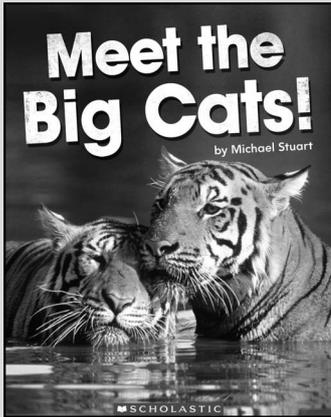


Meet the Big Cats



Meet the Big Cats! Teachers' Notes

Learning objective: Year 1, 7a: Find specific information in simple texts

Key words: lion, tiger, leopard, cheetah

Cross-curricular/theme links: Science: animals in the wild

Genre: Non-fiction

NC level: Approximately Level 1C

Assessment: AF2, Level 1: Some simple points from familiar texts recalled

Word count: 63

Getting started

Read the title and back cover blurb together. Ask: 'Have you ever heard of big cats? Can you name any? What would it be like to see them in the wild?' Share the children's ideas. Flip through the book to find out the names of some of the featured big cats.

Guided reading

Page 2: Check that the children can read the text using their phonic knowledge. What do they think of the lion photo? Would they like to actually meet a lion? Why, or why not?

Pages 3-7: Continue to support the children's reading as appropriate, reminding them to sound out and blend the letters in any unfamiliar words. Help them with the animal names if necessary. Talk about the pictures and encourage them to comment on the differences between the animals.

Page 8: This page has more text – check that the children continue to read it fluently, pausing as appropriate at the punctuation marks. Ask: 'How does the photo help us to see that the cheetah can run fast?' Can the children see that the cheetah's legs, and the background, are blurred?

Speaking and listening

- The children could take turns to pick their favourite big cat from the book, and briefly tell the group what they like about it.

After reading

Use these questions to help children talk about the text.

- Which big cats are in this book?
- What do the leopard's spots help it to do?
- Which big cat would you most like to see in real life, and why?

Reading into writing

The children could draw and label a picture of their favourite big cat. Encourage the children to write a caption sentence for their picture too.

Book quiz for children

- 1 Which of the big cats is the fastest runner?
- 2 Which of the big cats goes for a swim?
- 3 What colour is the lion's fur?

Support for less confident readers

Ask less confident readers to look at, and talk about, the photographs as well as supporting them to read the text. Encourage them to express their ideas about the different big cats featured in the book and to say which they like best. Talking about the book in this way will help them to understand the text.

Extension for more confident readers

Children could research another big cat, such as a puma, and add a further page to the book.