

BOBCATS

SIXTH GRADE:

1. Bobcats are often confused with what larger feline cousin?

Answer: Lynx

2. How can you tell the difference between a bobcat and a lynx?

Answer: The Lynx has a tail that's black all the way around the tip whereas
The bobcat has a tail that black on the top and white on the bottom.
The bobcat has smaller feet, proportionately and more spots.

3. How has human behavior impacted the Bobcat population?

Answer: The population has been reduced due to legal and illegal hunting.

SEVENTH GRADE:

1. How does having territories help the Bobcat?

Answer: Defined territories help to reduce competition for food and space
by limiting the number of Bobcats that reside in any one area.

2. How long do Bobcats live in captivity versus in the wild? How do you explain the difference in age ranges?

Answer: In captivity they can live over 23 years while in the wild they can live 12 to 13 years. In captivity the Bobcat can be protected from human and animal predators, be given a healthy consistent diet and receive veterinary care.

For an extra challenge: Discuss the merits of life in the wild versus life in captivity.

EIGHTH GRADE:

1. What behavioral adaptations relative to their diet do Bobcats display?

Answer: They are scavengers who will eat almost anything.

2. What physical characteristics that should help with survival have instead led to the Bobcats demise and why?

Answer: Their soft patterned fur that is designed to provide camouflage from predators has instead become highly sought after by humans who use their pelts for clothing.

