MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

CLOUDED LEOPARD

Neofelis nebulosa

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · **© 2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.**
Teachers may copy and share this sheet freely as long as they credit Plumpton Park Zoo.

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.

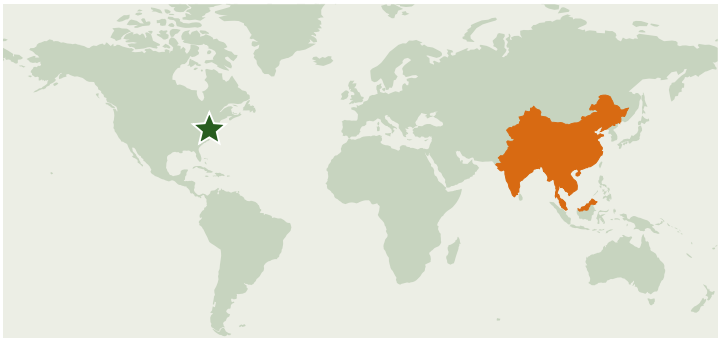
Think about it

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.

Where it lives in the wild



Lives in the wild ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

STANDARDS · GRADES 3–4 **WRITTEN FOR GRADES 3–5**

Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): **4-LS1-1 · 3-LS4-3**
Pennsylvania (STEELS): **3.1.4.A · 3.1.3.G**

Draw here

Learn more: https://plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/clouded-leopard/ · **Sources:** Smithsonian National Zoo; Denver Zoo; IUCN Red List; NCBS
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: 4-LS1-1 (3.1.4.A) · 3-LS4-3 (3.1.3.G)
Plumpton Park Zoo · 1416 Telegraph Rd, Rising Sun, MD 21911 · (410) 658-6850 · plumptonparkzoo.org · a 501(c)(3) nonprofit zoo

CLOUDED LEOPARD

Before and after your visit

Page 2 of the Clouded leopard fact sheet · © 2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.
Teachers may copy and share this sheet freely as long as they credit Plumpton Park Zoo.

Before you visit · 5 minutes

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Predict: where in the wild does the clouded leopard live?

Circle one (or more if it lives on more than one):

Africa | Asia | Australia | Europe | North America | South America

2. Predict: what does it eat?

☐ plants ☐ other animals ☐ both

3. Word hunt: find these words on page 1. Put a check by each one you already know.

☐ Canine ☐ Carnivore ☐ Camera trap ☐ Vulnerable

Pick one word and write what it means in your own words:

_____

_____

4. My question: one thing I want to find out when I see the clouded leopard.

_____

_____

At the zoo · look closely

Watch for one minute. What is it doing?

☐ resting ☐ eating ☐ moving ☐ watching ☐ with others

Draw or describe one body part that helps it survive, and say how it helps.

Draw here

After your visit · talk it over

1. Check your prediction. Native region: South and Southeast Asia. Was your guess right?

☐ yes ☐ no ☐ partly

2. Diet check. The fact sheet says: Monkeys, deer, birds and other animals. What did you learn about how it finds or eats food?

_____

_____

3. Discuss with a partner, then write your best answer.

• How does a long tail help this cat move through trees?

_____

• What do the long teeth and wide-opening jaws help it do?

_____

4. Exit ticket.

One thing I learned: _____

One thing I still wonder: _____

ADJUST IT

Grades K–2: talk and draw instead of writing; read the questions aloud. **Grades 6–8:** add evidence from the fact sheet and the animal page to every answer.