

# Rainbow Readers

## Title: Curious About Cats

### Word Study

Fill in the blanks using the words.

sensitive	chase	purring	litter	mane
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1. She tried to chase the bus down the street, but she wasn't fast enough.
2. A male lion does not grow a mane until it is about a year old.
3. The skin on the tips of our fingers is very sensitive.
4. The cat is purring—he must like you.
5. Our neighbor has a litter of kittens for sale.

## Reading Comprehension

### A. Circle T for true or F for false.

1. Housecat kittens can live on their own right away. T / F
2. Wild tigers live mainly in Africa. T / F
3. There are many different names for cougars. T / F
4. Leopard cats are much bigger than housecats. T / F
5. Bengal cats are dangerous wild animals. T / F

### B. Circle the correct word(s).

1. Cats become fully grown after (twelve weeks / six months).
2. (One type of tiger / Both types of tigers) might become extinct.
3. We do not know much about (clouded leopards / cougars).
4. The serval is good at running and (fishing / jumping).
5. (Saber-tooth / Bengal) cats went extinct long ago.

### C. Choose the best answer.

1. Which part of a cat's body is very sensitive?

- a. Its ears
- b. Its feet
- c. Its whiskers
- d. Its tail

2. A housecat's litter usually consists of at least \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. three kittens
- b. six kittens
- c. eight kittens
- d. nine kittens

3. Which is true about lions?

- a. They all have manes.
- b. They live in groups.
- c. They live in the jungle.
- d. They are the most dangerous cats.

4. Which cats are described as good swimmers?

- a. Lions
- b. Jaguars
- c. Snow leopards
- d. Cougars

5. Which is NOT true about the Canada lynx?

- a. It is nearly as fast as the cheetah.
- b. It likes to eat rabbits.
- c. It has tufts on its ears.
- d. It has a ruff of fur around its head.

## Summary

Fill in the blanks with the words.

breeds	bred	habitats	feral	extinct
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There are many types of cats. The best-known are housecats, which are great pets as well as hunters of mice and rats. Feral housecats, however, can be a problem. Housecats can be solid or striped in color, or they may have patches. Different breeds have different traits, such as long or short hair. Other types of cats include lions, tigers, jaguars, and leopards. These are the main “great cats.” In zoos, lions and tigers have been bred to produce “ligers.” Leopards, which mostly live in Africa, are similar to jaguars, which are from South America. Besides the great cats, big cats include the snow leopard, clouded leopard, and the cougar. Cougars are also known as mountain lions and pumas. Some wildcats are smaller. The bobcat and the Canada lynx live in North America. People have lived with cats since ancient Egypt. But now many wildcats are in danger of going extinct. This is because people hunt them and destroy their habitats. We must try to save these beautiful animals.