



Whilst they look very beautiful, big cats are fierce predators. Many big cats live in **Africa** and **Asia**. The only one whose **habitat** is in the **Americas** is the **jaguar**.

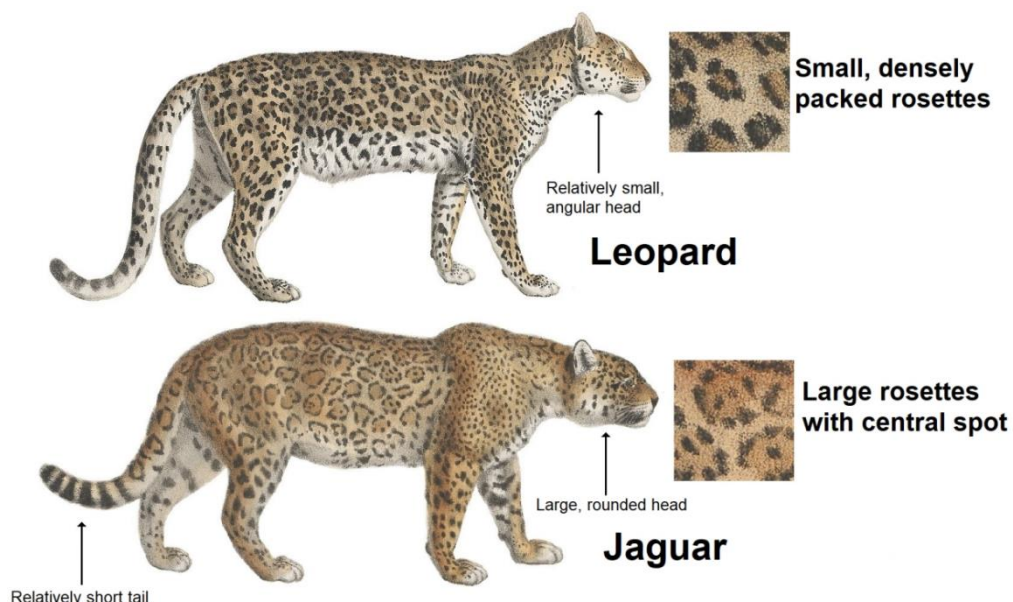
Jaguars are one of the largest of the big cats. In fact, only tigers and lions are bigger. Males weigh up to 250 pounds, while females are smaller.



The jaguar has a spotted fur coat. It is easy to confuse it with the **leopard**, but upon a closer look we would see that there are differences between the two.

For example, the leopard:

- has a lighter body;
- has longer legs;
- moves more smoothly;
- has smaller **rosettes**, which don't have tiny black spots in the middle.



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. Jaguars love to swim in lakes and rivers.
4. Jaguars wave their tails over water to attract fish.



Like all cats, jaguars are **carnivores**. They hunt their prey by **stalking** it through the grass and trees. Then they pounce for the kill. Jaguars eat wild pigs, turtles, cows 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. 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

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

Stalking: sneaking up silently behind something

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. Jaguars are _____. They hunt at night.
3. Some jaguars are _____ with spots. They are sometime called _____, but they are still really jaguars.
4. Jaguars love to _____ in lakes and rivers.
5. 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?**