

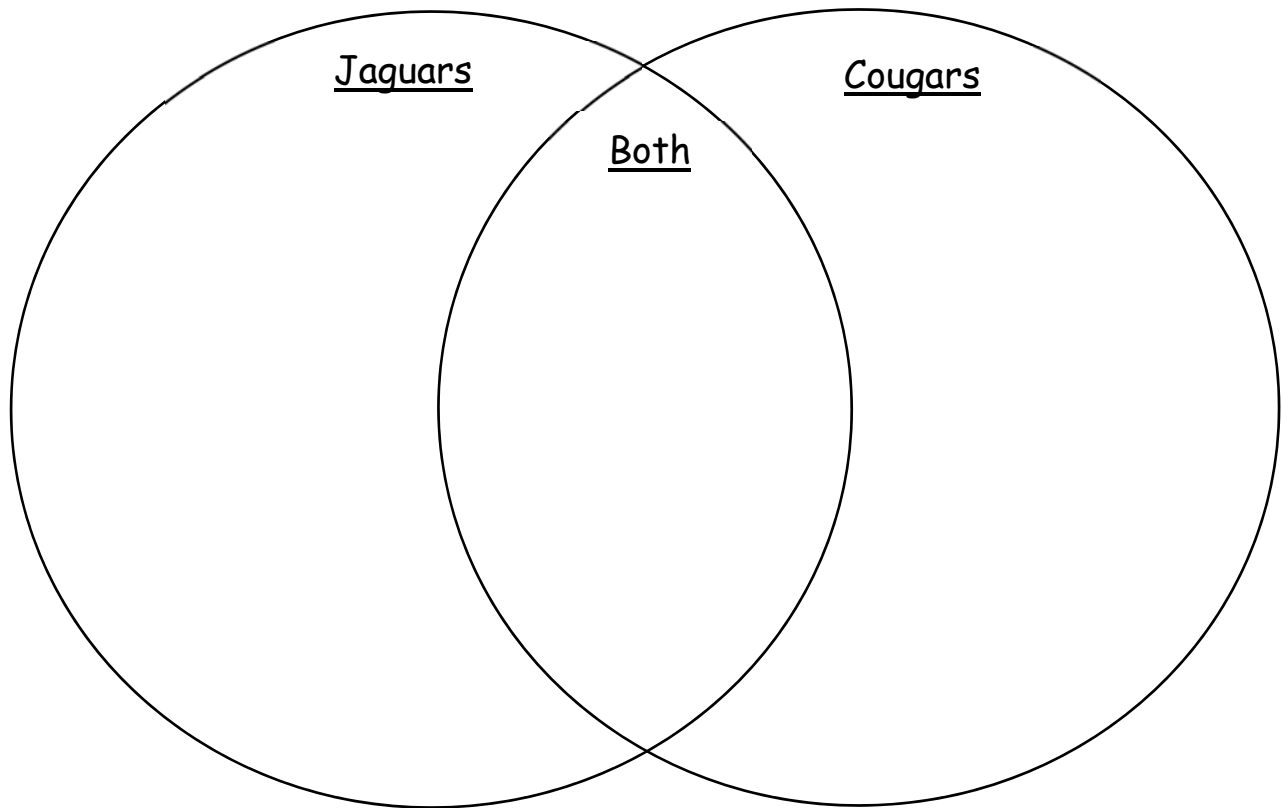
Daily Launch Day 21

Do Now: Cougar and Jaguar Cards

Look at the Cougar and Jaguar Cards your teacher provided. You have already entered information on the Cheetah, Lion, and Tiger Cards. Turn to pages 14 and 15 in *Big Cats*.

Begin filling out your Cougar and Jaguar cards using the information provided in the book.

If you finish early, fill out the graphic organizer below comparing cougars and jaguars.



Daily Launch Day 22



Do Now: Personal Reflection – “My Favorite Big Cat”

Think back over the big cats you have learned about during this unit. Which big cat is your favorite? Why? What would you still like to learn about this big cat?

Write a personal reflection in the space below. Identify which big cat is your favorite. Give at least two reasons for your choice. Also, list at least two things you still want to find out about this cat.

<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	<i>Dear Diary,</i>
<input type="radio"/>	<i>My favorite big cat is the...</i>
<input type="radio"/>	<i>because first of all</i>
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	<i>and also</i>
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	<i>What I still want to learn is</i>
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	<i>and also</i>
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	

Focus on: The Jaguar

By Gale Cengage Learning, adapted by Newsela and ALFA staff

The jaguar is the largest living member of the cat family in North and South America. It is the third largest in the world. Its coat ranges from yellow-brown to reddish-brown. It is covered with black spots and rosettes, or rings. An average adult jaguar has a head and body length of 4 to 6 feet and a tail length of 18 to 30 inches. It weighs between 100 and 250 pounds. Of the big cats, only the jaguar and the snow leopard do not seem to roar.



A jaguar on the prowl. Jaguars live in various forested and open habitats, but they like to stay near bodies of water.
Photo: USFWS via Wikimedia Commons.

Jaguars are good swimmers, runners, and tree climbers. Their diet includes fish, turtles, monkeys, deer, and cattle. A jaguar can even eat a small alligator! Jaguars are solitary mammals, meaning they live alone. They are quick to defend their territory. For male jaguars, this territory can reach up to 80 square miles. For females, it can reach up to 27 square miles.

Male and female jaguars come together only to mate. In tropical areas, mating takes place at any time during the year. In areas with cooler climates, jaguars mate in the spring. After a pregnancy period, a female jaguar gives birth to one

 An infographic about the jaguar. It features a circular inset of a jaguar's face in the top left, a map of Central and South America in the bottom left, and a speech bubble with a 'Fun Fact' on the right. The background is a close-up of jaguar fur.

Jaguar

Scientific Name: *Panthera onca*

Range: North America, Central America, South America

Type: Mammal

Length: 4 to 6 feet

Weight: 100 to 250 pounds

Diet: Carnivore

Status: Near-threatened

Fun Fact:
The jaguar has an important role in many Native American cultures. In some traditions, the jaguar represents the lord of the underworld.

newsela

Source: Gale/Cengage, National Geographic

to four cubs. She raises the cubs on her own. They may stay with her for up to two years.

Habitat and Population

Jaguars are found in parts of North, Central and South America, from the southwestern United States to northern Argentina. The animals are rare and very private, so they are hard to count. Scientists do not know the exact number of jaguars remaining in the wild. However, one estimate puts the number at 15,000. Jaguars live in a range of habitats. These include forests, woodlands, swamps, and flat grasslands known as savannas.

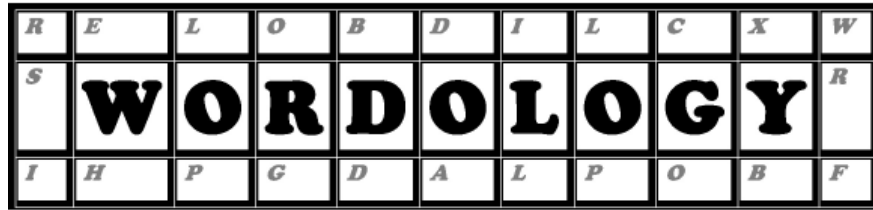


History and Conservation

Jaguars used to cover much more territory. Today, researchers believe the largest group of jaguars live in the Amazon rain forest. One reason there are fewer jaguars is human activity, especially hunting. For years, people have hunted the jaguar for its beautiful coat. In the 1960s, spotted cat skins were in great demand. Today, that has changed. International treaties have made it illegal to trade cat skins.

Another reason jaguars continue to lose more of their land is deforestation. The clearing of forests has quickly destroyed the animal's original habitat. Jaguars are now forced to live next to farmland. They are often killed by farmers because they prey on farm animals.

Some countries have set aside land for jaguars. Small populations live in national parks in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela. Some of these areas contain private ranches. They provide protection for jaguar pairs and families. In the United States, only a small number of males have been spotted since 1982. They were all seen near the Mexican border. In 2014, the U.S. government set aside some land there. It is nearly as big as the state of Rhode Island. The land is being used to help protect jaguar populations.



Wordology Activity #1: Vocabulary Scramble

Instructions: Unscramble the letters to find words that fit in the boxes. All the words come from the Word Bank at the bottom of the page.

1. Another word for “advise” is _____.

cremdenom

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

2. People who study a topic carefully are called _____.

shercarseer

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

3. The police held an _____ to discover the thief.

nogittavenisi

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

4. Her story was so _____ that I couldn’t believe it.

rectadheff

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

5. _____ left the earth bare so it washed away easily.

noorstedefati

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

6. Animals that hunt other animals as prey are _____.

dorpaster

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

7. We hurried home to avoid _____ the city curfew rules.

lavitonig

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

8. The bullies _____ Keyonna so much about her old clothes that she didn’t feel like going to school.

nutadet

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Word Bank

researchers

predators

far-fetched

devoured

recommend

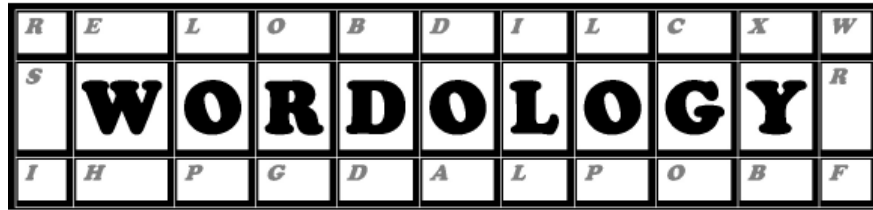
logging

violating

deforestation

investigation

taunted



Wordology Activity #2: Find the Cat Habitat!

Instructions: Read each definition. Choose a word from the Word Bank that matches it. Write the word and the letter that goes with it in the answer space. When you finish, read down the letter boxes to find a place where big cats live. Some words and definitions are used more than once. One answer has already been filled in for you.

Definitions

1. When all the trees are gone.....
2. People who study something scientifically.....
3. Ate quickly and hungrily.....
4. Teased or made fun of.....
5. People who study something scientifically.....
6. Unbelievable or ridiculous.....
7. To advise or suggest.....
8. When all the trees are gone.....
9. A study to find out what happened.....

Words and matching letters

<u>Deforestation</u>	I

Read down the letters in the boxes on the right side. Which place do they name where big cats live? Write it here!

Word Bank

researchers - N far-fetched - E deforestation - I violating - M taunted - O
 predators - U devoured - D recommend - S investigation - A

R	E	L	O	B	D	I	L	C	X	W
S	W	O	R	D	O	L	O	G	Y	R
I	H	P	G	D	A	L	P	O	B	F

Wordology Activity #3: A Memo to the Government

Instructions: Pretend you are a researcher hired to advise government officials in **Tanzania, Indonesia, or California** on how to bring down the number of big cat attacks. What should they do? Choose one of these places and write it in the “TO” space, then write your advice. (You can also use the back of the page if you need to.) Use as many of the vocabulary words as you can in your advice.

<u>Vocabulary Words</u>			
recommend	researchers	predators	logging
deforestation	violating	investigation	far-fetched

TO: Government officials in _____

FROM: _____

SUBJECT: Reducing the Number of Big Cat Attacks

Dear officials, We are sorry you are having so many big cat attacks in _____ . To help solve this problem, _____



R	E	L	O	B	D	I	L	C	X	W
S	W	O	R	D	O	L	O	G	Y	R
I	H	P	G	D	A	L	P	O	B	F

Wordology Activity #4: “Big Cat Attack!” Cryptogram

Instructions: At the bottom of this **Cryptogram**, there is a message in code. Every number stands for a letter. A few letters have been filled in. To solve the puzzle, you need to figure out which letters go with the other numbers. Once you figure out a letter, you can add it to the Key, and everywhere in the message that you see that number. Look for short, familiar words to get you started, and use logic to figure it out. (**Hint:** The message includes several of the vocabulary words from “Big Cat Attack!”)

Key:

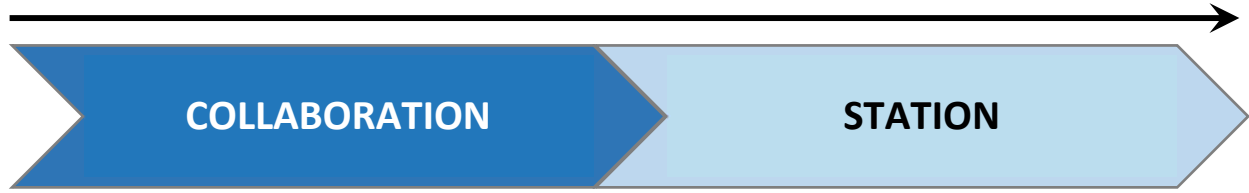
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
						16								6					24						

Message:

_ _ _ T _ _ _ T _ O _ _ O _ _ D T _ _
 4 25 23 25 8 11 14 24 23 16 4 24 23 6 25 1 6 19 25 17 24 7 11

_ _ _ D _ T O _ _ D _ _ O _ _ _ D _ _ _ _ _ _ _
 26 22 11 17 4 24 6 22 14 17 11 8 6 19 22 11 17 22 11 14 11 4 22 5 7 11 22 14

_ _ O T _ _ _ T _ D T _ _ _ .
 13 7 6 24 4 19 25 24 11 17 24 7 11 10

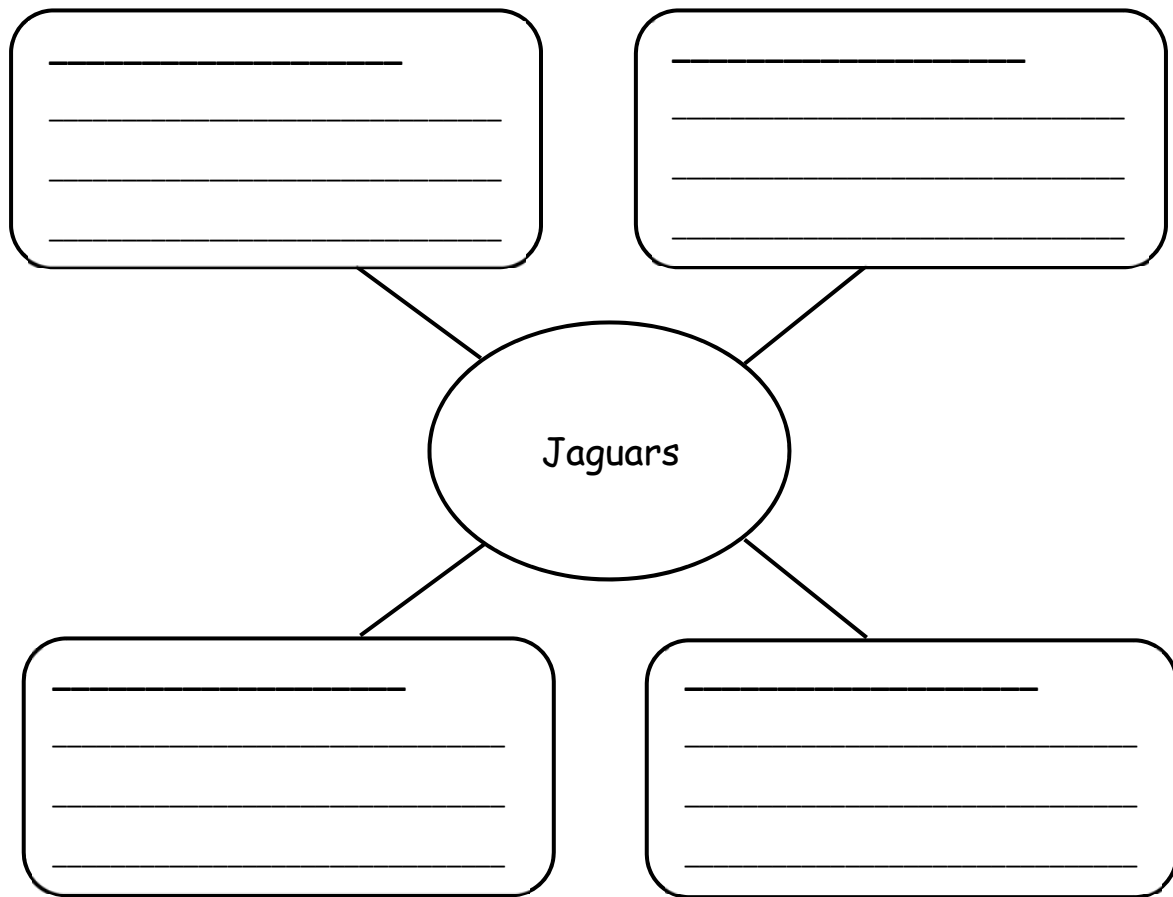


"Focus on: The Jaguar"

Graphic organizer

With your team, read together the **first page only** of "Focus on: The Jaguar." Brainstorm with your team how you would organize the information in a graphic organizer. What categories would you use? **Note:** It's okay if you have different ideas. This is a time to share viewpoints and consider what other people think.

After your discussion, develop your own graphic organizer to organize the Jaguar information. You can use the form below or create your own on the back of this page.



Also, be sure to add information from the article to your "Jaguar Card."

 **Media Madness**

Instructions: Listen to the audio recording from the book *Big Cats* by Seymour Simon on your device (tablet or laptop). As you listen, read along on pages 5, 7, and 38-39 in the book. (**Note:** This is a different *Big Cats* book from the one we have been using. Look for the author's name, **Seymour Simon**, on the cover.) Notice the pictures too. Then, use the information you've read and heard to answer the questions below.

1. Write down one new or interesting fact that you learned from the reading.

2. How does this reading relate to the Essential Question, *What are the effects of human interaction with wild animals?*

3. Now flip through the other pages in Seymour Simon's *Big Cats*. What other big cats do these pages describe? List as many as you can find.

4. What **differences** do you notice between Seymour Simon's *Big Cats* and the other (Steck-Vaughn) *Big Cats* book? List some of the differences here.
