to help them balance when they are high in the trees.

Diet

Leopards are carnivores but they eat lots of different types of meat. For example, they will eat birds, rodents or reptiles if they cannot find large mammals, such as deer.

When they kill their prey, leopards usually drag it up high into a tree to eat immediately. Sometimes they keep the prey in the branches so they can eat it later.



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All About Leopards

Fun Facts

- Leopards spend most of their lives on their own, except for females who have babies.
- Baby leopards, called cubs, are born blind and weigh only 500g.
- Leopards can live up to around 12 to 15 years in the wild.

Did You Know...?

- Leopards are brilliant nocturnal hunters. They can hunt, even when it is really dark.
- Leopards have a keen sense of hearing and an excellent sense of sight.
- They have long and sensitive whiskers to feel movement.



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Questions

1. Which animal family are leopards a part of? Tick **one**.

- leopards
- cats
- lions

2. Where do leopards live? Tick **one**.

- Leopards live in the Arctic.
- Leopards live in lots of different habitats.
- Leopards are excellent climbers and are very strong.

3. Look at the **Fun Facts** section. Draw lines to match the sentences:

Adult leopards

...live alone for much of their lives.

Baby leopards

...cannot see when they are born and are known as cubs.

4. Look at the **Diet** section. **Find** and **copy** a word which describes how **quickly** leopards usually eat their prey.

5. How do leopards hunt in the dark?

Answers

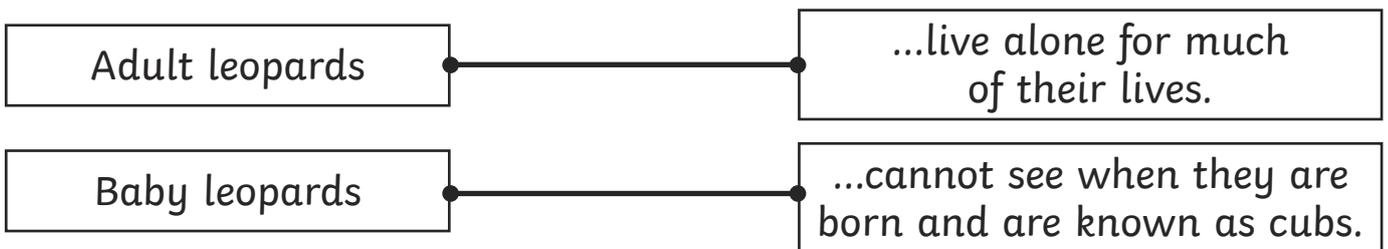
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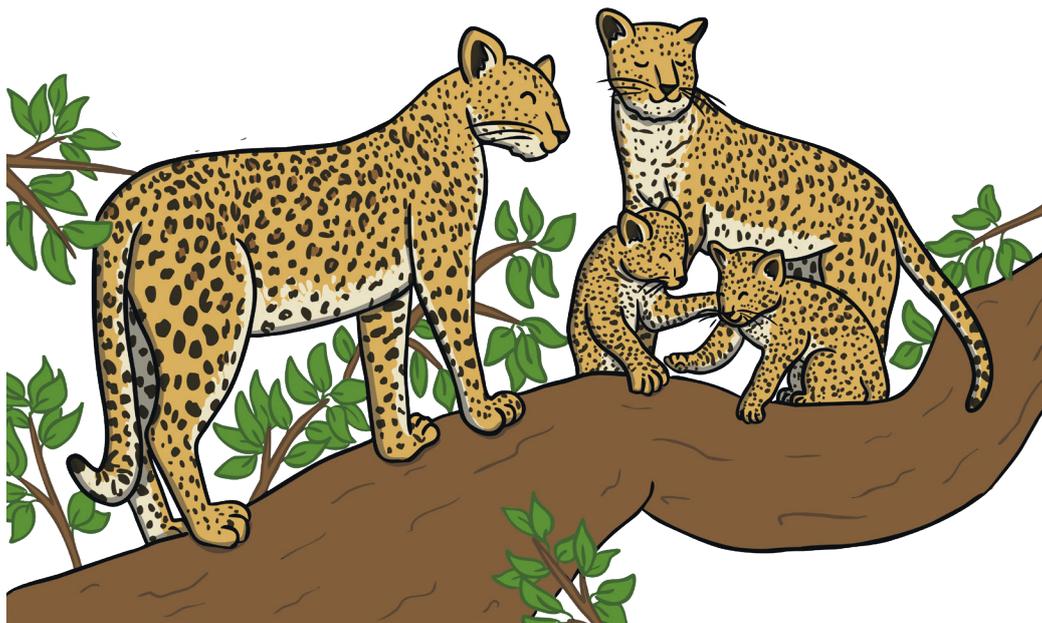
They have a keen sense of hearing and an excellent sense of sight. They also have long whiskers to feel movement.

All About Leopards

Leopards are part of the same family as domestic cats and share many similar features. For example, all cats are mammals and carnivores. Leopards, however, belong to a group known as 'big cats'. Big cats, such as leopards, tigers, lions, jaguars and cheetahs, are different from domestic cats because they are able to roar.

Habitat

Leopards have adapted to many different habitats and therefore they can be found in many different parts of the world. Some live in rainforests, some mountains and some live in swamps! Sadly, however, most types of leopard are endangered in the wild. The most endangered is the Amur leopard of Russia; it is estimated that there are only about 70 adults alive today.



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All About Leopards

Diet

Being nocturnal, leopards' bodies are perfectly adapted to night-time hunting. They have a keen sense of hearing, excellent vision and their sensitive whiskers detect even tiny movements.

Leopards are skilled climbers and often pounce on their prey from the trees up above. Incredibly, they are strong enough to drag it back up into the branches!

Although leopards mainly hunt large mammals such as deer, they are different from other big cats because they will eat fish, birds, monkeys or even dung beetles if food is hard to find!



Fun Facts

- Leopards don't just have babies in the spring. They can reproduce at any time of year!
- Leopards tend to live on their own in their own territories. However, they can communicate by leaving scent markings for other leopards to sniff!

Did You Know...?

- Leopards spend most of the day asleep in trees or under sheltered rocks. Their camouflaged coat keeps them well hidden.
- Leopards have a long tail (as long as the rest of their body) to help them balance when climbing up high.
- The dark spots which cover a leopard's coat are called rosettes because they are rose-shaped.

Questions

1. What can big cats do that domestic cats cannot? Tick **one**.

- Big cats can roar.
- Big cats eat meat.
- Big cats are mammals.

2. Look at the **Habitat** section. Fill in the missing words.

Leopards have _____ to many different _____ and therefore they can be _____ in many different parts of the _____ .

3. Put ticks in the table to show which sentences are **true** and which are **false**.

| Sentence | True | False |
|--|------|-------|
| Leopards only live in one type of habitat. | | |
| Some leopards live in rainforests. | | |
| Most leopards are endangered. | | |
| Only about 70 Amur leopard adults exist in the wild. | | |

4. Look at the **Fun Facts** section. **Find** and **copy** the word which means **have babies**.

5. Look at the **Did You Know...?** section. Which part of the leopard's body helps it to balance?

6. Describe how the diet of a leopard is different from the diet of other big cats.

Answers

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| Most leopards are endangered. | ✓ | |
| Only about 70 Amur leopard adults exist in the wild. | ✓ | |

4. Look at the **Fun Facts** section. **Find** and **copy** the word which means **have babies**.
reproduce

5. Look at the **Did You Know...?** section. Which part of the leopard's body helps it to balance?

The leopard's long tail helps it to balance when climbing up high.

6. Describe how the diet of a leopard is different from the diet of other big cats.
Leopards are different from other big cats because they can eat other animals such as fish, birds, monkeys or even dung beetles when there isn't much food around.