Cats

Quick facts

Type:	Mammal
Diet:	Carnivore
Life span:	10 to 20 years

Cats are related to lions and tigers, and if you have ever seen a cat stalking a bird, it is easy to see why.

All cats are good at hunting. They have acute senses, sharp retractable claws and sharp teeth. They are also agile which means they are light and quick on their feet.

Domestic cats (housecats) could survive in the wild by hunting mice, small birds and insects.

Cats can communicate in a number of ways including meowing, purring, trilling, hissing and growling.

Most cats are active at dawn and dusk and can sleep for up to 16 hours a day. Young cats (kittens) may spend hours chasing their tails, pouncing on pretend prey and springing on each other. Cats that are brought up away from other cats will still behave like this. It is in their nature.

Cats spend many hours a day cleaning themselves. They wash their fur with saliva and lick it with their rough tongues. It's like us brushing our hair with a hairbrush!

Cats will arch their backs, raise their fur and hiss and growl if they feel threatened by another cat.

Female cats are pregnant for about nine weeks and give birth to a litter of 1 - 10 kittens. The average size of a litter is 2 - 5 kittens. When kittens are first born they are blind and helpless and depend on their mother's milk for food. They begin to crawl at about two weeks of age.

Cats are the most popular pet in the world and can be found almost anywhere.

Did you know that the African wild cat is the ancestor of our domestic cats? It is tabby coloured and has existed for about one million years.

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Score 11

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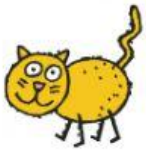
Name: _____ Subject: Themes

Date: _____ Sheet: Cats



Read the information sheet about cats on the previous page and then answer the questions.

a) Are cats meat eaters or plant eaters? _____

b) When are most cats active? _____

c) Write down three different ways that cats communicate?

_____

d) Underline the correct answer. Cats can sleep for up to:

1. 5 hours a day **2.** 10 hours a day

3. 7 hours a day **4.** 16 hours a day

e) How does a cat groom itself?

_____

f) Young cats are called _____.

g) Female cats are pregnant for about nine months. True or false? _____

h) What is the average size of a litter? _____

i) When will a cat arch its back? _____

j) If three cats had a litter of 8 kittens each, how many kittens would there be altogether?

_____

k) Have you ever had a pet? _____

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