

# WORLD CAT DAY

August 8<sup>th</sup>



## 13 to 16-year olds



Show learners the **pictures of Felines flashcards** provided. Let them know that cats are part of the feline family (or big cats) and discuss where they can be found in the world while showing each flashcard. Make sure you finish with flashcard 7 featuring a black cat so that it can be linked to with the next activity.

**Flashcard 1:** Leopards. They live in Sub-Saharan Africa, northeast Africa, Central Asia, India and China. They can leap 6m forward through the air – that's the length of three adults lying head to toe!

**Flashcard 2:** Cheetahs. They are the fastest land animal in the world and can reach 112km/h in just three seconds. The black lines on either side of their nose are there to keep the sun out of their eyes while they hunt.

**Flashcard 3:** Lions. Their manes protect their neck and head from injuries during fights, and they are also there to attract females.

**Flashcard 4:** Tigers. They are the largest wild cat in the world. They are good swimmers. No two tigers have the same stripes.

**Flashcard 5:** Lynx. They are found in very cold areas in Canada and Alaska (in the USA). Lynx don't sink into the snow. Their long, round feet have a big toe set at a wide angle, which helps to distribute their weight and allows them to stay on top of the snow.

**Flashcard 6:** Sphynx cats. They have very fine, soft hair that is difficult to see, but they have no whiskers or eyelashes.

**Flashcard 7:** Common cats. They are believed to be the only mammals who don't taste sweetness. Cats learned how to meow throughout the years so that they could specifically communicate with humans.



Ask learners what they think about black cats and let them debate about how plausible it is for black cats to bring bad luck (if you find that this is an issue with your learners). Some points to reflect on:

- If black cats have the same body, the same internal organs, the same brain structure and behave in the same way as other cats, how is it possible for them to be so different?



Black cats are no different to other cats, this is a scientific fact.

- What do learners think black fur can be an advantage for?



It helps cats hide to hunt at night.

- How about their eyes? Why do they seem to glow at night?



The 'glow' in cats' eyes at night is a natural phenomenon helping them see better; just as is the case for many other nocturnal animals, cats' eyes reflect light at night, there is nothing unexplainable about this.

