

# Leopards

Leopards are known as big cats. They have many features that are the same as pet cats. They have black spots on their fur, which are sometimes rose-shaped. There are also black leopards, which have darker fur.

## Habitat

Leopards live in lots of different places. They can live in jungles, mountains, swamps or even grasslands. They can be found in African and Asian countries, including India and China. Leopards tend to live alone, except when they have babies to look after.

## Diet

Leopards like to hunt for food at night. They like to eat meat such as deer, fish, monkeys and birds. They will often watch their prey from high up in the trees where they can blend in with the leaves. Then they will pounce down to surprise their prey.

## Fun Facts

- A baby leopard is called a cub.
- Cubs learn how to climb, run and swim by watching their mother.
- A leopard's tail is very long. It is the same length as the leopard's body.
- There are lots of different kinds of leopards, such as African leopards, Asian leopards and snow leopards.
- Leopards can run at around 58km per hour!



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# Leopards - Questions

1. Which pet do leopards share some features with?

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2. Name two places you might find a leopard.

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3. Why do leopards watch their prey from up in a tree?

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4. What is a baby leopard called?

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5. How do cubs learn how to climb, run and swim?

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6. Which type of leopard do you think is found in cold places?

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# Answers

1. Which pet do leopards share some features with?  
**Leopards share some features with pet cats.**
2. Name two places you might find a leopard.  
**Any two of jungles, mountains swamps and grassland.**
3. Why do leopards watch their prey from up in a tree?  
**Leopards watch their prey from up in the tree so they can blend in with the leaves and then jump down and surprise them.**
4. What is a baby leopard called?  
**A baby leopard is called a cub.**
5. How do cubs learn how to climb, run and swim?  
**Cubs learn how to climb, run and swim by watching their mothers.**
6. Which type of leopard do you think is found in cold places?  
**A snow leopard is found in cold places.**

# Leopards

Leopards are part of the cat family, which also includes lions, tigers and even pet cats. They have light-coloured fur with dark spots, often called rosettes because they look rose-shaped. Some leopards have dark fur and are called 'black leopards'. The spots can be difficult to see as their fur is so dark. Due to the colour of their fur, black leopards are often mistaken for panthers.

## Habitat

Leopards can live in many different places. Some like to live high up in the mountains, whilst others prefer to live in jungles or deserts. They are mostly found in some African countries, as well as central Asia, India and China. Leopards tend to live alone, except when they are raising their babies.

## Diet

Leopards are nocturnal, which means they hunt at night and sleep during the day. They like to sleep in trees or hide in caves where it is cooler. Leopards are carnivores, which means they eat meat. They will hunt for food (or prey) such as deer, fish, monkeys, birds or grubs. Leopards 'stalk' their prey by keeping very quiet and bending low so that they can't be seen. They will then pounce!



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# Leopards

## Fun Facts

- A leopard's body helps it to climb, swim and run. It has a long, thin body which is powerful and strong. This helps the leopard to run quickly.
- Leopards can run at around 58km per hour. That is faster than a car is allowed to drive in places with lots of houses!
- A leopard's tail is very long. It is the same length as the leopard's body. This helps them to balance along thin branches and enables them to make quick, sharp turns.
- Leopards are endangered animals.



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# Leopards - Questions

1. What are black leopards often mistaken for?

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2. Name two environments where leopards can be found.

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3. What does 'nocturnal' mean?

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4. Name three animals a leopard will hunt and eat.

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5. What helps leopards to run quickly?

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6. Why is a leopard's tail useful?

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7. How fast can a leopard run?

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8. What do you think the word 'stalk' means?

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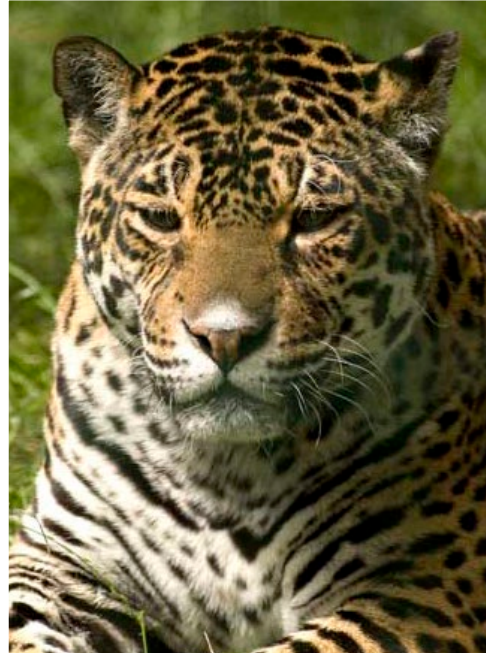
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# Answers

1. What are black leopards often mistaken for?  
**Black leopards are often mistaken for panthers.**
2. Name two environments where leopards can be found.  
**Any two of jungles, mountains, swamps or grasslands.**
3. What does 'nocturnal' mean?  
**Nocturnal means they hunt at night and sleep during the day.**
4. Name three animals a leopard will hunt and eat.  
**Any three of deer, fish, monkeys, birds and grubs.**
5. What helps leopards to run quickly?  
**A leopard can run quickly because of its strong, powerful body.**
6. Why is a leopard's tail useful?  
**A leopard's tail helps them to balance along thin branches and enables them to make quick, sharp turns.**
7. How fast can a leopard run?  
**A leopard can run at speeds of 58km per hour.**
8. What do you think the word 'stalk' means?  
**'Stalk' means to carefully and quietly follow something/watch something.**

# Leopards

Leopards come from the same family as cats and share many characteristics with domestic cats. They are mammals, which means they have fur and mostly give birth to live babies (the platypus, another mammal, lays eggs). They are ferocious hunters that hunt for any prey they can find. Most leopards have light-coloured fur with dark spots on it called 'rosettes'. They have this name due to their shape, which look like roses. Some leopards are named 'black leopards' due to the colour of their fur. The spots can be difficult to see as their fur is so dark. Due to the colour of their fur, black leopards are often mistaken for panthers.



## Habitat

Leopards can be found in many different countries around the world. They can be found in sub-Saharan Africa, central Asia, India and China. Leopards are very adaptable and can live in a variety of places. They can be found in mountains, woodlands, rainforests and even swamps. In fact, they live in more places than any other big cat. Leopards are solitary animals, which means they generally live alone.



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# Leopards

## Diet

Being nocturnal, leopards hunt at night. They spend the majority of the day resting in trees or hiding in caves. Leopards are carnivores and have a varied diet. They will hunt for fish, grubs, birds, monkeys, antelope and deer. When a leopard spots a potential meal, it bends low so it cannot be seen and keeps very quiet. They then stalk their prey and when they are close enough, they pounce!

## Fun Facts

- A leopard's tail is about the same length as its entire body. This helps them to balance along thin branches and enables them to make quick, sharp turns.
- Their sleek shape is powerful and allows them to run at up to 58km per hour (which is faster than a car in residential areas!)
- These majestic animals are able to leap and jump long distances and they are fantastic swimmers and climbers.
- Leopards are endangered animals due to people hunting them for their fur.

# Leopards - Questions

1. Give two features of a mammal.  

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2. What does the word 'ferocious' mean?  

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3. Why are some leopards' spots hard to see?  

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4. How would you know a leopard has spotted its prey?  

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5. Why is the word 'pounce' followed by an exclamation mark?  

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6. Why are leopards endangered?  

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7. The text says 'leopards are very adaptable'. Find evidence that proves this.  

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8. What are carnivores?  

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9. How does a leopard's tail help it to move?  

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10. Name three other 'big' cats.  

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# Answers

1. Give two features of a mammal.  
**Child gives two of the following: Mammals are warm blooded, have fur and give birth to live babies (not eggs).**
2. What does the word 'ferocious' mean?  
**Ferocious means fierce or frightening.**
3. Why are some leopards' spots hard to see?  
**Black leopards have dark fur, which makes the spots difficult to see.**
4. How would you know a leopard has spotted its prey?  
**The leopard bends low so it cannot be seen and keeps very quiet.**
5. Why is the word 'pounce' followed by an exclamation mark?  
**The word 'pounce' is followed by an exclamation mark because it is like the speed and surprise of the attack on the prey.**
6. Why are leopards endangered?  
**Leopards are endangered because people hunt them for their fur.**
7. The text says 'leopards are very adaptable'. Find evidence that proves this.  
**Leopards are adaptable because they are able to live in a variety of habitats.**
8. What are carnivores?  
**Carnivores are animals that only eat meat.**
9. How does a leopard's tail help it to move?  
**A leopard's tail is the same length as its body and helps it to balance on thin branches and make quick turns.**
10. Name three other 'big' cats.  
**Varied answers. Children may use: tigers, lions, panthers, cheetahs, jaguars, pumas, lynx etc.**