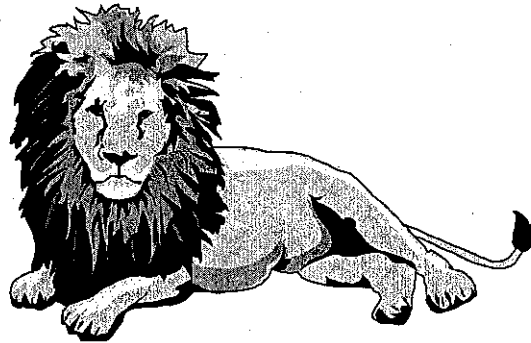


## BIG CATS



Go to your public, school, and classroom libraries and check your home for any books about big cats. Collect all the different materials you can on this topic and bring them to school. Read and research as much as you can on big cats. Keep a bibliography on all the books you read and record them on your "Big Cats" chart.

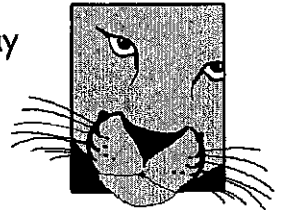
Read Rudyard Kipling's *Just So Stories*. Pick one of your favorite big cats and write and illustrate your own *Just So Story*. Some ideas to try are:

- Why the jaguar runs so fast
- How the cheetah got its spots

Make a mobile that shows all the different kinds of big cats. Use lightweight plastic toy cats, photographs, clip art, or your own drawings to represent the big cats.

Make a chart comparing at least five big cats. Pick several characteristics to compare. Some ideas to consider are speed, habitat, and hunting habits.

Make a diagram showing the eyes of the different big cats. Pay special attention to the pupil of the eye. Include a human eye in your chart. Explain the similarities and differences between all the eyes.



Make a map of the world showing where all of the "Big Cats" live. Create a key that will help others to learn more about the location of the various big cats found around the world.



Arrange a field trip to a local zoo or wildlife park to see the big cats. Make an appointment to interview one of the zookeepers. Prepare your questions before your interview. An example of some questions to ask might be:

- Why are lions considered more social than other big cats?
- How did the term "big cats" come into use?

Compose a book of poems about the different big cats. Include things that are important or special about each cat. You can use free verse or one of the standard poetry formats, such as haiku, to create your book of poems.

Create a menu for a restaurant that big cats might eat in. Include all the different kinds of food big cats would enjoy.

Pick your favorite big cat. Make a puppet of your favorite big cat. Create scenery appropriate to your big cat's environment. Put on a puppet show for your class showing how your big cat spends the day and night.

Create a dictionary of big cats. Include important information in your definitions. Be sure to include illustrations of each of the different cats in your dictionary.

Design the "perfect" zoo habitat for your favorite big cat. Build a model of your design. Use your visit to the zoo or wildlife preserve to learn more about the creation of zoo exhibits.

