

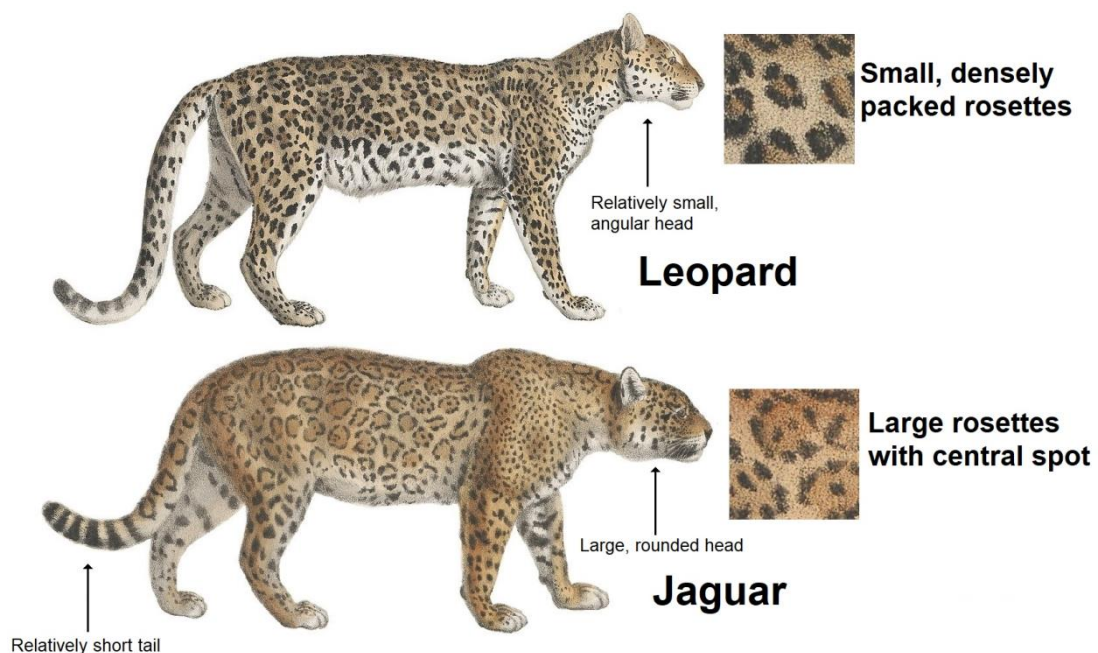


In the animal world, there is a particular group of five big cats called *panthera*. Whilst they look very beautiful, they are fierce predators. Four of the *panthera* species (lion, tiger, leopard and snow leopard) live in **Africa** and **Asia**. This leaves only one whose habitat is in the **Americas** – the **jaguar**.

Jaguars are one of the largest of the big cats. In fact, only tigers and lions are bigger. Males weigh up to 250 pounds, while females are smaller.



The jaguar wears a rose-patterned tawny fur coat. At first glance, we may confuse it with the **leopard**, but upon a closer look (don't get too close) we would see that the two actually carry some subtle differences. For example, the leopard's body is not as heavy. Its legs are longer. Its movement is more graceful. Plus, the pattern on the leopard's fur coat is smaller and lacks tiny black spots at the centre of each **rosette**. This very last clue is perhaps the easiest way to tell the leopard apart from its American cousin, the jaguar.



Fact File

1. Jaguars are nocturnal. They lounge around during the day and hunt at night.
2. Some leopards and jaguars have black fur with black spots. They are called **panthers**.
3. The native South American word for jaguar, “yaguara”, means animal that kills in a single bound.
4. Jaguars love to swim in lakes and rivers.
5. Jaguars wave their tails over water to attract fish.

There are fewer than 15,000 jaguars left in the wild



Jaguars are very **adaptive** animals. They know how to



climb, they know how to swim and they know how to survive in a wide variety of environments ranging from tropical rain forests to marshy swamps to dry woodlands to arid deserts.

Like all cats, jaguars are **carnivores**. In their native habitats of Central and South America, they are at the top of the food chain and can devour pretty much anything that comes across their path. They hunt their prey by **stalking** it through the grass and trees. Then they pounce for the kill. Jaguars eat wild pigs, turtles, cattle and even caiman, which are like alligators.

Jaguars make fierce and protective mothers. Baby jaguars are called **cubs**. Jaguar cubs usually come in litters of 2 - 4. They are born with their eyelids sealed shut. After about two weeks, the cubs are able to see for the first time. After six months, the cubs' mother will teach them how to hunt, and after their second birthday, the cub will leave their mother to live on their own.



Glossary

Adaptive: able to change to survive

Caiman: a type of reptile similar to an alligator

Carnivore: an animal that eats meat, not plants

Habitat: the landscape that an animal prefers to live in

Rosette: a marking or group of markings that look like a rose

Tawny: gold or bronze

Jaguars

Day 1 Activity

LO: I can retrieve information from a text.	What I think	My teacher thinks
<i>I can remember to:</i>		
read the questions carefully.	☐	
use words found in the text in your answers.	☐	
find the words in the word search.	☐	

1. Jaguars are big _____. Only tigers and lions are _____.
2. Like all cats, jaguars are _____. They hunt their prey by _____ it through the grass and trees.
3. _____ eat wild pigs, _____, cattle and even _____, which are like alligators.
4. Jaguars are _____. They hunt at night.
5. Some jaguars are _____ with spots. They are sometime called _____, but they are still really jaguars.
6. Jaguars love to _____ in lakes and rivers.
7. Jaguars wave their _____ over water to attract fish.

W	S	I	X	Z	E	O	A	H	S	P	M	P	U	Q	J
A	R	R	W	N	D	A	T	T	Z	G	D	R	J	A	G
T	E	D	S	E	P	B	A	X	O	L	S	I	G	K	I
R	H	E	W	C	S	L	I	Q	M	D	T	U	Y	Z	F
Q	T	O	I	X	K	L	L	G	B	L	A	C	K	M	V
E	N	A	M	I	A	C	S	Y	G	R	C	I	K	C	D
C	A	R	N	I	V	O	R	E	S	E	L	T	R	U	T
A	P	G	R	K	E	N	O	C	T	U	R	N	A	L	E

Jaguars

Day 2 Activity

LO: I can retrieve information from a text.	What I think	My teacher thinks
<i>I can remember to:</i>		
reread the text.	☐	
use the descriptions to help you.	☐	

Draw and colour a picture that contains both a leopard and a jaguar.

It might help you to find the description of how leopards and jaguars are different. It would be nice if they were in the same scene as each other. What might a leopard and jaguar both enjoy doing?

Jaguars

Day 3 Activity

LO: I can retrieve information from a text.	What I think	My teacher thinks
<i>I can remember to:</i>		
reread the text carefully.	☐	
pick out some interesting facts.	☐	
make up a question for that fact to be the answer.	☐	

Make a Jaguar Quiz for your parents.

You should have at least five questions and answers.

Use the text to help you to think of the questions and answers.

e.g.

In the text it says, "Jaguars make fierce and protective mothers. Baby jaguars are called **cubs**. Jaguar cubs usually come in litters of 2 - 4."

So my question could be: **How many cubs does a mother jaguar usually have at a time?**