

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Threats and Predators of Leopards

Leopards are powerful predators, but they also face dangers in the wild. Though they are at the top of the food chain, leopards can still fall victim to other animals and human activities. Understanding these threats helps us protect them better.

Leopards have few natural predators due to their strength and ability to climb trees. However, lions, tigers, and hyenas can sometimes pose a threat, especially to young cubs. When facing danger, leopards often retreat to trees, using their climbing skills to stay safe. Cubs are particularly vulnerable when their mother is away hunting.

Humans pose a significant threat to leopards. Habitat loss is a major issue as forests are cut down for farming and cities expand. This reduces the space where leopards can hunt and live. Poaching is another danger. Leopards are hunted for their beautiful spotted fur, which is highly valued in illegal markets.

Environmental changes also affect leopards. Deforestation and climate change can reduce prey availability, making it harder for leopards to find food. Leopards may be forced to enter human areas in search of food, leading to conflicts.

Leopards can also face health issues in the wild. Diseases like feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) can weaken them. Parasites such as ticks can spread infections, making them sick. However, leopards have strong immune systems and often groom themselves to stay healthy.

To protect leopards, conservation groups work to protect their habitats and educate people about their importance. Preserving forests and stopping illegal hunting help ensure these magnificent cats can thrive for generations.