

CLOUDED LEOPARD

Neofelis nebulosa

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Fast facts

ANIMAL GROUP	Cat family (Felidae)
NATIVE REGION	South and Southeast Asia
HABITAT	Forests, especially tropical rainforest
DIET	Monkeys, deer, birds and other animals
BODY / TAIL	24-43 in / 24-35 in (Denver Zoo)
WEIGHT	Males up to 50 lb; females 25-35 lb
LIFESPAN	Around 11 years; up to 17 in human care
STATUS	Vulnerable; IUCN assessment 2020, published 2021



Photo: Plumpton Park Zoo

Did you know?

- Special ankle bones help clouded leopards climb down trees headfirst.
- Their long tails help them balance on narrow branches.
- Their canine teeth can reach about two inches, and their jaws open about 100 degrees.
- Clouded leopards cannot roar; calls include growls, hisses and chuffs.
- Buster and Squeaks are the clouded leopards at Plumpton Park Zoo.

Words to know

Canine: A long, pointed tooth used to grip prey.

Carnivore: An animal that eats other animals.

Camera trap: A camera that automatically photographs a passing animal.

Vulnerable: Facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

Think about it

1. Make a claim about how rotating hind feet help a clouded leopard survive. Use evidence from the page.
2. How does a long tail help this cat move through trees?
3. What do the long teeth and wide-opening jaws help it do?
4. Why do researchers use camera traps to study these cats?
5. Use evidence from the page to explain why a forest helps this cat survive, and why forest loss threatens it.

Draw it

Draw a clouded leopard on a branch. Label its rotating hind feet, balancing tail, gripping paws and cloud-shaped coat.

Draw here