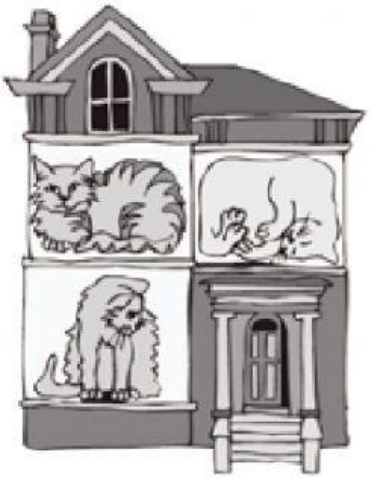
Reading

The Spread of Domestic Cats Around the World



Domestic cats are found in every continent except Antarctica. Archaeological evidence shows that domestic cats originated in Egypt and the Middle East. From there, they spread to other parts of the world with the spread of trading routes and empires. Domestic cats spread around the world in four phases.

Phase 1: 6000 BC – 200 BC
All domestic cats originated from the African wildcat, felis lybica. These wildcats were originally scavengers around human settlements. They were domesticated because of their usefulness in controlling rodents and for their companionship. Early trading expeditions spread cats around the Mediterranean region.

Phase 2: 200 BC – 1400 AD
As the Roman Empire spread, cats spread throughout Europe and North Africa. The silk trade and the spread of Christianity, Islam and Buddhism helped cats spread through Asia and Africa. By 1400 AD, domestic cats were found throughout Europe and much of Africa and Asia.

Phase 3: 1400 AD – 1850 AD
European colonization brought domestic cats to North and South America. Most ships had cats to control rodents. Cats were accidentally spread to some areas by shipwrecks. The first domestic cats in Australia were shipwrecked Dutch cats. By the middle of the nineteenth century cats had spread around most of the world.

Phase 4: 1850 AD – Present
People started breeding domestic cats into different breeds, such as Russian Blue, Siamese, Devon Rex and Manx. Today, there are more than 40 different breeds, including cats with long hair, short hair and even no hair.

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1 Within the brood patch, each egg is held in a special

A pest controllers and pets.
B trading companions and pets.
C breeding season.
D scavengers and pest controllers.

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2 During which phase did cats spread into Asia?

A Phase 1
B Phase 2
C Phase 3
D Phase 4

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3 How did domestic cats *first* reach Australia?

A through European colonisation
B along the Silk Route
C with Dutch shipwrecks
D from North America

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4 What first happened to domestic cats in phase 4?

A They started spreading throughout Europe and much of Africa and Asia.
B People started developing different breeds of cats.
C They started spreading throughout Australia, North and South America.
D People started using cats to control rodents on ships.

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5 Which of the following statements about the spread of domestic cats is correct?

A Cats are found on every continent.
B Religion helped cats spread into Europe.
C Cats originated in South America.
D People have helped cats to spread.

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Grammar

Choose the best word for each blank space.

Paul was enjoying the game very much. __(6)__, he needed to leave if he wanted to catch the last bus home. His team __(7)__ the best season in its history and Paul hated to miss __(8)__ single minute of it.

6	A. When B. Since C. However D. Because
7	A. had B. will have C. is having D. was having
8	A. only a B. even a C. even the D. only the

Spelling

Choose the correctly spelt word for each blank space.

The computer company had greatly __(9)__ their product's performance. When I called them to complain we got into a huge __(10)__. I did not __(11)__ such a company to behave so terribly.

9	A. exagerated B. exagerrated C. exaggrated D. exaggerated
10	A. argument B. argumant C. arguement D. aurgument
11	A. accept B. axpect C. expect D. except

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Punctuation

12 After which word should a semi-colon (;) be inserted in the following sentence?

'Lions are misunderstood creatures they are lazy not dangerous,' said John.

A misunderstood
B creatures
C they
D said

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13 Choose the best option for the blank space.

'The library has a huge collection of science fiction. Of all the books in the library more than __(13)__ are in that category,' said Saina.

A one-third
B one; third
C one, third
D one: third

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14 Choose the sentence that is punctuated correctly if ONE person owned the books.

A The boys' books were in the bag.
B The boy's books were in the bag.
C The boy's book's were in the bag.
D The boys' books' were in the bag.

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Vocabulary

*Choose the best word to replace each **bold** word. The meaning of the sentence should stay the same.*

Our clients always wanted every order **expedited**. My boss always took their side. If I failed to meet any of their demands, I would be **reprimanded**. It didn't matter how **frivolous** their demands were, I had to ensure they were taken care of.

15	The best word to replace *expedited* is A. rushed B. checked C. finished D. perfected
16	The best words to replace *reprimanded* are A. taken aback B. laughed at C. told off D. set up
17	The best word to replace *frivolous* is A. silly B. tough C. illegal D. expensive

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