

Feisty Felines Independent Project

Welcome to a fun and engaging part of the ALFA lab—your independent project. You will have an opportunity to get creative doing one of the following projects related to the big cats we have been learning about.

- You may work alone or with **one** other person on your team (no groups of 3 or 4).
- You will have time to work on your project in class (mostly in **Media Madness**).
- You will have 5 to 8 minutes to present your project to the whole class at the end of the unit.
- The final project will be graded (and will be a big part of your final grade.).
- The more creative and unique your project, the higher the grade – and the more interesting and memorable your presentation will be for your class.

You can choose among the following projects:

1. A classroom “museum” exhibit or poster about your cat
2. A newsletter on a big cat-related theme
3. A digital (slide) presentation on your favorite big cat
4. A model habitat for your cat (you may need to bring your own materials)
5. A board game OR a quiz game (with rules) using facts about big cats

Options # 2 and 5 (the newsletter and the board game) can use facts about many different big cats. However, for Options #1, 3, or 4, you should choose one type of cat to focus on.

What cat (or topic) will you focus on? _____

What project would you like to try? _____

Why are you interested in this project?

What challenges will you face working on this project?

My Long-Term Plan

To accomplish this long-term assignment, you will need to break up the project into smaller steps. Here's a list (you can add more) of steps you need to complete to have your project ready to go by the time it is due.

Step 1: **Pick** a cat to focus on (or a theme, for a board game or newsletter).

- My cat (or theme): _____

Step 2: **Read** about your topic. (You can learn more about the different kinds of big cats in Seymour Simon's *Big Cats* book.)

- Make sure you understand the information. Reach out for help if something is unclear.

Step 3: **Research** your cat (or topic) on the internet.

- Use a search engine to find more information. Take notes.
- Are there any interesting videos or documentaries about your cat or topic?

Step 4: **Plan** your project. What steps do you need to finish? (The steps will be different since everyone has a different project. Use another sheet of paper if you need to.)

Example: Find and save at least four images related to my cat.

- Steps: _____
- Steps: _____
- Steps: _____
- Steps: _____

Step 5: **Complete** your project.

- Make sure you carry out all the steps you listed.
- Present your project to a friend. Get feedback on what went well and what you can improve.

Step 6: **Present** your work to the class.

Feisty Felines Independent Project Guide Sheet: Museum Exhibit or Poster

For this project, you will create a museum exhibit or a poster about **one** of the Big Cats you have been learning about. To complete this project successfully, you must:

- Do more research about the cat, using online and/or print sources, so that you become an expert
- Create an attractive museum exhibit or a poster to inform your class about the cat

Check with your teacher about materials: you may need to provide a poster board for your poster, or a flat box or surface to hold your museum exhibit.

Researching your cat

Your teacher will provide some print resources on big cats that you can use. You should also use a search engine to learn more about the cat online. You can use your “Cat Card” to take notes or write your notes on a separate page. You should also keep a list of the books, web pages, and other sources you use.

When you have enough notes, you may want to create a graphic organizer to connect the information in a logical way.

Museum exhibit or poster

Your exhibit or poster should include information about your cat, attractively presented, including:

- A display card showing the name of the cat (Lion, Tiger, etc.) and your name
- At least six pictures, boxes of text, and/or “artifacts” related to your cat (artifacts can be fake)
- A caption or label for each picture or “artifact”

You can include more information if you want to.

Get creative!

Feisty Felines Independent Project Guide Sheet: Newsletter

For this project, you will create a newsletter about a Big Cat **species** OR a **theme** related to big cats (for example, “Big Cat Refuges” or “Big Cat Habitats”). To complete this project successfully, you must:

- Do more research about the cat OR theme, using online and/or print sources, so that you become an expert
- Create an attractive newsletter at least **two pages** long using a word processing program

Researching your cat or topic

Your teacher will provide some print resources that you can use. You should also use a search engine to learn more online. You should find ideas for at least three different “articles” or “stories” to put in the newsletter. You should also find and save at least two copyright-free graphics (such as photos, maps, or charts) that relate to your articles. Keep notes in a text document or on a piece of paper. Also, keep a list of the books, web pages, and other sources you use. (Note: *You must write the articles yourself.* Do **not** just “cut and paste” from a web page.)

When you have enough notes, you may want to use a graphic organizer to connect the information in a logical way.

Your newsletter

Your newsletter should be at least two pages long. It should include **at least** all of the following:

- An attractive title for the whole newsletter (also called a “header”)
- At least three articles, each with its own title, that you have written
- Graphics (such as photos, maps, or charts) that fit with the text
- A short table of contents on the first page

Organize your material attractively using text boxes (see *Big Cat Attack!* for an example).

Your teacher will tell you where to save your newsletter while you are working on it, and how to print it when you have finished.

Be creative!

Feisty Felines Independent Project Guide Sheet: Digital Presentations

For this project, you will create a digital presentation about **one** of the Big Cats you have been learning about. To complete this project successfully, you must:

- Do more research about the cat, using online and/or print sources, so that you become an expert
- Create an attractive digital presentation of at least 6 slides to inform your class about the cat

Researching your cat

Your teacher will provide some print resources on big cats that you can use. You should also use a search engine to learn more about the cat online. You can use your “Cat Card” to take notes or write your notes on a separate page. You should also keep a list of the books, web pages, and other sources you use.

When you have enough notes, you may want to create a graphic organizer to connect the information in a logical way.

Your digital presentation

Your digital presentation should include at least 6 slides. It should include **at least** the following:

- An attractive title slide
- Interesting facts about your cat, its behavior, and its habitat (use bullet points)
- Whether your cat’s population is endangered or threatened, and why
- Graphics such as photos or maps that fit with the text
- On the last slide, a list of the sources you used

You can also include other information (and more slides) if you want to!

Your teacher will tell you where to save your presentation while you are working on it, including graphics that you find online.

Have fun!

Feisty Felines Independent Project Guide Sheet: Model Habitat

For this project, you will create a model habitat for **one** of the Big Cats you have been learning about. To complete this project successfully, you must:

- Do more research about the cat, using online and/or print sources, so that you know what kind of habitat it needs
- Create a model habitat for the cat, for example on a board or in a box (it can be a habitat in the wild, or an enclosure for a cat refuge or zoo)
- Create a display card for your habitat telling what you included and why

You will need to find or create the materials for the habitat. Depending on the cat you choose, these might include things such as:

- A cardboard box, such as a large shoe box or small shipping box; OR
- A flat piece of plywood or heavy cardboard
- Rocks or mountains made of modeling clay, papier mache, or real rocks
- Fake water (you could use aluminum foil or plastic wrap)
- Small fake trees or grass
- Glue or other ways to hold it together

Researching your cat's habitat

Your teacher will provide some print resources on big cats that you can use. You should also use a search engine to learn more about the cat online. Take notes on your "Cat Card" or on a separate page. Keep a list of the sources you use.

When you have enough ideas, make a plan for your habitat.

Your habitat

Your habitat should include whatever your cat will need to be happy. Be creative!

Your display card

Your display card should include the following information

- The name of the cat (such as Lion, Tiger, Cheetah, etc.)
- Whether it is a wild habitat or an enclosure for a zoo or refuge
- A list of the important features you included
- Your name

Feisty Felines Independent Project Guide Sheet: Board Game or Quiz Game

For this project, you will create a board game OR a quiz game using questions about big cats. To complete this project successfully, you must:

- Decide what kind of game you want to create: a board game (like “Monopoly” or “Sorry”) or a quiz game (like “Jeopardy”)
- Collect enough facts about big cats to create at least 25 questions and answers for the game
- Decide how the game will be played, what the rules are, and how to win
- Create the materials for your game, such as
 - Question and answer cards
 - A board and playing pieces (for a board game)
 - A list of rules

Collecting facts and writing questions

You can use the ALFA lab resources (books and readings), other print resources that your teacher provides, and a search engine to find facts. Make sure the facts are not too easy or too hard. (For example, “What kind of big cat has a mane?” is too easy. “How much does a Sumatran tiger weigh?” is too hard.) Write question-and-answer cards about the facts. You can write multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, or a combination of both. (*Hint: Write the question on the front and the answer on the back if one person is going to draw the card, read the question, and answer it. But write the question and answer on the same side of the card if one person will be reading the question aloud and another person will be answering it.*)

Your game

Your game should include **at least**:

- 25 question-and-answer cards
- A list of rules that make sense

It might also include

- A game board and playing pieces
- A scorecard

Neatness counts!

Rubric for Big Cat Museum Display or Poster

Criteria	Awesome!	Good Job	Needs Work
<p>Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facts are accurate and interesting ○ Display includes appropriate pictures and/or “artifacts” ○ Information is logically organized and presented 			
<p>Format</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presentation includes a display card showing cat name and student’s name ○ Presentation includes at least six pictures, text portions, and/or “artifacts” ○ Pictures and “artifacts” are appropriately labeled ○ Display is neat and attractive 			
<p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presenter is enthusiastic and excited about material ○ Presenter is organized and able to explain features of display 			
<p>Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presentation shows evidence of independent research (print and online sources of information) 			

Rubric for Big Cat Newsletter

Criteria	Awesome!	Good Job	Needs Work
<p>Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facts are accurate and interesting ○ Newsletter is clearly focused on a particular cat or theme ○ Information is logically organized and presented 			
<p>Format</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Newsletter has an attractive header and a table of contents ○ Newsletter includes at least three original articles laid out using text boxes over at least two pages ○ Newsletter includes at least two appropriate graphics ○ Spelling and grammar are relatively error-free 			
<p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presenter provides five printed hard copies of newsletter for classmates' appreciation 			
<p>Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presentation shows evidence of independent research (print and online sources of information) 			

Rubric for Big Cat Digital Presentation

Criteria	Awesome!	Good Job	Needs Work
<p>Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facts are accurate and interesting ○ Graphics are appropriate to illustrate text ○ Information is logically organized 			
<p>Format</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presentation includes a title slide, at least four content slides, and a last slide listing resources ○ Facts are presented using bullet points ○ Spelling and grammar are relatively error-free 			
<p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presenter is enthusiastic and excited about material ○ Presenter is organized and able to convey content for all slides 			
<p>Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presentation includes a list of resources on the last slide ○ Presentation draws on both print and online sources of information 			

Rubric for Big Cat Model Habitat

Criteria	Awesome!	Good Job	Needs Work
<p>Habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Habitat is appropriate for cat selected ○ Habitat shows creative use of materials ○ Habitat holds together well 			
<p>Display card</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project includes a display card ○ Card includes cat name, student name, and list of included features ○ Card indicates whether habitat represents natural habitat or man-made enclosure (zoo or refuge) 			
<p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presenter is enthusiastic and excited about project ○ Presenter is organized and able to explain habitat features 			

Rubric for Big Cat Board Game or Quiz Game

Criteria	Awesome!	Good Job	Needs Work
<p>Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Questions and answers are accurate and interesting ○ Game includes a set of rules that make sense 			
<p>Format</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Game includes all necessary equipment for play (Q&A cards, game board and playing pieces if needed, etc.) ○ Games includes at least 25 questions and answers ○ Game is neat and attractive 			
<p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presenter is enthusiastic and excited about game ○ Presenter is organized and able to explain how the game is played 			
<p>Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presentation shows evidence of independent research (print and online sources of information) 			