

Name:

Lynx

Lynx are members of the cat family. There are four different species of lynx; the Eurasian lynx, the Spanish lynx, the Canadian lynx and the bob cat. Lynx can be found in Europe, Asia and North America. Lynx usually live in forested areas and, apart from the bob cat, they tend to live in very cold climates.

Their diet includes small animals such as squirrels, rabbits and mice. Lynx are nocturnal and hunt at night. Larger species of lynx can also eat bigger animals such as deer. They are not fast runners, so they ambush their prey by hiding in thick vegetation before taking the unsuspecting animal by surprise by pouncing on it and delivering a fatal bite.

Lynx have a light brown coat with black spots or marks. They are well known for their very short tails and tufts of black fur above each ear. It is thought that these tufts of fur enhance their hearing and allow the lynx to hear and locate their prey easily.

Species of lynx that live in cold habitats have thick fur to help keep them warm and large padded paws which stop them from sinking into the snow.



1) How many species of lynx are there?

three

four

five

2) On which continent can lynx not be found in the wild?

Europe

Africa

North America

3) What time of day do lynx hunt?

morning

afternoon

night

4) Underline the word in the text that describes a surprise attack.

5) What is the main idea of the third paragraph?

6) How are the black tufts of hair above each ear believed to help the lynx?

7) Write one way that some species of lynx are adapted to live in cold habitats.

Name: **Answers**

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Lynx's appearance / what lynx look like

6) How are the black tufts of hair above each ear believed to help the lynx?

It is thought that the black tufts improve their hearing / they help the lynx to hear their prey

7) Write one way that some species of lynx are adapted to live in cold habitats.

They have a thick coat to help keep them warm / they have large padded paws to help them to walk on snow without sinking in

Name: _____

Mountain Goats

Mountain goats are found in North America. They live in mountainous areas on steep, rocky terrain. They have white fur, long pointed horns and long hair under their chins which looks like a beard.

Their thick coat has two layers of fur to protect them from the cold in the winter. Underneath, they have a soft, woolly fur which keeps them warm. On top of the woolly layer is a second layer called guard hair, made up from long, thick hairs which protect the goat from rain, wind and snow. During the spring, the mountain goat sheds the heavy outer layer of fur, so it can stay cool in the warmer weather.

Mountain goat are excellent climbers. They have strong, muscular legs to help them climb and jump. Rubbery pads underneath their feet allow them to grip onto steep, rocky surfaces.

Mountain goats' horns grow throughout their lives. A new ring forms on the horns each year, which can tells us how old a mountain goat is. They use their horns to defend themselves from predators and other goats.



1) Which continent do mountain goats live?

Africa

North America

Asia

2) In winter, how many layers of fur do mountain goats have?

two

three

four

3) What is the outer layer of fur called?

wooly hair

outer hair

guard hair

4) Underline the word in the text that describes the process by which mountain goats lose their thick coat in the spring.

5) What is the main idea of the third paragraph?

6) Write one reason why mountain goats are excellent climbers.

7) Who do mountain goats defend themselves from with their horns?

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Climbing / why goats are excellent climbers

6) Write one reason why mountain goats are excellent climbers.

They have strong muscular legs which help them climb and jump /
They have rubbery pads underneath their feet which help them
grip

7) Who do mountain goats defend themselves from with their horns?

Predators / other goats

Name:

Mountain Lions

Mountain lions can be found in North and South America. Apart from humans, they have the widest range of any mammal in the Western Hemisphere. They are known by over 40 different names including cougar, puma and panther.

Their diet ranges from small animals such as mice, squirrels and rabbits to larger mammals such as deer. They usually hunt at night and will stalk their prey before attacking it from behind. They bury their catch under twigs and leaves and return to it to feed over several days.

Mountain lions have powerful legs and can jump up to 15 feet in the air and 40 feet forwards from a stand still position. They are also skilled climbers and will often sit in trees, ready to pounce on prey that comes nearby. Their long tail helps them to balance when climbing trees and rocky cliffs and ledges.

A female cougar usually gives birth to one to five cubs. They are born with spots on their fur, which they lose at around two and a half years old when their coat becomes plain. They are also born with blue eyes, which later change to brown.



1) Which is the only mammal that has a wider range than mountain lions in the Western Hemisphere?

- bears humans foxes

2) How many different names is a mountain lion known by?

- over 10 over 20 over 40

3) From which direction do mountain lions attack their prey?

- in front the side behind

4) Underline the word in the text that describes how an animal follows its prey without being noticed.

5) What is the main idea of the third paragraph?

6) How does a mountain lion's tail help it when moving?

7) Write one way that mountain lion cubs change as they get older.

Name: **Answers**

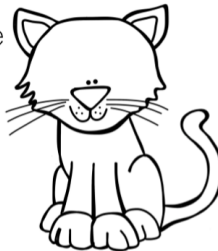
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behind

4) Underline the word in the text that describes how an animal follows its prey without being noticed.

5) What is the main idea of the third paragraph?

How a mountain lion moves

6) How does a mountain lion's tail help it when moving?

Its tail helps it to balance

7) Write one way that mountain lion cubs change as they get older.

They lose their spots and their coat becomes plain / their eyes change colour from blue to brown