

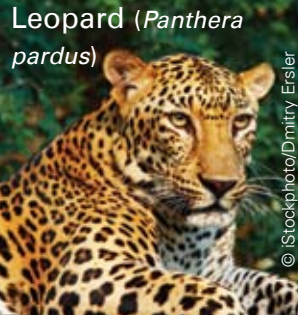


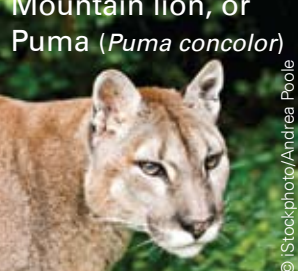


Other big cats around the world

Cat Name	Conservation Status Notes*
 <p>Lion (<i>Panthera leo</i>)</p> <p>© IFAW/D. Willetts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Vulnerable’: estimated 10,000–23,000 lions in Africa • Used to live in most parts of Africa; now found only in the southern Sahara Desert and parts of southern and eastern Africa • Historically found in Africa and from Greece through Middle East to northern India • Asiatic lion, a subspecies, is critically endangered; fewer than 400 remain in India
 <p>Jaguar (<i>Panthera onca</i>)</p> <p>© iStockphoto/Stephan Meesse</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Near Threatened’: unknown number in South America, Central America, southwestern United States • South America’s largest cats; once roamed throughout South and Central America • Today, significant numbers found only in remote parts of South and Central America—particularly in Amazon basin; rare sightings near Mexico–U.S. border
 <p>Leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)</p> <p>© iStockphoto/Dmitry Ersler</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Near Threatened’: unknown number in Africa and Asia • No other wild cat has such a widespread range and diverse prey base, but leopard still under threat in many regions • Once common in all parts of Africa except Sahara Desert • Now gone from most parts of northern Africa, apart from a few areas of Atlas Mountains; extremely scarce in western Africa • Southeast Asia and India threats: hunting, habitat loss • Several subspecies once common in Middle East now all but extinct; Korean leopard, also known as Amur leopard, extremely rare in wild
 <p>Cheetah (<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>)</p> <p>© IFAW/D. Willetts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Vulnerable’: estimated 7,500–10,000 cheetahs remain in Africa and Iran • Has disappeared from huge areas of historic range; still occurs widely, but sparsely, in Africa (disappearing from 76 per cent of African range) • In Asia, has lost almost all of vast historic range, which within last century extended from shores of the Mediterranean and Arabian Peninsula to northern shores of Caspian and Aral Seas and west into central India • Asiatic cheetah now known to survive only in Iran
 <p>Snow leopard (<i>Panthera uncia</i>)</p> <p>© IFAW</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Endangered’: about 4,000–6,500 snow leopards in the wild, worldwide • Range now restricted to high mountains of Central Asia • Require large, low-density habitats • Experts suggest snow leopard population declined at least 20 per cent over past two generations (16 years) • Main threats are poaching for illegal trade, conflict with local people • Snow leopard is tiger’s closest cat cousin
 <p>Mountain lion, or Puma (<i>Puma concolor</i>)</p> <p>© iStockphoto/Andrea Poole</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Least Concern’: around 30,000 in North American West, Central and South America • Largest of any land-based mammal in Western Hemisphere • Eliminated from eastern half of North America within 200 years of first European colonisation • Endangered subpopulation persists in Florida; records of pumas in northeastern Canada and the eastern U.S. rising • Florida panther, a subspecies, critically endangered; fewer than 100 remain

*Conservation status according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. See www.iucnredlist.org for more.



Worksheet: Big Cat Comparisons



Name _____ Date: _____

Directions: Review the chart 'Big Cats Around the World'. Choose two big cats that you want to compare. Use the questions below to guide your thinking (you may also think of other things to compare). List similarities between cats where their boxes overlap. List differences in the outer parts of the boxes.

- *Where does each cat live?*
- *What does each cat look like?*
- *What is each cat's conservation status?*

<p>Cat #1: _____</p>	<p>Both Cats</p>
<p>Cat #2: _____</p>	