

Ten cat facts

Which cat weighs as much as a motorbike? Watch this video to learn this and other fascinating facts about different kinds of cats.

Tasks

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises. You can also read the transcript.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–f) with the vocabulary (1–6).

Vocabulary

1. a paw
2. prey
3. rare
4. an athlete
5. to lap up
6. a feline
7. mysterious
8. a purr

Definition

- a. to drink using your tongue
- b. strange
- c. a person that is good at sport
- d. the sound a cat makes when it is content
- e. a cat
- f. an animal's foot
- g. not common
- h. an animal that is hunted and killed by another animal for food

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	Answers	
1. The biggest cat in the world is the Siberian tiger.	True	False
2. The eyes of a caracal are controlled by 20 muscles allowing them to pinpoint their prey.	True	False
3. The lion has the loudest roar.	True	False
4. Snow leopards can jump 9 metres high and 15 metres in length.	True	False
5. Cats have a toothbrush on their tongue, comb-like structures called keratinised papillae.	True	False
6. The clouded leopard has the biggest teeth of any cat relative to its size.	True	False
7. The Amur leopard is the rarest cat in the world.	True	False
8. The black panther is a type of cat.	True	False

Task 2

Put the words in order to make sentences.

1. to prey. catch Cheetahs sprint
2. metres Siberian tigers measure 3.15 length. in
3. antennae. as act The tufts of fur on a caracal's ears
4. A lion's roar can be heard up to away. kilometres eight
5. nine high. Snow leopards can jump up to metres
6. body length! That's six their times
7. in left There are fewer than 35 Amur leopards the wild.
8. to This is loss of habitat. owing

Discussion

What other facts about cats do you know?

Transcript

Maddie: Hi, I'm Maddie. Here are ten things you need to know about cats:

10. Domestic cats

Have you ever noticed your cat leaves wet paw marks during summer? Unlike us humans, cats don't have sweat glands all over their bodies; instead they only sweat through their paws. For cheetahs sprinting to catch prey in hot climates, this helps to cool them down.

9. Siberian tiger

The biggest cat in the world is the Siberian tiger, measuring a mighty 3.15 metres in length and weighing a hefty 265 kilograms, the same as a small motorbike.

8. Caracal

The ears of a caracal are controlled by 20 muscles allowing them to pinpoint their prey. It's also speculated that their prominent tufts of fur act as antennas to further enhance their hearing ability.

7. Lion

The loudest roar belongs to the lion. At 114 decibels it's as loud as a chainsaw and can be heard up to 8 kilometres away.

6. Snow leopard

Snow leopards are impressive athletes, able to jump 15 metres in length and up to 9 metres high. That's six times their body length. These rare cats live at high altitudes and have extra-long tails to help them balance.

5. Keratinised papillae

Cats have a hairbrush on their tongue. Comb-like structures called keratinised papillae allow them to groom and to lap up large amounts of fluid when they are drinking. Check out our slo-mo film to learn more.

4. Clouded leopard

In South East Asia, the clouded leopard has the biggest teeth of any cat relative to its size. Little is known about this mysterious feline that makes noises somewhere between a purr and a roar!

3. Amur leopard

The rarest cat in the world is the Amur leopard. It's thought that there are less than 35 of these creatures left in the wild owing to loss of habitat. Thankfully they are being bred successfully in captivity.

2. Margay

In the Amazon rainforest, the margay is the first and only scientifically documented case of a cat using vocal mimicry to hunt. Scientists were amazed to discover it copying the sounds of a baby pied tamarin, which enticed adult monkeys to investigate and within catching distance of this clever cat.

1. Black panther

The black panther is not a species of cat but in fact a jaguar, puma or leopard that is a genetic mutation. A gene called melanin causes the black pigmentation. In fact, if you look closer you can still make out the intrinsic cat markings beneath the black coating.

What's your favourite cat's stat?

Answers

Preparation task

1. f
2. h
3. g
4. c
5. a
6. e
7. b
8. d

Task 1

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. True
5. False
6. True
7. True
8. False

Task 2

1. Cheetahs sprint to catch prey.
2. Siberian tigers measure 3.15 metres in length.
3. The tufts of fur on a caracal's ears act as antennae.
4. A lion's roar can be heard up to eight kilometres away.
5. Snow leopards can jump up to nine metres high.
6. That's six times their body length!
7. There are fewer than 35 Amur leopards left in the wild.
8. This is owing to loss of habitat.