Reading!

LO: To recap what I have learned from the text.



Recap: What were we reading?

Brief outline of the text:

Today, we will be learning about cats and big cats like lions. This text is taken from the 'DK' website, which is a company that creates information books for children and adults.



Task:

Create a mind map of facts about domestic and wild cats that we have learned from our text.

Glossary:

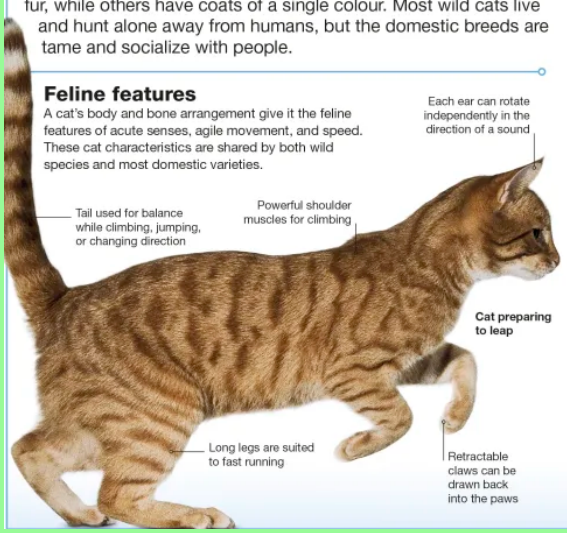
- domestic – lives inside a home
- tame – Not wild.
- acute – really good
- agile – flexible and quick
- rotate – spin
- retractable – can move in and out
- best-equipped – cats with the best features for survival
- artificial – man made
- territories – areas they own and live in
- exceptions – things that don't follow the rule
- native – live there
- solitary – alone

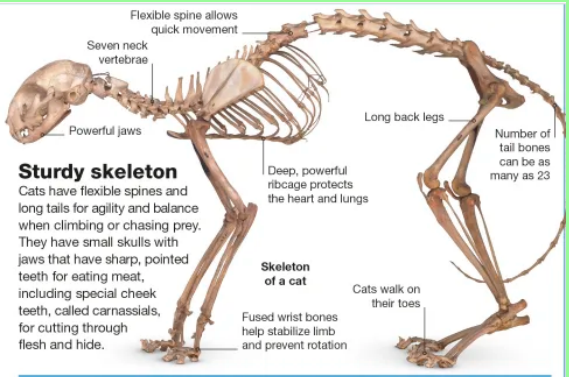
What is a cat?

Cats are carnivorous (meat-eating) mammals belonging to the Felidae family, which is made up of about 40 species of wild cat and all domestic breeds. Many wild and domestic cats have patterned fur, while others have coats of a single colour. Most wild cats live and hunt alone away from humans, but the domestic breeds are tame and socialize with people.

Feline features

A cat's body and bone arrangement give it the feline features of acute senses, agile movement, and speed. These cat characteristics are shared by both wild species and most domestic varieties.





Sturdy skeleton

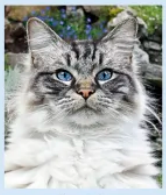
Cats have flexible spines and long tails for agility and balance when climbing or chasing prey. They have small skulls with jaws that have sharp, pointed teeth for eating meat, including special cheek teeth, called carnassials, for cutting through flesh and hide.

Selection and survival

Wild cats and pedigree domestic cats are both subject to selection. Wild cats roam free and hunt to eat, with only the best-equipped cats surviving in the wild. This natural selection has led to the evolution of today's wild cats. Pedigree cats are subject to artificial selection because humans closely control their breeding.



Tiger, a wild cat



Ragdoll, a pedigree cat

FOCUS ON...
PATTERNS
Wild cats have a variety of coat patterns to provide camouflage while hunting in their natural habitats.



▲ Dark rosettes on a lighter coloured coat are characteristic of both jaguars and leopards.



▲ Black stripes across orange fur help the tiger lie low in dense undergrowth.



▲ The sandy coat of a lion lets it blend into its grassland habitat when hunting prey.

Big Cats

The world's most famous felines are the big cats. These powerful predators occupy large territories and hunt down prey to survive in the wild. Most big cats roar, but exceptions include the snow leopard and the clouded leopard.

Jaguar
Panthera onca

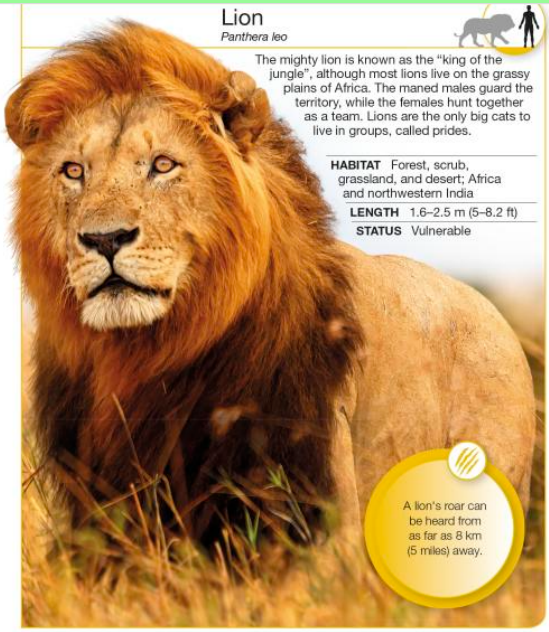


The only big cat native to Central and South America is the jaguar. These solitary hunters kill large prey on land and also stalk turtles and caimans near water. They mark their territory with their waste or by clawing trees.

HABITAT Forest and marshland; Central and South America
LENGTH 1.2–1.7 m (4–5.5 ft)
STATUS Near threatened

Strong, stocky limbs are used to climb and swim

Lion
Panthera leo



The mighty lion is known as the "king of the jungle", although most lions live on the grassy plains of Africa. The maned males guard the territory, while the females hunt together as a team. Lions are the only big cats to live in groups, called prides.

HABITAT Forest, scrub, grassland, and desert; Africa and northwestern India
LENGTH 1.6–2.5 m (5–8.2 ft)
STATUS Vulnerable

A lion's roar can be heard from as far as 8 km (5 miles) away.

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Domestic and big cats