

WILDLIFE GLOSSARY

The following vocabulary list contains words applicable to the Leopards, Etc. program at your school. If appropriate, a discussion of these words may help to better prepare your students for our presentation.

ADAPTATION: changes in the behavior of animals that enables them to survive in their surroundings

ARBOREAL: tree dwelling

BEHAVIOR: what an animal does, the way it feeds, moves, lives, etc

BLACK MARKET: a place for selling goods illegally

CAMOUFLAGE: coloration that disguises or conceals, like spots or stripes

CARNIVORE: meat eating animal

CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

CONIFEROUS: forests containing only evergreen trees

CONSERVATION: the use of natural resources in a wise way

CREPUSCULAR: active during the mornings and evenings

DECIDUOUS: forests containing only leaf bearing trees

DEFORESTATION: the process of removing trees and other vegetation from an area

DIURNAL: active during daylight hours

DOMESTICATED: an animal that humans have tamed and bred in captivity for special purposes, such as cattle, sheep, dogs and cats

ECOLOGY: the study of the environment and the relationship of organisms to it

ECOSYSTEM: an area made up of living species and the non-living parts of their environment

ENDANGERED SPECIES: an animal or plant threatened with extinction

ENVIRONMENT: the total of all one's surroundings

EXTINCT: an animal or plant that no longer exists alive on earth

FELIDAE: scientific family used to identify all cats

FERAL: domestic animals that have returned to the wild state

GENUS: small cats that can purr belong to the genus "felis"
large cats that can roar belong to the genus "panthera"

HABITAT: the natural environment in which an animal or plant lives; loss of habitat threatens wildlife populations

LITTER: the number of young born per birthing

MELANISTIC: the black pigmented form of the cats

NEW WORLD: North, Central and South America

NOCTURNAL: active at night

OESTRUS: the period of female sexual receptivity

OLD WORLD: Asia, Africa and Europe

PREDATOR: an animal that kills and eats other animals

PREY: an animal that is killed and eaten by other animals

RIVERINE: habitat situated on a riverside

SAVANNAH: open, grassy plains or meadows in a tropical region

SCENT MARKING: urine spraying, scraping with hind feet to notify other animals of their presence

SPECIES: a population of individuals that are alike and can breed and produce offspring

SOLITARY: lives alone, not in a family group; all cats, with the exception of lions, are solitary

TERRESTRIAL: ground dwelling

TERRITORY: an area defended by an animal against others of the same species

UNGULATE: any hoofed, grazing animal

WILDLIFE: species of plants and animals that are not tamed or domesticated

