

Bobcats

And mountain lions



Wild Cats of Texas

Ocelot. *Leopardus pardalis*.

Mountain Lion. *Puma concolor*.

Jaguarundi. *Herpailurus yaguarondi*.

Bobcat. *Lynx rufus*.

Jaguar. *Panthera onca*.

Bobcats

Bobcats are wild cats, that are similar looking to pet cats. They range from 15–30 pounds and 2–4 feet long. Bobcats have gray or grayish-tan fur covered in darker spots or speckles., which helps them blend into their environment. They are relatively stocky cats, with a tail much shorter than a house cat's or a cougar's—about six to ten inches long. They have pointed ears with small tufts, long legs, and large paws. They live in a variety of habitats, from wetlands to deserts to mountainous forests. They are crepuscular. Bobcats eat a variety of prey with the bulk of their diet consisting of small birds and mammals.



Mountain Lions

Mountain lions range in size, with females weighing 90–105 pounds and males about 135–175 pounds. Their coats are mostly tawny with lighter bellies and darker patches on the backs of their ears and tail. They have long, lean bodies that move gracefully. Mountain lions have long tails, nearly half the length of their body with a dark, nearly black tip. As the name suggests, their heads and faces look like a lion with round faces, large yellow eyes, and rounded ears, but without manes. Mountain lion cubs are born with dark spots and patterns that fade as they age.

Mountain lions have large territories and range very far. Mountain lions eat large prey such as elk and deer, but they will also eat smaller prey. Mountain lions also prey on livestock and pets.



Felidae sung to *Jingle Bells*

Mountain lions, jaguarundi, bobcat, ocelot, (claw hands)

These are some wild cats that people try to spot.
(hand at forehead searching)

Mountain lions, ocelot, jaguarundi and bobcat,
(claw hands)

A cave, a tree trunk or a hole can certainly shelter
that! (thumb and finger making a circle)



Feline imagination

Take a walk and find a hole or hollow tree or pile of leaves that might shelter a mountain lion or bobcat.

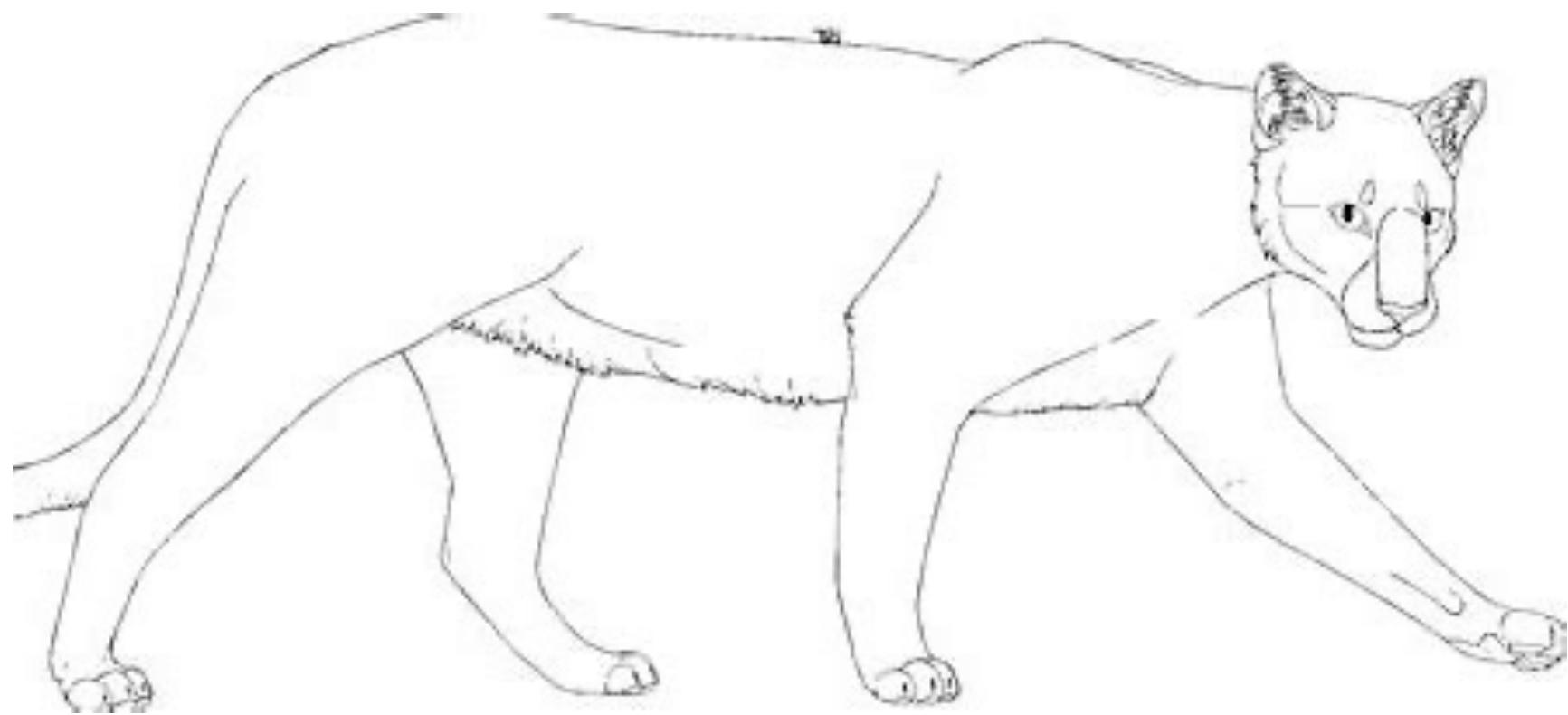
What snack foods might you put on a feline menu?



Art for Little Hands

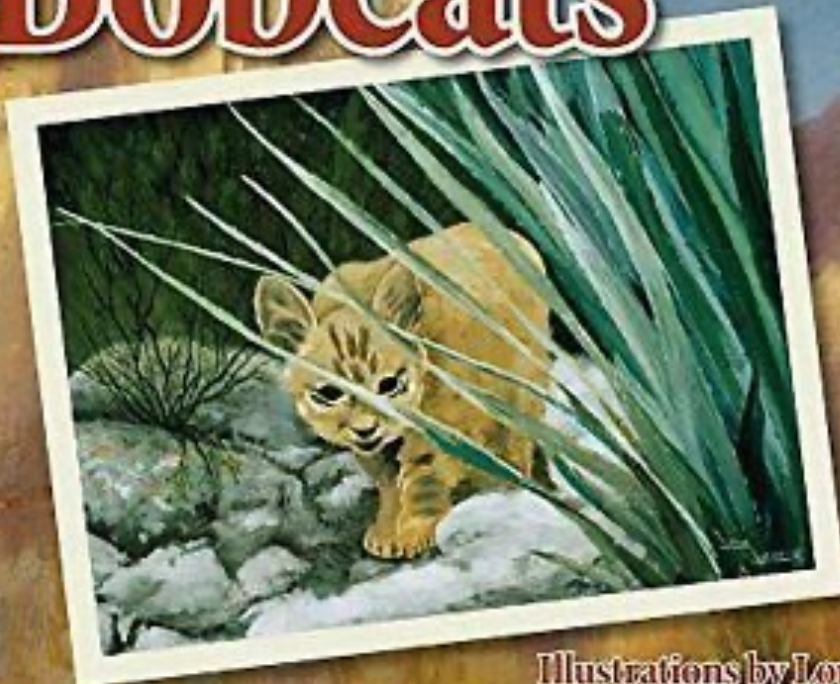
Wild cats have retractable claws.
You can make fist "paw prints".





Diane R. Hanover

A Little Book of Bobcats



Illustrations by Lou Lewis

Lots of
information
about
bobcats!