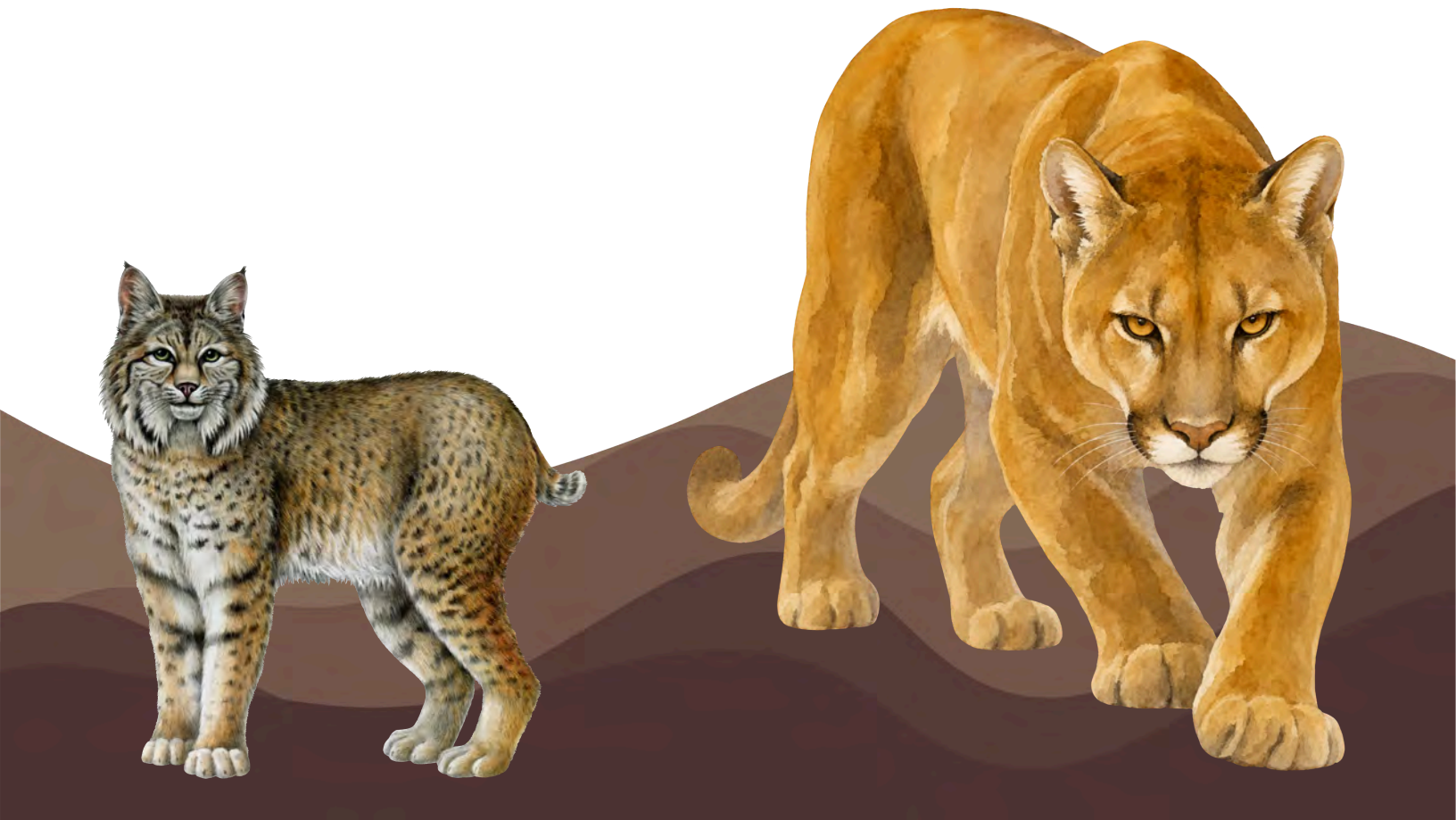
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

WILDCATS!

Activity Guide for Kids and Families to Learn About Wildcats of the U.S.



WILDCATS

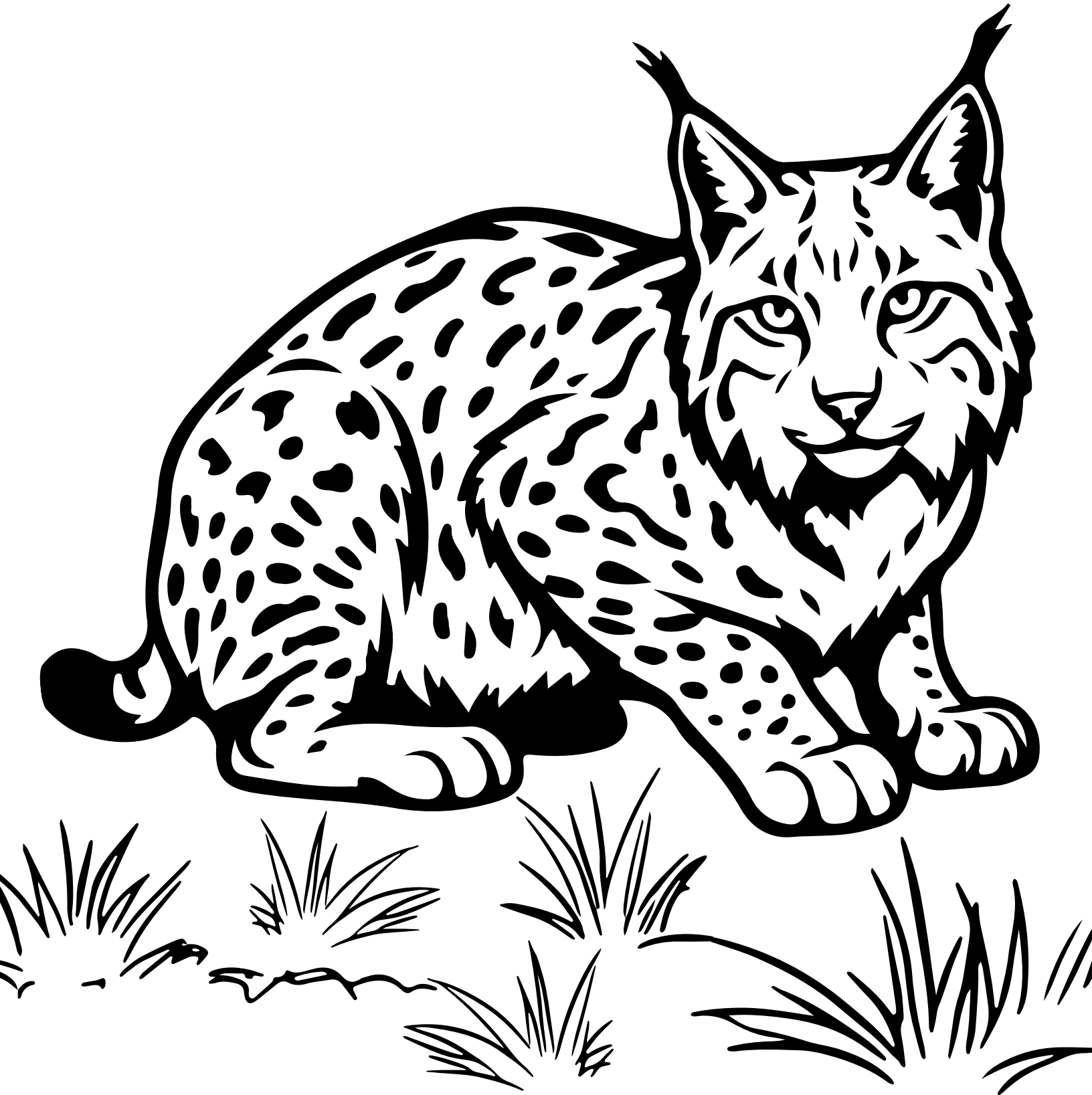
This guide is for elementary school-aged kids and includes the following:

- Coloring pages
- Word search
- Match the wildcat pattern activity
- Create a “take action” poster activity
- Watch: Wildcats vs. House Cats video
- *Ranger Rick* articles and crafts
- Wildcat photo gallery

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Canada Lynx

The Canada lynx is named because most of them live in the boreal forests of Canada, however, they can also be found in Alaska and other states.



Jaguar

The jaguar is the largest wildcat in the U.S. and the Americas. It’s listed as endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.



Florida Panther

Cougars live primarily in the western U.S, however the Florida panther is a regional population of cougars listed as endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

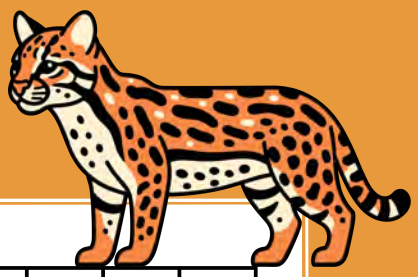


Ocelot

This cat's name, ocelot, comes from the Aztec word tlalocelot, meaning "field tiger."



WILDCATS!



F	O	U	J	A	G	U	A	R	P	E	D	O	L	I	C
A	L	N	O	W	Y	I	T	E	F	I	R	S	D	O	A
M	O	O	S	C	O	O	P	H	E	E	O	N	O	J	N
C	A	C	R	U	S	C	E	E	H	T	W	C	C	O	A
O	G	O	B	I	A	P	N	T	C	Y	L	W	E	S	D
U	L	L	M	U	D	T	N	U	S	I	Y	S	L	R	A
G	E	N	I	P	A	A	O	T	E	P	N	C	O	A	L
A	A	O	T	C	P	R	P	H	T	T	O	R	T	N	Y
R	P	T	D	A	Y	O	O	A	B	E	L	T	A	O	N
S	P	L	C	F	O	R	E	S	T	N	D	E	S	A	X
V	i	G	R	J	A	G	U	A	R	U	N	D	I	E	D
W	N	B	W	I	N	X	C	U	T	S	T	H	V	R	A
B	O	B	C	A	T	H	E	A	D	H	G	H	L	Y	Z

Bobcat
Canada Lynx
Cougar
Florida
Forest
Jaguar
Jaguarundi
Ocelot
Panther
Wildcat
Spots

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WILDCAT PATTERNS

Draw a line from each wildcat to its beautiful fur!

Ocelot

Mountain Lion

Bobcat

Jaguar

1



2



3



4



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Answers are on the last page.

WILDCATS!

Facts About Wildcats in the U.S.:

- **There are 6 different species of wildcats in the U.S.**
- **The jaguar is the largest wildcat in the U.S. and the Americas.**
- **Most of the world's bobcats live in the U.S.**
- **The jaguarundi was once found in southern Texas and Arizona; it is most likely now extinct in the U.S., however the U.S. Endangered Species Act currently protects them.**

Wildcats play an important role in the environment. They are predators and they help support a healthy ecosystem through their prey practices. Cats prey on small mammals including rodents, which can spread disease and cause crop damage. Larger wildcats, like the mountain lion, prey on herbivores like deer and elk, which can cause damage to native vegetation if overpopulated. Key threats to wild cats include habitat loss, illegal hunting, and vehicle strikes.

Review the following actions to learn how you can help protect wildcats and other wildlife. Choose one action and create a poster to educate and engage your family and friends.

ACTION IDEAS

- **Share fun facts about wildcats with your family and friends.**
- **Support creation of wildlife corridors.**
- **Avoid using harmful chemicals. Insecticides, rodenticides and herbicides are designed to kill living things and can contaminate fresh water sources including streams and rivers (where wildcats drink). Secondary poisoning of predators that prey on rodents can also be a result.**
- **Participate in or host a wildcat safety event. These events educate the community on wildcat safety, what to do if you encounter a mountain lion, for example, and how to prevent attracting wildcats into the community where people live.**
- **Advocate for laws that protect endangered wildcat species and other wildlife including the Endangered Species Act and the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.**

CREATE A "TAKE ACTION" POSTER

Choose an action and design a poster to educate and engage your family and friends to help wildcats and other wildlife.

When designing your poster, consider including the following information:

- **Drawing or photo of a wildcat or other animal you are taking action for**
- **Text that describes the action you want people to take (e.g., stop using rodenticides, support wildlife corridors, etc.)**

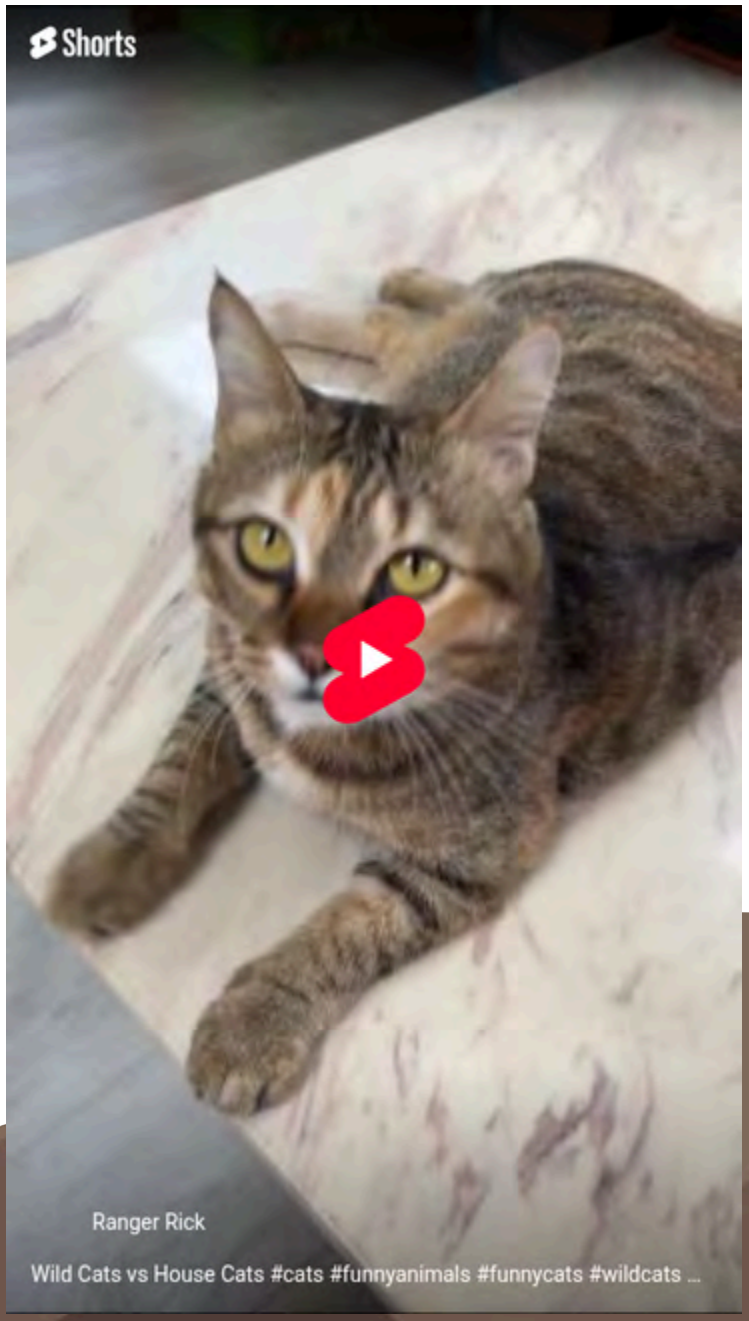
You can use the template on the next page for your poster, or create your own!



WILDCATS VS HOUSE CATS

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Watch *Ranger Rick* Video and Learn What Wildcats and House Cats Have in Common!



MORE ACTIVITIES WITH RANGER RICK

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Engage youth in learning more about wildcats:

- Read*: Water Cat: A jaguar doesn't mind getting its feet wet – or its whole body!*
- Read: *You might have seen the hit Black Panther movies. Exciting, right? Now meet the REAL black panther!*
- Read: *At Home with Bobcats*
- Watch: *Cougar Climbing*
- Make a Craft: Make a Cougar Puzzle
- Make a Craft: Felt Catnip Toys: A Fun Cat Craft for Kids (for your domestic cats!)
- Share with an educator: *Wildlife Mascots - Turn Your School's Wildlife Mascot into a Tool for Student-Led Environmental Learning and Action*

rangerrick.org

WILDCATS PHOTO GALLERY

Bobcat



Photo credit: Mark Zborowski

Canada Lynx



Photo credit: Laura Lorman

Florida Panther



Photo credit: Diana Berkofsky

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WILDCATS PHOTO GALLERY

Jaguar



Photo credit: Joe Crebbin

Mountain Lion



Photo credit: Hermann Brehm

Ocelot

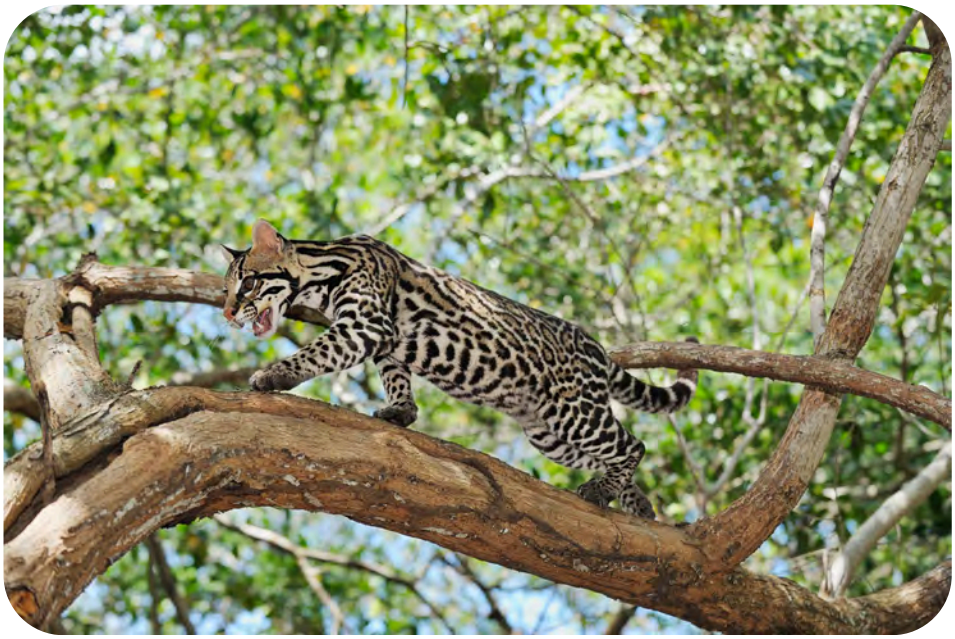


Photo credit: Getty

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ANSWERS & SOURCES

Answers for Wildcat Patterns

1. Jaguar

Most jaguars have tan to golden-orange fur, with black rosettes and a white belly. However, some jaguars are completely black, often called “black panthers,” their black fur coat is a melanistic trait. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

2. Bobcat

A bobcat’s coat varies in color from shades of brownish-yellow, tan or brown fur with spotted or lined markings in dark brown or black. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

3. Ocelot

An ocelot’s coat varies from creamy, or tawny yellow, to reddish grey and grey; their chain-like spots are bordered with black. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

4. Mountain Lion

A mountain lion’s coat varies from tawny or yellowish-brown with a dull, whitish stomach. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Coloring Pages: Sources for Fun Facts

- Bobcat: New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
- Cougar: National Park Service, Florida Wildlife Federation
- Jaguar: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Ocelot: Center for Biological Diversity

