

Name _____



How Leopards Move

Leopards are incredible movers, known for their strength and agility. These big cats do not fly or swim often but excel in running and climbing. Their powerful muscles make them one of the most skilled hunters in the animal kingdom.

Leopards are fast runners. They can reach speeds of up to 36 miles per hour for short distances. However, they do not chase their prey over long distances. Instead, they use their speed for short bursts to catch prey by surprise. Leopards rely on their stealth and quiet movements to sneak up close before attacking.

Climbing is another special skill of leopards. They are excellent climbers and can scale tall trees easily. Leopards often carry their prey into trees to keep it safe from other predators like lions and hyenas. Their strong legs and sharp claws help them grip tree branches securely.

Leopards also move with great flexibility. They can crouch low to the ground while stalking prey and leap several feet to pounce. Their long tails help them balance while running and climbing.

Interestingly, leopards are known for their ability to swim when necessary. While they prefer staying on land, they can cross rivers and lakes when needed.

Leopards' movement skills make them successful hunters and help them survive in the wild. Their speed, strength, and climbing abilities allow them to thrive in various habitats, from forests to savannas.