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EXPLORE THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF WILD CATS

Did you know that wild cats can be found on every continent except Antarctica? That's right—there's a whole world of wild cats to discover! *The Big Book of Wild Cats* is packed with life-like illustrations, colorful photos, and fascinating facts about wild cats—from tiny rusty-spotted cats, to enormous tigers, and all the ones in between.

Learn in-depth information about 37 species of wild cats, including details about their appearance, habitat, social structure, hunting habits, and how they raise their young. You'll also find quick facts for each cat about their size, lifespan, what they eat, and the sounds they make. Whether you're writing a school report or just want to learn more about wild cats, you'll have a roaring good time with *The Big Book of Wild Cats*.



ENDANGERED CATS Find out ways you can do your part to help endangered wild cats like tigers and snow leopards.

CATS BY CONTINENT Take a look at illustrated maps showing which wild cats live on each continent around the globe.

HELPFUL DEFINITIONS Discover an easy-to-understand glossary for some of the more advanced words in the book.

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WHY do I look the way I LOOK?

Everything you see in the mirror—from your height to your hair color to the dimple (or lack thereof) on your chin—is written into nearly every cell of your DNA, spiraling chains of proteins found in every cell in your body. Think of DNA as your body's instruction manual. It tells your cells how to grow into organs, hair, teeth, fingernails, your tongue, and every single other part of your body. Stretches of DNA (called genes) are like pages in that instruction manual. Genes control what you will look like, plus less obvious traits such as whether you have perfect vision or the ability to curl your tongue.



WHY DO I have ...

... a heart?

Your body's engine, the heart pumps blood to every cell in your body.



... lungs?

Each breath you inhale fills these balloon-like organs with oxygen, which is absorbed into your blood; each exhalation expels carbon dioxide waste from your blood.



... a stomach?

This expandable organ stores everything you eat and starts breaking down food with powerful acids.



... blood?

A mix of special cells and liquid "plasma," blood delivers all the good stuff (oxygen, vitamins, minerals, and chemicals called hormones) to the cells in your body and carries away all the bad stuff (carbon dioxide and other waste) for disposal. Red blood cells transport oxygen, while white blood cells fight infection. Special cells called platelets seal the leak when blood vessels break—a process called clotting. An oxygen-carrying protein called hemoglobin is what gives blood its red color.



... skin?

Skin holds your insides in and protects your tissues from ultraviolet radiation from the outside. Skin is your body's largest organ. It is made of layers of cells that march to the surface and flake off from friction. The outermost layer is entirely dead.



... intestines?

The bulk of food digestion takes place in your small and large intestines, two tubes that absorb all the vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients from everything you eat.



... a liver?

Your body's biggest internal organ, the liver is like a complex chemical-processing plant. It converts nutrients from the small intestine into fuel your body can use. It makes bile, an essential substance for digestion. It cleans your blood of toxins and removes damaged red blood cells.



... tonsils?

These two meatball-shaped masses of tissue at the back of your throat are part of your lymph system, which includes a network of nodes that work like little security guards to battle infection.



... an appendix?

This skinny tube in our digestive system is mostly useless today and can actually endanger your life if it becomes inflamed. Scientists suspect that the appendix, which replenishes essential bacteria in our guts, was an important organ back before germ-fighting medicines helped humans overcome constant bouts of diarrhea.



... kidneys?

This bean-shaped organ is so essential to good health that your body comes with a second one for free! Each kidney is crammed with more than a million microscopic filters—called nephrons—that skim the waste chemicals and other gunk from your blood.



BODY BUILDING

350 About the number of bones in the body at birth

206 Number of bones in an adult (many bones fuse together during growth)

20 FEET (6M) Length of the small intestine

60,000 MILES (96,500K) Length of blood vessels

1.3 GALLONS (5L) Average volume of blood in an adult's body

Why do we need captions?



Cattle on a farm
previously covered
in trees.



Many animals
have lost their homes
due to deforestation.