



Imagine a big cat, sleek and majestic, with a coat that shines like a copper sunrise - that's a cougar for you! Cougars are the largest cats that can purr and meow, just like your pet kitty at home, but they're a whole lot bigger. Their bodies are lean and muscular, helping them to be excellent climbers and swimmers. With a tail almost as long as their body and intense, piercing eyes, these cats are a sight to behold!



From the glowing description, you might think cougars live in some exotic, far-off place, but they're actually closer than you think. Cougars are found all across the Americas, from the snowy mountains of Canada to the lush rainforests of South America. They make their homes in a variety of habitats, including forests, deserts, and even swamps! Wherever there's enough food and a cozy place to nap, you can bet a cougar might be nearby.

Speaking of food, you might be wondering what cougars munch on for their meals. Cougars are carnivores, which means they eat meat, with a diet mainly made up of deer, but they'll also snack on smaller creatures like insects and rodents. They're solitary hunters, using their incredible speed and powerful paws to take down their prey. But don't worry! Cougars prefer to steer clear of humans and are more likely to run away than cause any trouble.

Now that we've talked about their habitat and food, let's dive into the life cycle of a cougar. Cougars have a lifespan of roughly 8 to 13 years in the wild. They start life as adorable kittens, stay with their mother for about two years, and then set off to establish their own territory. So, whether they're snoozing in a tree or sprinting after a meal, cougars truly are amazing creatures, don't you think?





Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) Are cougars good at climbing and swimming?
 - A. No, they can't swim at all.
 - B. No, they can't climb at all.
 - C. No, they only climb but don't swim.
 - D. Yes, they are excellent climbers and swimmers.
- 2) What kind of hunters are cougars?
 - A. Scavengers
 - B. Ambush hunters
 - C. Solitary hunters
 - D. Pack hunters
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 - C. They eat fruits and vegetables.
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- 4) What can a cougar's tail be compared to in terms of length?
 - A. Almost as long as their body
 - B. Much longer than their body
 - C. Only half the length of their body
 - D. Just a little shorter than their body
- 5) What is the lifespan of cougars in the wild?
 - A. Over 20 years
 - B. Less than 5 years
 - C. Roughly 8 to 13 years
 - D. Around 15 years
- 6) Can cougars survive in swamps?
 - A. No, they only survive in the mountains.
 - B. No, they only survive in deserts and forests.
 - C. No, they can't survive in the swamps.
 - D. Yes, they can make their homes in swamps.
- 7) Do cougars eat smaller animals?
 - A. Yes, they snack on insects and rodents.
 - B. No, they are vegetarians.
 - C. No, they only eat fish.
 - D. No, they only eat larger animals like deer.
- 8) How do cougars feel about humans?
 - A. They try to communicate with humans.
 - B. They seek out humans for company.
 - C. They protect humans from other animals.
 - D. They prefer to steer clear of humans.
- 9) How long do cougars usually stay with their mother?
 - A. They never stay with their mother
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 - C. For about two years
 - D. For more than five years
- 10) Where can you find cougars?
 - A. In the Arctic
 - B. Only in Africa
 - C. Across the Americas
 - D. In Asia and Europe



Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or if it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 11) "We cougars live up to 50 years in the wild. We have a very long lifespan."
- 12) "You might find me in the rainforests of South America or the snowy mountains of Canada!"
- 13) "Plants and fruit are our main source of food. We cougars are actually vegetarians."
- 14) "I'm not much of a swimmer."
- 15) "I start life as a fluffy kitten just like you, then stay with my mother for about two years before setting off on my own."
- 16) "I only live in snowy mountains. The more snow, the better!"
- 17) "Although I have longer legs and a wider stride than your pet kitty, I still can purr and meow."
- 18) "I don't mind swimming or climbing high trees."
- 19) "We dislike climbing trees. We feel dizzy when we are too high up."
- 20) "We're very social creatures and love hunting in groups. There's safety in numbers after all."
- 21) "I'm kind of a lone wolf, or should I say lone big cat, as I prefer my own company rather than hanging out."

Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 22) Cougars can live for around 8 to 13 years in their natural habitat.
- 23) It's incredible that cougars travel such long distances to find their own territory when they grow up.
- 24) Cougars get their main diet from eating deer, but they also consume smaller animals like insects and rodents.
- 25) Cougars have the most beautiful and intense eyes out of all the big cats.
- 26) Cougars are the biggest cats that can purr and meow.
- 27) The way cougars play with their siblings when they are young is the cutest thing ever.
- 28) Cougars have a tail that is almost as long as their entire body.
- 29) Cougars can be found in forests, deserts, and swamps.
- 30) Cougars are the most beautiful animals in the world with their shining copper coats.
- 31) It's amazing that cougars can live in so many different types of places, from snowy mountains to hot deserts.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 32) Cougars are carnivores.
- 33) Cougars often hunt in groups to bring down big prey.
- 34) Cougars are solitary hunters.
- 35) Cougars have a lifespan of up to 18 years.
- 36) Cougars may be found in forests or deserts.
- 37) Cougars are found only in Europe and Asia.



- 38) Cougars mainly eat insects and rodents.
- 39) Cougars are omnivores.
- 40) Cougars can live for up to 13 years in the wild.
- 41) Cougars are the largest cats that can purr and meow.

Determine which choice is the expanded form of the underlined contraction.

- 42) Cougars aren't good swimmers, but they can move through water if necessary.
A. can not B. are not
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- 45) A baby cougar's called a cub, and they're born with spots.
A. they are B. they will
C. they do D. they were
- 46) Cougars don't usually attack humans unless they feel threatened.
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Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- 47) Cougars are solitary animals, meaning they prefer to live and hunt alone.
- 48) How long do cougars live?
- 49) Cougars are also known as mountain lions, pumas, or panthers.
- 50) Cougars are large wild cats that live in North and South America.
- 51) Do cougars live alone or in groups?
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- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 28. _____ | |
| 4. _____ | 29. _____ | |
| 5. _____ | 30. _____ | |
| 6. _____ | 31. _____ | |
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|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. <u>D</u> | 26. <u>fact</u> | 51. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 2. <u>C</u> | 27. <u>opinion</u> | 52. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 3. <u>B</u> | 28. <u>fact</u> | |
| 4. <u>A</u> | 29. <u>fact</u> | |
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| 6. <u>D</u> | 31. <u>opinion</u> | |
| 7. <u>A</u> | 32. <u>true</u> | |
| 8. <u>D</u> | 33. <u>false</u> | |
| 9. <u>C</u> | 34. <u>true</u> | |
| 10. <u>C</u> | 35. <u>false</u> | |
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| 17. <u>true</u> | 42. <u>B</u> | |
| 18. <u>true</u> | 43. <u>A</u> | |
| 19. <u>false</u> | 44. <u>D</u> | |
| 20. <u>false</u> | 45. <u>A</u> | |
| 21. <u>true</u> | 46. <u>C</u> | |
| 22. <u>fact</u> | 47. <u>declarative</u> | |
| 23. <u>opinion</u> | 48. <u>interrogative</u> | |
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