



LEOPARD

Panthera pardus

SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

The leopard averages between five and eight feet in length, including the tail.

WEIGHT

The leopard weighs between 60 to 210 pounds in the wild.

FOOD HABITS

Leopards catch and feed on everything from insects and rodents to large ungulates such as giraffe and buffalo calves, which may weigh in excess of 200 pounds.

HABITAT

The leopard can adapt to almost any type of habitat that provides it with sufficient food and cover, excluding the interior of large deserts. In its range, it is the only large predator in the rain forests.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The distribution of the leopard reflects the diverse adaptability of the group, extending throughout the African continent and much of southeast Asia, including the Arabian peninsula and Indonesian islands.

FUN FACT

Originally it was thought that a leopard was a hybrid between a lion and a panther, and the leopard's common name is derived from this belief; *leo* is Latin for *lion*, and *pard* is an old term meaning *panther*.



The leopard is nocturnal, resting on tree branches, under brush and among rocks during the day. It is an excellent climber and can descend head-first from trees. Leopards are known to store recently killed prey in trees for later consumption. Leopards are strong swimmers, but do not possess the same affinity for the water as tigers. They can run short distances at more than 37 miles per hour and leap more than 20 feet horizontally and 10 feet vertically.

