

ALL ABOUT CATS

Pounce and play with some of the cuddliest animals on Earth!

A NONFICTION UNIT



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MEET THE CATS!

Meow... can you hear that gentle sound? That is a sound a cat can make. Cats are soft animals that explore their surroundings. They like to climb, jump, and move around.





WHAT IS A CAT LIKE?

All cats belong to the cat family called **Felidae**. They have **whiskers**, sharp **claws**, and teeth that help them eat. Cats walk quietly on padded feet and can see well in the dark. Some cats meow, and some make louder sounds, but all cats are very skilled movers.



WHERE CATS LIVE

Some cats live in the wild in **jungles, deserts,** and grasslands, such as tigers, leopards, and cheetahs. Other cats, like house cats, live with people all around the world. House cats rest on beds, sit by sunny windows, and nap in safe places.

FROM KITTEN TO CAT

A mother cat has baby kittens, sometimes four or more. **Kittens** are very small when they are born, and their eyes are closed. After a few weeks, they open their eyes, begin to walk, and play. As they grow, kittens become bigger cats that can move and explore on their own.



HOW CATS HUNT AND PLAY

Cats are **hunters** by nature. They sneak quietly, then leap fast! Even pet cats practice hunting by chasing toys, balls, or string. Play helps them stay strong, quick, and curious.



DINNERTIME FOR CATS

Wild cats eat meat—they hunt animals like mice or birds.

Pet cats eat special cat food made from meat or fish. They also need clean water every day to stay healthy.





FAMILY TIME

Mother cats care for their kittens by feeding them, cleaning them, and keeping them close. They help their kittens learn how to move, play, and explore. Some pet cats spend time resting on their own, while others stay near the people they live with.



KEEPING CLEAN AND COZY

Cats are clean animals. They lick their **fur** to clean themselves and stay comfortable. Cats also rest in warm, quiet places and may nap for many hours each day.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Cats can make many different sounds.
- A cat's whiskers help it sense spaces and tell if it can fit through an opening.
- The biggest cat in the world is the tiger, and the smallest wild cat is the black-footed cat from Africa.



QUESTION TIME!

1. True or False: Only pet cats belong to the cat family, Felidae.
2. True or False: Cats walk loudly and cannot see well in the dark.
3. True or False: Cats clean themselves by licking their fur.
4. Fact or Opinion: Cats have whiskers.
5. Fact or Opinion: Cats are the cutest pets in the world.
6. How do kittens learn to play and find food?
7. Why do cats have whiskers?
8. Where do wild cats live?
9. What do cats eat?
10. What do you like most about cats?



ANSWERS



1. False. All cats, both pet cats and wild cats, belong to the cat family called Felidae.
2. False. Cats walk quietly on padded feet and can see well in the dark.
3. True. Cats use their tongues to clean their fur.
4. Fact. Cats really do have whiskers.
5. Opinion. "Cats are the cutest pets in the world" is something someone thinks or feels.
6. Kittens learn by playing and by watching their mother.
7. Whiskers help cats feel things around them and notice movement.
8. Wild cats live in places like forests, deserts, and grasslands around the world.
9. Cats eat meat. Pet cats eat cat food, and wild cats eat other animals.
10. Answers will be different. Some children may say playing, sleeping, or being soft and fluffy.



GLOSSARY

Claws – sharp nails on a cat's paws that help it climb and catch food

Desert – a very dry place where some wild cats live

Felidae – the animal family that all cats belong to

Fur – the soft hair covering a cat's body

Hunter – an animal that finds and catches food

Jungle – a warm place with many trees and plants where some wild cats live

Kitten – a baby cat

Whiskers – long hairs on a cat's face that help it sense nearby objects



FUN WITH CATS

Q: Why did the cat sit on the computer?

A: It wanted to keep an eye on the mouse!