

All About Leopards

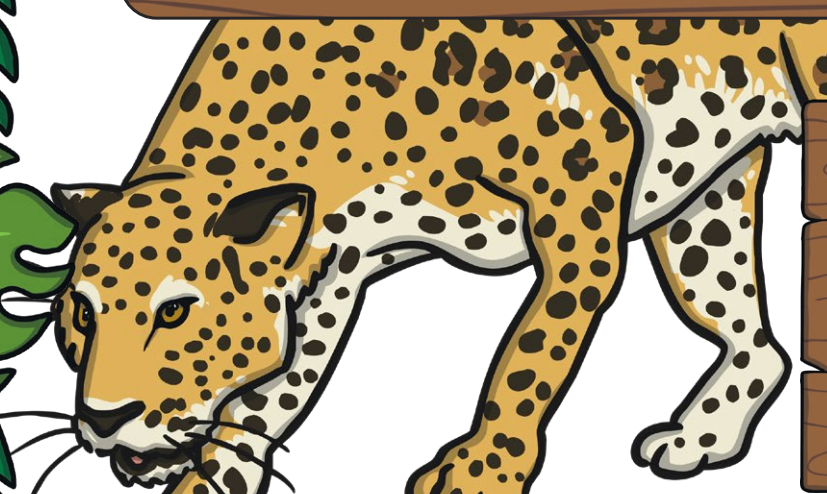
What Is a Leopard?

Leopards are big, wild cats with spots on their fur. They hunt other animals and eat meat.

Leopards are a lot like house cats but much bigger. They have very sharp claws and teeth.

Leopard Facts

- A leopard's spots are called rosettes because they are the shape of roses.
- Leopards are great at climbing.
- Leopards sometimes eat plants.
- Leopards live in hot and cold places.
- A group of leopards is called a leap.
- Leopards like to swim and eat crabs.
- A baby leopard is called a cub.

A detailed illustration of a leopard with orange fur and black rosette spots, walking towards the left. It is partially obscured by a wooden sign on the right.

Leopards catch their food on their own. They pull it up into a tree so other animals don't steal it.

Questions

1. What pet are leopards like? Tick one.

- ☐ dog
- ☐ snake
- ☐ cat

2. What are leopards' spots called? Tick one.

- ☐ rosettes
- ☐ dots
- ☐ smudges

3. Where do leopards live? Tick one.

- ☐ hot places
- ☐ cold places
- ☐ both hot and cold places

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

- ☐ a puppy
- ☐ a cub
- ☐ a chick

5. **Leopards are great at** _____.

What is the missing word? Tick one.

- ☐ hopping
- ☐ climbing
- ☐ running

Answers

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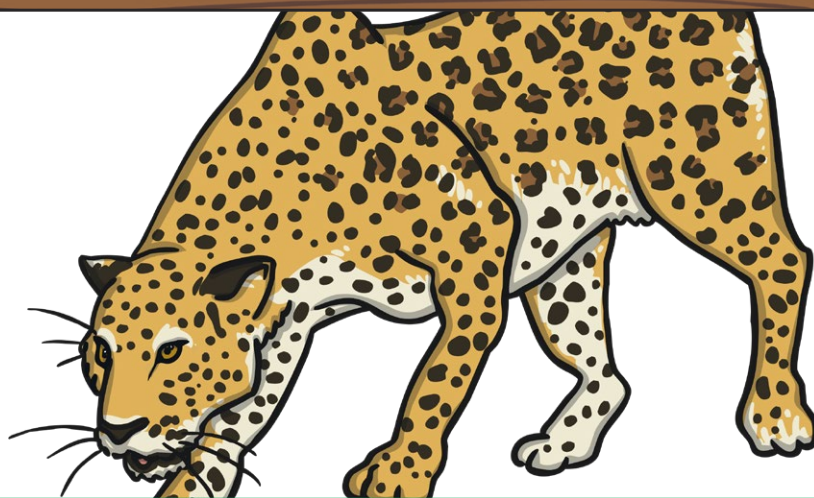
What Is a Leopard?

Leopards are part of the big cat family and are related to pet cats. They are warm-blooded and have fur so they are mammals. They like to live on their own. They love to climb and jump and are very good at it!

What Do They Look Like?

Leopards have golden fur with dark spots. Some leopards have black fur and these are called black panthers in some countries.

- Leopards' tails are as long as their body.
- Leopards' spots are called rosettes because they are the shape of roses.
- The leopards' pattern helps them to blend in with leaves on trees.



Where Do They Live?

Leopards can live in all different habitats, such as jungles and rainforests or deserts and swamps. Some even live high up in the mountains. They can be found in some African countries and in Central Asia and India.



What Do They Eat?

Leopards eat meat as they are carnivores. This might include monkeys, fish, antelope and waterbuck. What a leopard eats depends on where it lives.

Leopards are nocturnal because they hunt at night. They rest in trees until they spot food. They crouch down so they can't be seen and creep up on the animal before pouncing!

Did You Know...?

Leopards in the desert eat watermelons to cool off.

Questions

1. What type of animals are leopards? Tick one.

- ☐ reptiles
☐ mammals
☐ birds

2. Number the facts from 1-3 to show the order that they appear in the text.

- ☐ Leopards' spots are called rosettes.
☐ The leopards' pattern helps them to blend in with leaves.
☐ Leopards' tails are as long as their body.

3. Draw **three** lines and make each fact correct.

Leopards have
golden fur...

as they are
carnivores.

Leopards eat meat...

watermelons to
cool off.

Leopards in the
desert eat...

with dark spots.

4. Why are leopards' spots called rosettes?

5. Find and copy one word which means that an animal eats meat.

Answers

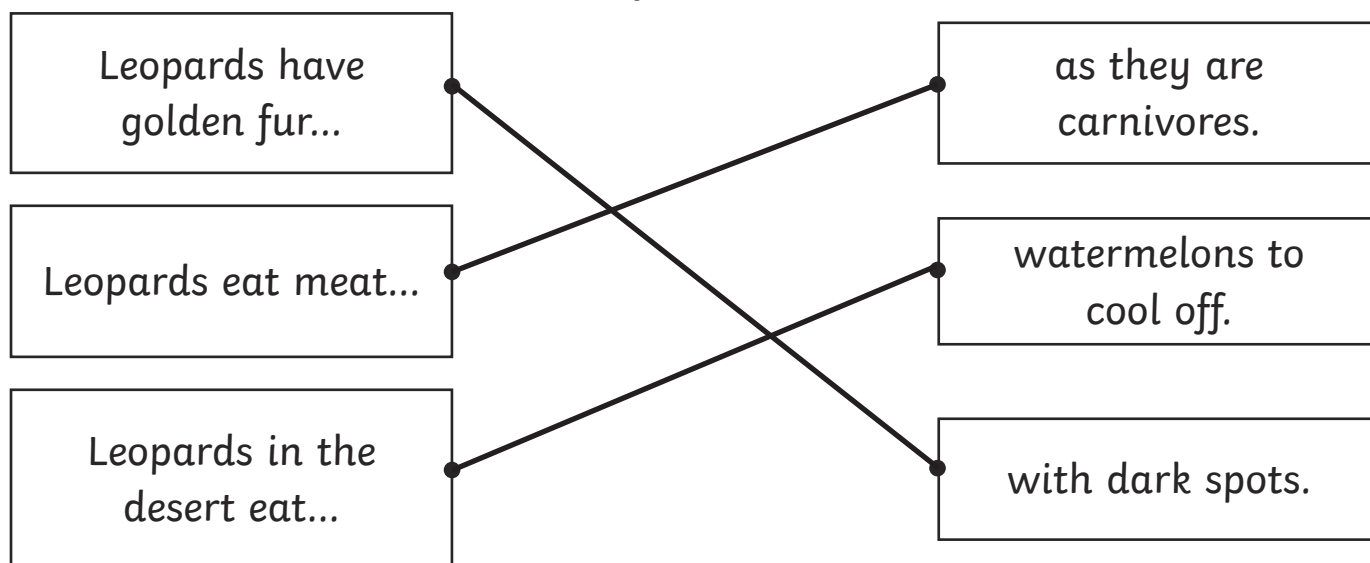
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4. Why are leopards' spots called rosettes?

Leopards' spots are called rosettes because they are the shape of roses.

5. Find and copy one word which means that an animal eats meat.
carnivore

All About Leopards

What Is a Leopard?

Leopards are members of the big cat family just like lions and tigers. They are mammals, which means they are warm-blooded, have fur and give birth to their young. They are ferocious hunters and will take any prey they can find.

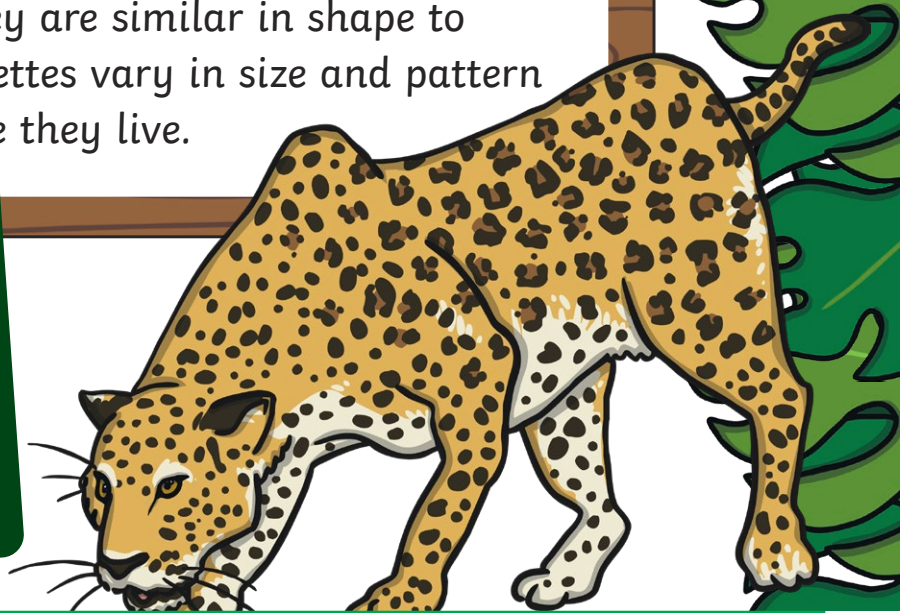
What Do They Look Like?

Leopards have long bodies and strong legs for climbing and jumping. Their tails are almost as long as the rest of their body and help them turn quickly when running. Their tail also helps them to balance on branches when they are resting in their favourite place, up in the trees.

Leopards are known for their patterned fur, which is a golden, yellow colour with dark spots. These spots provide excellent camouflage and are called rosettes because they are similar in shape to roses. Leopards' rosettes vary in size and pattern depending on where they live.

Did You Know...?

Some leopards have fur that is the same colour as their rosettes. They are known as black panthers in Africa and Asia.



Where Do They Live?

Leopards can live in many different types of habitats. They can be found in swamps or jungles, rainforests or deserts and even high up in mountains. Leopards live in some African countries, Central Asia, China and India. They are **solitary** animals unless they are caring for their babies.



What Do They Eat?

Leopards are carnivores so they prefer to eat meat, such as monkeys, antelope, rodents and waterbuck. However, their diet can depend on what is available so they are also happy to eat fish, crabs and plants if needed. In fact, leopards in the dry Kalahari Desert eat watermelons to cool.

Leopards prefer to hunt at night as they are nocturnal. They make good use of their special shoulder muscles to climb trees or rocks and then lay in wait for any animal to walk past. When they spot a target, leopards will slink quietly down from their tree. They crouch down low to the ground and silently creep after their food until they are close enough to pounce!

Did You Know...?

Leopards drag their food up into trees to keep it away from other animals.

Glossary

solitary: Lives alone.

Questions

1. Which of the following features do mammals have? Tick **two**.

- ☐ warm-blooded
- ☐ scales
- ☐ fur
- ☐ gills

2. Number the facts from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

- ☐ Leopards can live in many different habitats.
- ☐ Leopards prefer to hunt at night as they are nocturnal.
- ☒ 1 Leopards' tails are as long as their bodies.
- ☐ Leopards' spots are called rosettes.

3. Find and copy one word which means that an animal is active at night.

4. Fill in the missing word.

They are _____ hunters and will take any prey they can find.

5. How do leopards use their tails?

6. Why do you think that leopards' spots provide them with such excellent camouflage?

Answers

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2 Leopards' spots are called rosettes.

3. Find and copy one word which means that an animal is active at night.
nocturnal

4. Fill in the missing word.

They are **ferocious** hunters and will take any prey they can find.

5. How do leopards use their tails?

Leopards use their tails to help them turn quickly when they run and to balance on tree branches.

6. Why do you think that leopards' spots provide them with such excellent camouflage?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that leopards' spots are great camouflage because they help them blend in with the leaves in the trees that they live and hunt in.