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?

   _____

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