

**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 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, 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 - Amur leopard of Russia; it is estimated that there are only 70 alive today.

**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 the branches!

Although leopards mainly hunt large mammals such as deer, they are different from other big cats because they 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 their day asleep in trees or under sheltered rocks. Their camouflage 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 is a 'carnivore?'

2) What can big cats do that domestic cats cannot?

3) Write 3 different sorts of habitat that tigers can live in.

4) 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.		

5) Write 3 things that make a leopard a really good animal for night hunting.

6) Write one way in which leopards can communicate with other leopards.

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

8) Which part of a leopard's body helps it to balance?

9) What does 'endangered' mean?

10) Write down 3 other animals that are endangered. What can we do about this?