



Te Kura

TE AHO O TE KURA POUNAMU
THE CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL

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Contents

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|----|
| Chapter 1 | What do cats look like? | 2 |
| Chapter 2 | The cat's face | 4 |
| Chapter 3 | Other parts of the cat's body | 8 |
| Chapter 4 | Communicating | 10 |
| Chapter 5 | Sleeping, eating and drinking | 12 |
| Chapter 6 | Cats and kittens | 13 |
| Chapter 7 | Some interesting facts about cats | 14 |



Cats

Chapter 1

What do cats look like?

Some cats are black.

Some cats are white.

Some cats are grey.



Some cats are
orange or ginger.



Some cats are lots
of colours!

Some cats have short hair or fur.

Some cats have no hair or fur

Some cats have long hair or fur.



Most cats have two layers of fur.

The colour and pattern come from the top layer.

The bottom layer is for warmth.



Chapter 2

The cat's face

Eyes

Cats' eyes open wide in the dark. This helps them to see better so they can hunt at night.



Ears

Cats can point their ears forwards to hear sounds in front of them. They can point them backwards to hear sounds behind them.

Cats can hear very quiet sounds, like the chirp of an insect or the squeak of a mouse.

Nose

Cats have a very good sense of smell, much better than people. Cats use their noses to sniff out food, enemies, and mates.

Cats can smell where other cats have been. This is because cats put their scent on things by rubbing against them. They can mark their territory this way.



Teeth

Cats have about 30 teeth altogether. Some teeth are long and sharp and are used to grab their prey. Some teeth are flatter and are used for eating and chewing meat.





Tongue

Cats have rough tongues. They use their tongues to grab food and drink.

Cats also use their tongues to groom or clean themselves.

The rough surface of their tongue acts like a comb. Dirt and loose hair are removed.



Mother cats clean their kittens with their tongues.

A cat can also show it cares and likes someone by licking them.

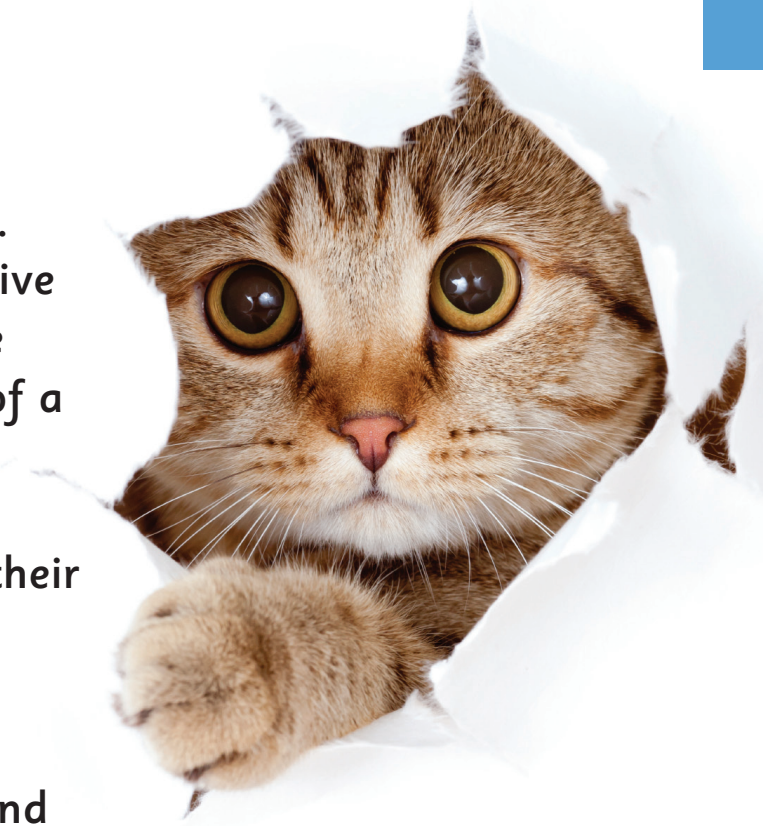
Whiskers

Cats have long whiskers. Whiskers are very sensitive and can feel even a little change in the direction of a breeze!

Whiskers help cats feel their way around.

Whiskers are roughly as wide as the cat's body and help a cat judge whether or not it can fit through an opening.

All cats have eyes, ears, nose and whiskers, but cats' faces can look very different!





Chapter 3 Other parts of the cat's body

Legs, paws and claws

Cats have
Their

four legs and four feet or paws.
legs help them run fast and climb high.

Cats

have soft pads on the bottoms of
their feet. The pads help cats land softly
when they leap.

The pads also help cats move quietly
so they can sneak up on their prey.



Cats have sharp claws. When the cat is relaxed, the claws are covered.

Cats use their claws for:

- climbing
- catching and grasping things
- defending themselves
- grooming themselves.



Tail

Cats have long tails.
Cats use their tails to help them balance.



Chapter 4 Communicating

Cats use their body and their voice to communicate.

Body language

Here are some of the ways you can tell how a cat feels by looking at its body.

Arching back, puffing out fur to make it look bigger:

- fear or aggression.

Rubbing against somebody:

- friendly greeting
- may also be used to mark their territory.

Touching noses or giving head butts:

- friendly greeting, affection.

Position of tail:

Tail up: happy, friendly

Tail down: annoyed or afraid.

Position of ears:

Ears up and pointed forward: happy, alert.

Ears pulled back and close to the head: feeling threatened, prepared to fight.





Using their voice

Cats can make different sounds. Here are some ways you can tell how a cat feels by listening to the noise it makes.

Hiss:

- angry, warning.

Purr:

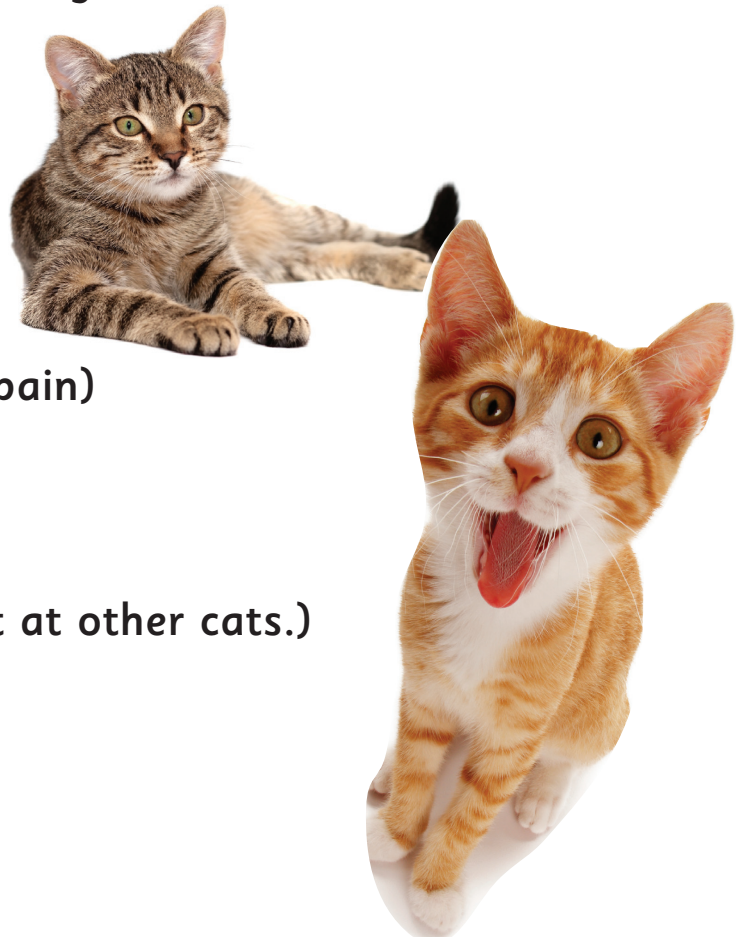
- happy and contented.
(Loud purr: may mean in pain)

Meow:

- wants your attention.
(Cats meow at people, not at other cats.)

Yowl:

- lonely or restless.





Chapter 5 Sleeping, eating and drinking

Cats sleep between 13 and 14 hours a day. Some cats sleep for 20 hours a day. Cats are often awake and active at night time. Animals that are more active at night are called nocturnal.

Cats are carnivores.

That means they eat mainly meat.

They also like to eat fish. People who have cats feed them special cat food.

Cats may catch mice, birds, lizards and bugs to eat too.

Cats drink water and milk. They use their tongues to lap up their drink.





Chapter 6 Cats and kittens

Father cats are called tomcats, mother cats are called queens and baby cats are called kittens.

Newborn kittens cannot see, but they can smell. This helps them find their mother's milk.

Kittens can see and walk when they are about ten days old.

Kittens like to play together when they are six weeks old.



Chapter 7

Some interesting facts about cats

- The cat was seen as a sacred animal in ancient Egypt, and people have had cats as pets for thousands of years.
- Cats are the most popular pet in the world.
- There are more than 500 million domestic cats in the world, with 33 different breeds.
- The lifespan of a cat is between 15 and 20 years.
- An average cat has one to eight kittens per litter, and two to three litters per year. (A litter of kittens is a group of kittens born at the same time to the same mother.)
- Cats can jump between five and seven times as high as their tail.
- Cats love high places. They share this love with leopards and jaguars, which sleep in trees. If a cat begins to fall, his inner ear canal (which controls balance) will help him right himself and land on his feet.
- A domestic cat can run at speeds of almost 50 kilometers per hour.





- Cats rub up against other cats, and people, in an attempt to 'mark' them with their scent glands. They most often use the scent glands between their eye and ear (near the temple area) or their scent glands near the base of their tail.
- Cats spend 30 per cent of their waking hours grooming themselves.
- It has been shown that owning a cat is good for a person's health and can decrease high blood pressure and other illnesses.



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Yawning cat 96979

Elderly woman with cat 17463711

Profile of bengal kitten standing and looking up 12080223

Persian cat 12179367

Black cat 13105335

Red and white cat 17612700

Calico mother cat grooming kitten 2977414

Cat drinking 8256316

British shorthair cat 12179546

Marmalade cat 2744482

Norwegian forest cat walking 12555458

Sphynx cat 12613199

Yellow eyes 16446365

Young cat 17639278

Cat grooming 18239460

Cat's face in paper hole 17882198

Siamese cat 18528823

Black cat and mouse 13720514

Yellow kitten 5548894

Cat in tree 8319318

Frightened black kitten 14427279

Fierce feline 808443

Cat rubbing leg 16445024

Tabby cat lying down 16567563

Super happy cat 7039421

Cat with bird 10763650

Mother cat and kittens 11712526

Kittens playing 9902462

Motley cat cleaning herself 12214017

Egyptian cat souvenir statue 12902202

Cat claws 6821285

Cat looking up 13387242

A separate workbook accompanies this reading booklet.

You can choose to complete activities after reading each section of the booklet or at the completion of the whole booklet.

You are encouraged to read the booklet several times to increase your comprehension.



