

Suzy's World

What makes a cat a cat and not another animal?

Fact

- Cats are felines.
- Their bodies are covered with soft fur.
- They have very good eyesight and hearing.
- Cats have strong sharp teeth for biting and tearing.
- Their claws are long and sharp and almost all of them can retract their claws completely, which means they can hide their claws in the soft pads of their paws.



Do you know

- Cats are related to tigers, lions, jaguars and leopards.
- Cats are mammals, which means they give birth and feed their young with milk (instead of laying eggs).
- The only place you don't find cats living naturally is Antarctica.
- A kitten grows 26 milk teeth.
- Fully-grown cats have 30 teeth.
- Cats are carnivores – they are meat eaters.
- Cats have 24 whiskers - 12 on each side of their face. These hairs are thick and long and their roots are attached to nerves. A cat's whiskers are used to sense how big something is, like a hole in a fence that the cat wants to go through.
- When a cat falls it uses the sensors in it's inner ears that tells it which way is up so they can try to turn around, if they need to, to land on their feet.

Experiments

If you have a pet use the power of observation to look at the things that make them special. If you have a cat check out those retracting claws – carefully. If you have a dog gently look at your dog's paws. Those claws stay out all the time, are they sharp? What does your dog use them for? If you have a bird take a look at your bird's feet, what would they use their claws for?

If you don't have a pet look at your own claws – I mean nails. What do you use them for? Are they sharp?



Other Investigations

Compare the human body with the body of a cat. Can you get your body to move like a cat's body, on all fours? Can you stretch your body like a cat does? Can you explain your results?

What animals are we humans related to?

Jokes

What do you call a cat that wants to join the ambulance service? A first aid kit.