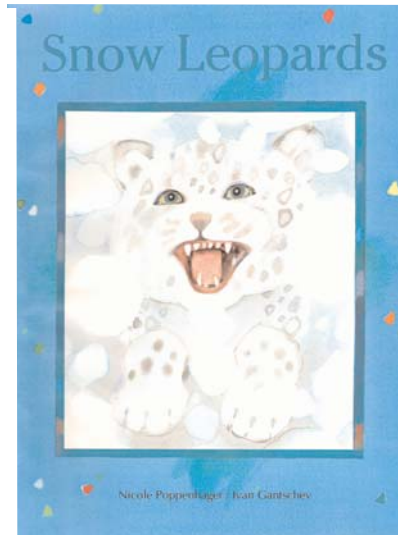


A Classroom Resource for **SNOW LEOPARDS**



Snow Leopards
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What is an endangered species?

Where do snow leopards live?

How are snow leopards different from other big cats?

What can I do to help save snow leopards?

This guide includes a fun quiz, a word search, and a coloring sheet.

What is an endangered species?

An endangered species is a type of animal that is in danger of becoming extinct or disappearing forever from our planet. Fewer and fewer cubs like Simi and Siri are being born each year and the traditional hunting grounds are becoming smaller.

Snow leopards eat meat and their traditional prey is becoming harder to find. Even though it is against the law to hunt snow leopards, some people known as poachers break the law and kill them for their soft fur and because their bones are used to make ancient medicines.

Even though their traditional hunting grounds cover more than a million square miles, there are estimated to be fewer than 8,000 of these magnificent animals left in the wild.

ACTIVITY: Do you know what animals are endangered?

Many animals are endangered. See if you can pick the one species that is *not* endangered in each of the following groups:

BIRDS

Nene Goose
Northern Spotted Owl
Starling
Whooping Crane

MAMMALS

Giant Panda
Great Apes
Mule Deer
Polar Bear

REPTILES

American Crocodile
Giant Bronze Gecko
Marine Turtles
Water Moccasin

SEALIFE

Coral
Dolphin
Jellyfish
Whale

Answer key on last page.

Where do snow leopards live?

Snow leopards can be found in Central Asia and the Himalayan region, in twelve different countries including China, Pakistan and Tibet. The green areas on the map show the snow leopard's range and includes much of the Himalayan mountain range the tallest mountains in the world.

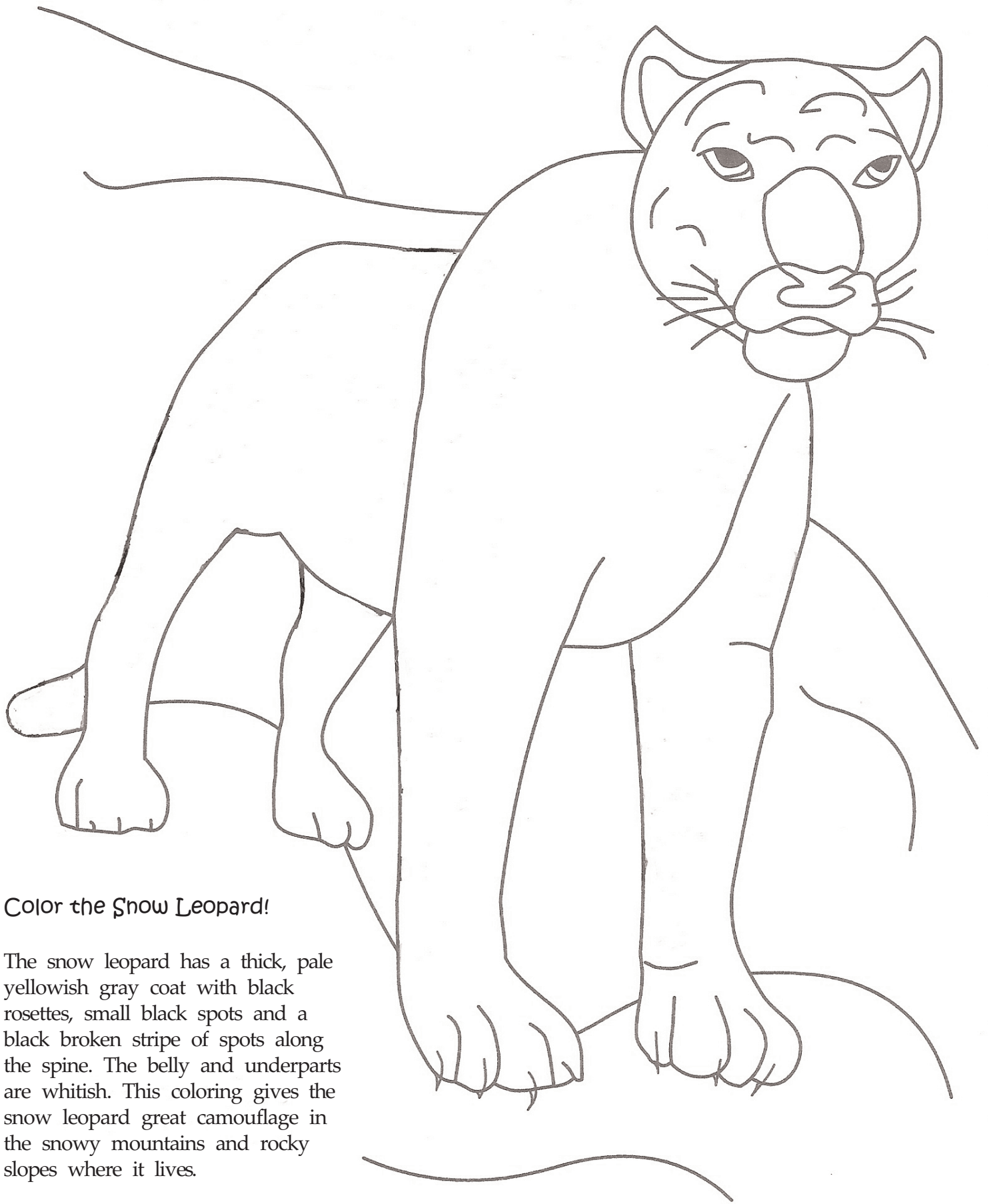
Snow leopards live at altitudes between 8,900 and 19,700 feet during the summer. These beautiful big cats have adapted to their rocky, frozen world with long fur, powerful legs, and an especially long tail that both helps them keep their balance *and* stay warm. Their large, furry paws act like snowshoes in the snowy terrain.



Take the snow leopard quiz!

Read the helpful note at the end of *Snow Leopards* and see if you can correctly answer these questions. Circle T for *True* or F for *False*.

- T F 1. There are estimated to be more than 50,000 snow leopards in the wild.
- T F 2. A snow leopard can bring down an animal more than three times its size.
- T F 3. Snow leopards have long forelimbs (front legs) and short hind limbs (back legs)
- T F 4. Snow leopards' fur can be as long as five inches on their bellies.
- T F 5. Snow leopards use their three-foot long tails to keep their noses and lungs from freezing when they sleep.
- T F 6. Snow leopards prefer cliffs and ravines to forests.
- T F 7. Snow leopards hunt in packs.
- T F 8. Snow leopards can jump as far as 45 feet.
- T F 9. Snow leopard cubs leave their mothers when they are about three months old.
- T F 10. Snow leopards deserve to be protected.



Color the Snow Leopard!

The snow leopard has a thick, pale yellowish gray coat with black rosettes, small black spots and a black broken stripe of spots along the spine. The belly and underparts are whitish. This coloring gives the snow leopard great camouflage in the snowy mountains and rocky slopes where it lives.

Invent your own! Imagine how a snow leopard would be colored if he lived in a jungle or in grasslands.

Snow Leopards . . . and cheetahs and jaguars and leopards

How is a snow leopard like other big cats?

Snow leopards have spots on their flanks, head and neck, like a jaguar. This provides excellent camouflage.

Snow leopards have big furry feet that act like snowshoes, similar to the lynx.

And how is a snow leopard not like a true leopard?

Like a puma or a cheetah, a snow leopard does not roar. Instead, it yowls, moans and grunts!

Snow Leopard Word Search

Can you find the following words that describe snow leopards, their habitat and how they live?

Asia	C	S	N	O	W	S	H	O	E	D
camouflage	A	A	W	S	L	W	O	Y	E	L
cubs										
den	M	S	P	A	S	I	E	R	D	O
endangered										
long tail	O	I	L	Y	K	R	E	A	V	N
Himalayas										
poacher	U	A	R	A	P	G	S	T	U	G
prey	F	Y	B	L	R	Z	D	I	Y	T
rocky										
leopard	L	D	R	A	P	O	E	L	K	A
snowshoe										
solitary	A	E	D	M	R	W	N	O	C	I
yowl										
zoo	G	N	U	I	C	U	B	S	O	L
	E	R	E	H	C	A	O	P	R	Z

What can I do to help save snow leopards?

There are many organizations in the world that are dedicated to preserving this beautiful animal.

Here are just a few websites to check out and learn more:

Big Cat Rescue: bigcatrescue.org

International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources: redlist.org

Snow Leopard Trust: snowleopard.org

Snow Leopard Conservancy: snowleopardconservancy.org

World Wildlife Fund: worldwildlife.org

Endangered Species answer key: BIRDS: Starling; MAMMALS: Mule Deer; REPTILES: Water Moccasin; SEA LIFE: Jellyfish.

Quiz answer key: 1: False There are between 4500 and 7500 left in the wild. 2: True. 3: False it s exactly the opposite! 4: True. 5: False their tails are almost as long as their bodies. 6: True it s easier to see and hunt their prey. 7: False they prefer to hunt alone. 8: True. 9: False they start to hunt at three months old but stay with their mother for their first winter. 10: True, of course!