



Lazy Leopards

May 10, 2012

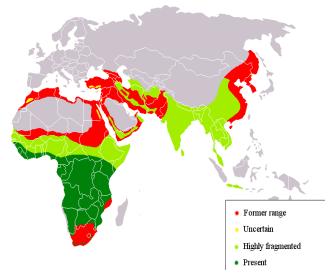
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Habitat

Since they're are different kind of leopards, they live in different habitats. For example, African leopards live in the hot African plains. Other leop-

ards, such as the snow leopard, live in the cold, icy slopes of the Himalayas. Most African Leopards in sub-Saharan Africa, north-east Africa, India, central Asia, and China. But most leopards like to hang out in trees, but of course until feeding time.



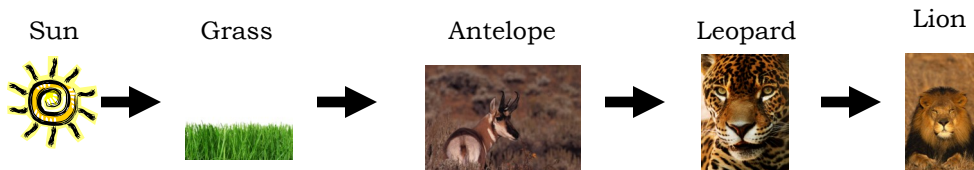
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Food Chain



The leopard, a carnivore, eats many things. Some of them being deer (herbivore), rodents (omnivores), jackals (carnivore), dogs (omnivore), etc. When leopards find something to eat, they kill it drag it up a tree, and might not come back for days before eating it again. But sometimes when lions are hungry, they decide to take the leopards as their meal, too.

Life Cycle

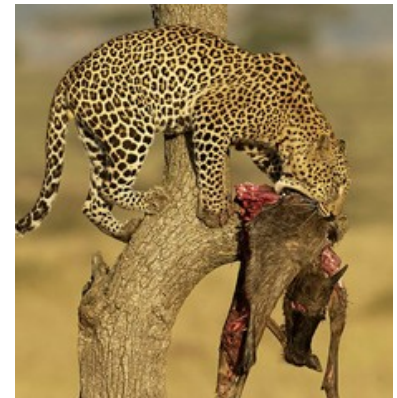


The leopard goes through direct development. They are born alive from a cub to an adult. Their lifespan is 10-15 years, 20 years in captivity. Cubs stay with their mothers for about 22 months.

Behavioral Adaptations

Leopards are largely nocturnal, so they sleep and rest most of the day, and hunt at night. They are taught how to stalk prey, climb and hide food in trees, and mark borders. These are all behavioral adaptations. Their parents

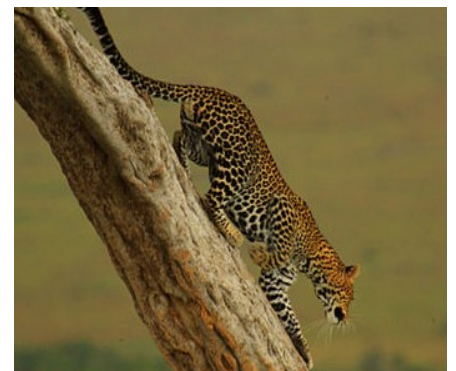
taught them how to do most of the things that they use to survive. But sometimes, they are just instinct.



Physical Adaptations

Leopards use their spotted coats to blend in with the tall grasses on the plains. They have special ankle bones that help them climb down trees head-first. Their long tail helps them bal-

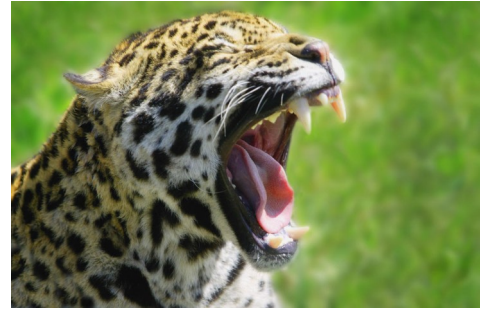
ance as they go up and down the trees. The big pads leopards have on their feet help them to travel safely on rocky surfaces. Leopards can also hunt from trees, as well as the ground.



Competition

Leopards compete for food with many different animals on the African plains. Some of their competitors being hyenas, cheetahs, lions, tigers, wild dogs and even other

leopards! Most of them eat gazelle, antelope wildebeest, or zebras. But leopards fight for their food, and drag it up into trees, protecting it from predators



A Leopard competes with a Tiger because they hunt the same prey.

Impact on Environment

The leopards role that it plays in its environment (niche) is simple. It is not picky about its food, so it will find anything to eat, dead animals and even humans. They hunt during day

and night, finding numerous things to eat. It takes baths in rivers, allowing it to swim. It is hunted by no creature, but hunts many carnivores itself. Leopards do not hibernate, so in the

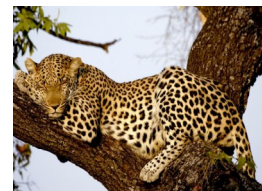
winter it eats things such as starved deer, and sleeping carnivores. Leopards also play the role of keeping their prey in a balanced position so they don't get overpopulated.

Endangered or Not?

Leopards are endangered due to various things such as fur trade and over hunting. People do this for their beautiful spotted coat. People shoot

them if they get too close to a village. Forests are also being torn down (deforestation). Some people also believe leopard bones and

whiskers are medicine. This this is how most of them are dying out.



Fun Facts



Leopards are the fourth largest cat in the world and the strongest climber among any cat. They weigh 70-180 pounds with a body length of 4-6 feet. They are solitary and nocturnal animals. They hunt on land and in water-they are magnificent swimmers. Leopards can also easily jump long distances.

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