

Range

range

The European lynx has been found in the north east mountain areas of Italy. There also might be a small population in central Italy.



Name the two Italian mountain ranges where the European lynx has been found.

Ear tufts

ear tufts

Look closely at the ears on the lynx.



Do all cats have ear tufts like the lynx?

Breeding



Look closely at the photo of the female lynx with her kittens.



How many kittens does she have?

Paws

breeding

The European lynx has very large paws compared to the size of its body. These paws are also very hairy.



paws

Why do you think the European lynx has large hairy paws?

Answer card

Ear tufts

Ear tufts are **not** found on most other cats.

The lynx may use the tufts like whiskers to sense things above their head or they may help the cats to hear really well.

Answer card

Paws

The European lynx has large hairy paws to act like snowshoes and stop them sinking into the snow.

Answer card

Range

The two mountain areas are the Alps and the Apennines.

The European lynx used to live in Italy and most of northern Europe, including Scotland. They became extinct in many of the European countries.

Since 1970, the lynx has been re-introduced to France, Germany and other eastern European countries.

The lynx are found in the Italian Alps and they may have been seen in the Apennine mountains.

Answer card

Breeding

This lynx has 3 kittens. Two kitten faces are clearly seen. Only the ears of the third are showing behind mum.

The length of time baby grows inside mum (gestation period) is around 70 days.

Babies are usually born in May or June.

The litter size is usually 2-3.

The young suckle milk from mum for about 5 months but will start to eat meat from 2 months old. They stay with mum until about a year old.

Threat

The European lynx became extinct in most of Western Europe around 200 years ago. Since 1970, there has been successful re-introductions to some of the countries.

There is only a small population in Italy.



Name some of the threats to the European lynx.

threat

Diet

Look at the picture of the skull of the European lynx.

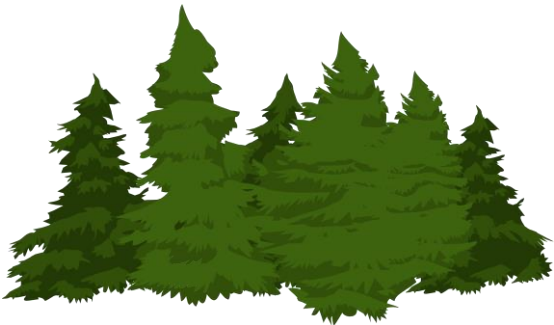


Is the European lynx a herbivore, carnivore or omnivore?

diet

Habitat

The European lynx can live in thick **coniferous forests**.



What are coniferous forests?

habitat

Answer card

Diet

The European lynx is a carnivore – a meat eater.

The lynx will eat a range of mammals and birds.

The lynx can kill an animal 3 or 4 times bigger than themselves. Catching a large prey means it can eat for many days but if the prey is too large, the lynx risks being injured. A roe deer is their favourite food, not too large and not too small.

Answer card

Threat

The threats are habitat loss and over-hunting.

The European lynx was hunted for fur, meat and sport.

Many forests have been cut down.

The lynx was also thought to be a pest.

Answer card

Habitat

Coniferous forests are forests that have mainly evergreen trees, ones that never lose their leaves.

The European lynx is found in habitats that have plenty of hiding places and enough prey.

The lynx is also found in rocky mountain forests and mixed forests.