



For more of these fun fact sheets, grab a copy of the latest issue of Lovatts Puzzle Fun for Kids! Available from all good newsagents or by subscription from the website.

BEAUTIFUL BIG CATS

Did you know your pet kitty is related to lions, tigers and leopards? Like domestic cats, big cats have claws, sharp teeth, whiskers, long tails and fur coats. They hunt and eat meat. Their babies are called cubs or kittens.

LION



Lions live in the grassy plains of Africa. A lion has a tawny brown coat and a tail with a tufted end. The males have magnificent manes that grow when they are three years old. A group of lions is called a pride. Females do most of the hunting while males protect the pride's territory. Baby lions are called cubs. Lions rest for about 20 hours a day and are active in the morning and at night. Lions make a few different sounds. The loudest sound is a roar, they also purr when happy, woof when startled and make a puffing sound when greeting each other. They often rub heads together as a greeting as well.

TIGER



The tiger comes from Asia and is the largest of the big cats. A tiger's orange-yellow coat with black stripes makes it hard to see between trees and in long grass. Tigers live alone and hunt at dusk and dawn. They eat about 18kgs of meat a day. They are strong swimmers but not very good at climbing. The Bengal tiger is the national symbol of India and Bangladesh. White tigers are a variation of Bengal tigers. They are very rare in the wild.

BLACK PANTHER



Black Panthers are black variants of leopards and jaguars. They have the markings such as spots and bands but they are hard to see because of the black fur. You can see these markings in the sunlight.

SNOW LEOPARD



Snow leopards live in cold mountain areas of Asia, including the Himalayas. They have long, soft woolly fur of a whitish grey colour covered with ringed spots. Cubs are born in spring as the weather gets warmer and stay with their mothers for about a year and a half. Snow leopards do not roar. Because they are nocturnal and live in remote areas not much is known about these beautiful creatures.

CHEETAH



Cheetahs are from Africa and West Asia. They have slender bodies, small heads, golden coats with black spots and long tails with black bands. A cheetah can run as fast as 100kms per hour! (The fastest human can run only about 30kms/hr.) Female cheetahs live alone. Males live in small groups of two to four brothers, called coalitions. Cheetahs hunt in the middle of the day to avoid lions and leopards. Cheetah means 'spotted one'. These beautiful animals can be tamed and Ancient Egyptians kept them as pets.

JAGUAR



Jaguars live in the forests of America including the Amazon Jungle. Smaller than tigers and lions, they have dark yellow-orange coats with black rings and spots. They are similar to leopards but have shorter tails and a bigger head. They are good swimmers and sometimes catch fish to eat. Jaguars live alone. Kittens live with their mother for about a year or two. Jaguars don't roar but they do growl.

CLOUDED LEOPARD



These beautiful animals are the smallest of the big cats. Their fur has a pale yellow-brown background with large cloud-like patterns. Clouded leopards live in the tropical forests of South Eastern Asia. They climb trees easily and have a very long tail which helps them to balance. Their large paws and sharp claws mean they

can climb upside down and hang from branches. They can even run down a tree branch forwards. Clouded leopards also have very large teeth for their size. They hunt mainly on the ground at night. Clouded leopards keep much to themselves and live in out of the way places.

CROSSWORD

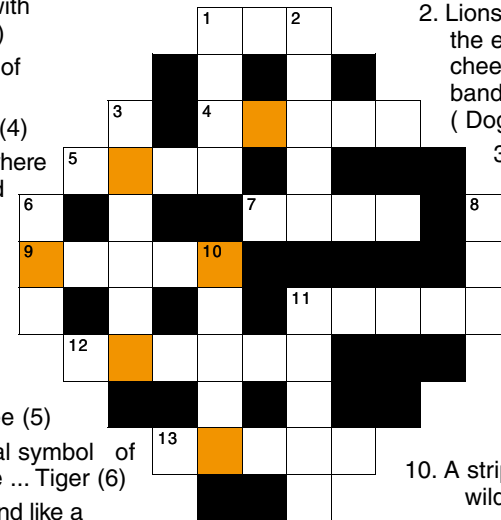
All the answers to the crossword below are underlined in the text

ACROSS

- An animal like a dog or cat that lives with a family (3)
- The colour of snow (5)
- Baby lions (4)
- Continent where you will find Japan & India (4)
- Nocturnal animals come out at this time (5)
- Go up a tree (5)
- The national symbol of India is the ... Tiger (6)
- Make a sound like a dog or bear (it rhymes with howl) (5)

DOWN

- A cat's feet (4)
- Lions have tufts on the ends of theirs, cheetahs have black bands on theirs. (Dogs wag theirs) (5)
- Jaguars live in the Amazon ... (6)
- The name Cheetah means spotted ... (3)
- When they greet each other, lions often ... their heads together (3)
- A striped jungle wild cat (5)
- Sharp nails on the feet of cats (5)



SOLUTION



Write the letters from the shaded squares into the spaces above