MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

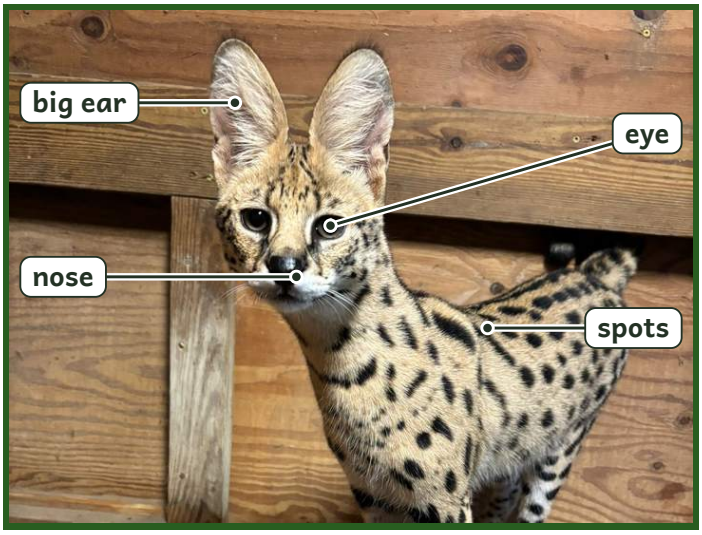
SERVAL

Leptailurus serval

GRADES K–2

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · © 2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.
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Teachers: read this page aloud, one part at a time (about 5 minutes). Children follow along and say the bold words.



A serval at our zoo.

Its body

It is a spotted wild cat.
It has very big ears.
Its ears hear food in tall grass.
It has very long legs.

Its home (habitat)

It lives in Africa.
It lives in tall grass near water.
Jasira and Santiago live at our zoo.



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

Its food

It eats mostly small rodents.
It can jump up to catch a bird.

Its babies (life cycle)

A baby is a **kitten**.
A mother usually has 2 or 3 kittens.
She raises them alone.
They stay with her over a year.

Fun facts

It can leap 9 feet straight up!
About half its **pounces** catch food.

Words to know

kitten: a baby serval
pounce: to jump onto something
rodent: an animal like a mouse

Talk about it

1. How do big ears help a serval?
2. How high can a serval leap?
3. Who raises the kittens?

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/serval/ · **Sources:** Animal Diversity Web; IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group.
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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SERVAL

Before and after your visit

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GRADES K–2

Name _____ **Date** _____

Before you visit · 5 minutes

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

1. A serval has big ears. **YES** **NO**
2. A serval has short legs. **YES** **NO**
3. A mother raises kittens alone. **YES** **NO**
4. Servals eat only grass. **YES** **NO**

At the zoo · with a partner

Check each one you see.

- ☐ big ears
- ☐ spots
- ☐ long legs
- ☐ whiskers
- ☐ nose
- ☐ tail

What is it doing? Circle one.

eating · walking · watching · resting

After your visit · 10 minutes

Draw a serval leaping up in the tall grass.

Draw here

A serval has _____

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 serval 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/serval/ · 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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