MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

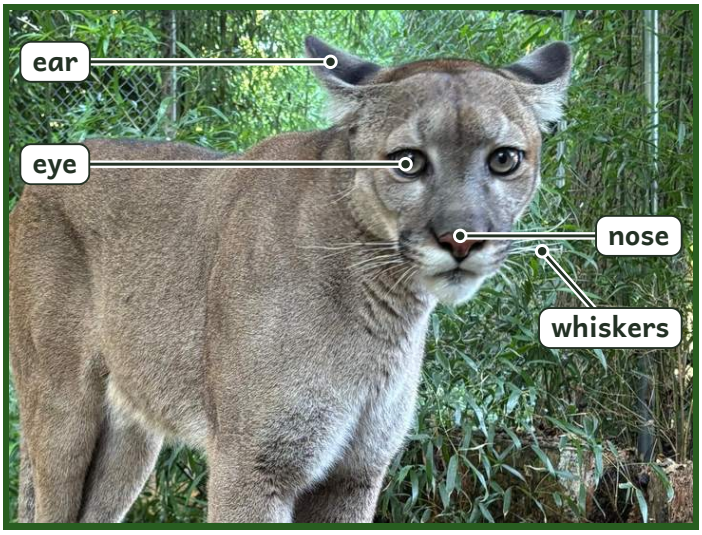
COUGAR

Puma concolor

GRADES K–2

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.

Teachers: read this page aloud, one part at a time (about 5 minutes). Children follow along and say the bold words.



A cougar at our zoo.

Its body

A cougar is a big cat.
It has a long tail.
It has strong paws.
It has round ears.

Its home (habitat)

It lives in North and South America.
It lives in forests and mountains.
Nicole and Niko live at our zoo.



■ Lives in parts of this area ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

Its food

It hunts deer and other animals.
It often hunts at night.

Its babies (life cycle)

A baby cougar is a **kitten**.
It is born in a **den**.
It has spots that fade.
Its mother takes care of it.

Fun facts

It has 3 names: cougar, puma and mountain lion.
It can leap up to 20 feet!
It cannot roar, but it can purr.

Words to know

den: a safe place for babies
kitten: a baby cougar
leap: to jump very far

Talk about it

1. What other names does a cougar have?
2. What happens to a kitten's spots?
3. What sounds can a cougar make?

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/cougar/ · **Sources:** NPS Yellowstone and Bighorn Canyon; USFWS; IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group; Texas Tech University; South Dakota GFP; UF/IFAS.
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: K-LS1-1 (3.1.K.A) · 1-LS1-2 (3.1.1.B)
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COUGAR

Before and after your visit

GRADES K–2

Page 2 of the cougar fact sheet for grades K–2 · © **2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.**
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Name _____ **Date** _____

Before you visit · 5 minutes

What do you think? Circle **YES** or **NO**.

1. A cougar is a big cat. **YES** **NO**
2. A cougar can roar. **YES** **NO**
3. A baby cougar has spots. **YES** **NO**
4. A cougar eats only grass. **YES** **NO**

At the zoo · with a partner

Check each one you see.

- ☐ round ears
- ☐ long tail
- ☐ strong paws
- ☐ whiskers
- ☐ nose
- ☐ eyes

What is it doing? Circle one.

walking resting watching

After your visit · 10 minutes

Draw a cougar leaping up high.

Draw here

A cougar can _____

I learned that _____

ADJUST IT Kindergarten: read everything aloud; children talk and draw, and an adult writes their words. **Grade 2:** children read page 1 on their own. **Grades 3–5:** use the regular cougar sheet on Teacher Resources. **Second source:** read about this animal in your class database or a library book too, then ask what both said and what was new. **No zoo trip?** Check off what you can find in the photo on page 1. **Answers:** 1 yes, 2 no, 3 yes, 4 no.

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/cougar/ · Page 1 of this sheet has the words and picture this page refers to.
Science, grades K–1: Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): K-LS1-1 · 1-LS1-2 · Pennsylvania (STEELS): 3.1.K.A · 3.1.1.B
Reading and writing, grade 1: Maryland and Delaware: RI.1.1 · RI.1.7 · RI.1.9 · W.1.8 · Pennsylvania: CC.1.2.1.B · CC.1.2.1.G · CC.1.2.1.I · CC.1.4.1.W
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