



Imagine a jungle cat, small and sleek, with eyes that shine in the moonlight - that's a Margay for you! Margays are small, spotted cats from the jungles of Central and South America that can weigh between 6 to 20 pounds. They have a gorgeous coat that's soft and thick, covered in rosettes and spots that help them blend into the jungle. These little cats are true acrobats of the jungle, with their long tail and special flexible ankles that can rotate 180 degrees, they can even climb down trees head first!

Speaking of jungle acrobats, let's talk about what Margays eat while they're swinging through the trees. These furry friends are carnivores, meaning they eat meat, and their diet mainly includes small mammals, birds, eggs, lizards, and frogs. They have a unique way of hunting too, they imitate the call of their prey to trick them! And when food is scarce, they are known to eat fruit too, making them one of the few cat species that eat both meat and plants.

You know what they eat, but have you ever wondered where these cool cats spend their day? Margays are mostly found in evergreen and deciduous forests, where they spend most of their time in trees, they are known as arboreal animals. They are solitary animals, meaning they prefer to live alone, and they are also nocturnal, which means they are most active during the night. When it comes to their life cycle, Margays have a lifespan of up to 24 years in captivity, and females give birth to one or two kittens after a gestation period of about 80 days.



Now, it's time to explore how Margays interact with other creatures in the jungle, including us! Margays are very shy and elusive animals, so they usually avoid humans and other larger animals. However, they play an important role in controlling rodent and bird populations in their ecosystem. So, next time you think of jungle cats, don't forget the Margay, the acrobatic cats of the Americas, who bring a little extra magic to our world's jungles.



**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) What is the primary diet of a Margay?
  - A. Meat
  - B. Plants
  - C. Fruits
  - D. Both meat and plants
- 2) How do Margays hunt their prey?
  - A. They use their speed to catch their prey
  - B. They hide and attack their prey
  - C. They build traps for their prey
  - D. They imitate the call of their prey
- 3) What are Margays?
  - A. Large, spotted dogs from the grasslands of Australia
  - B. Small, spotted cats from the jungles of Central and South America
  - C. Large, striped cats from the deserts of Africa
  - D. Small, furry dogs from the hills of Europe
- 4) Are Margays social in nature?
  - A. No, they only live with their partner
  - B. No, they are solitary animals
  - C. Yes, they live in large groups
  - D. Yes, they live in small groups
- 5) What type of forests do Margays prefer to live in?
  - A. Tropical rainforests
  - B. Old growth forests
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- 6) What is the weight range of a Margay?
  - A. Between 6 to 20 pounds
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- 10) What is the lifespan of Margays in captivity?
  - A. Up to 34 years
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  - C. Up to 54 years
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- 11) What do Margays eat when food is scarce?
  - A. Fruit
  - B. Insects
  - C. Leaves
  - D. Grass



12) What special skill do Margays have?

- A. They can swim long distances in water  
B. They can rotate their ankles 180 degrees  
C. They can run extremely fast and catch any prey  
D. They can glide short distances

**Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).**

- 13) "I usually eat small animals like birds and frogs."  
14) "I live in the desert, not in the forests!"  
15) "I don't eat meat at all. I only love munching on the sweet fruits of the jungle."  
16) "We're expert voice impersonators, we can even mimic human speech!"  
17) "I usually live in the jungle where I spend most of my time in trees!"  
18) "Guess what, I have special flexible ankles that let me walk headfirst down trees too!"  
19) "You will always find me playing in broad daylight."  
20) "I usually have at least ten babies at a time, it gets really crowded."  
21) "We Margays aren't really into climbing trees, we'd rather walk on the ground."  
22) "I mainly avoid humans and bigger animals! I am a bit shy."  
23) "Unlike other jungle cats, I love to interact with humans."  
24) "I live for quite a long time, up to 24 years, which is way more than a lot of other animals!"  
25) "Long lifespan? Not really, we rarely make it past our tenth birthday."

**Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.**

- 26) Margays sometimes mimic the calls of their prey to catch them.  
27) Margays are more fascinating than other cats because they can imitate the calls of other animals.  
28) Margays diet primarily consists of meat.  
29) It is surprising that Margays will eat both meat and fruit.  
30) Margays are native to Central and South America.  
31) Margays are the most interesting animals because they spend most of their time in trees.  
32) Margays are nocturnal.  
33) Margays can descend trees in a head-first position.  
34) Margays coat is more beautiful than any other cat species.  
35) The ability of Margays to climb down trees head first is the most amazing climbing skill.

**Determine if the statement is true or false.**

- 36) Margays are mainly active during the night.  
37) Margays only eat plants.  
38) Margays have a lifespan of up to 24 years in captivity.  
39) Margays live in big groups of 30 or more.



- 40) Margays can rotate their ankles 180 degrees and climb down trees head first.
- 41) Margays are the largest wild cats.
- 42) Margays have short tails.
- 43) Margays live an average of one year in captivity.
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- 45) Margays hunt by imitating the call of their prey.

**Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).**

- 46) Margays are solitary animals and prefer to live alone.
- 47) Are margays endangered?
- 48) Margays are excellent climbers and spend most of their time in the trees.
- 49) Margays are about the same size as a large house cat, but they have longer tails.
- 50) Can margays climb trees?
- 51) Where do margays live?



- |           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 27. _____ |           |
| 3. _____  | 28. _____ |           |
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| 22. _____ | 47. _____ |           |
| 23. _____ | 48. _____ |           |
| 24. _____ | 49. _____ |           |
| 25. _____ | 50. _____ |           |



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- |                  |                          |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>A</u>      | 26. <u>fact</u>          | 51. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 2. <u>D</u>      | 27. <u>opinion</u>       |                          |
| 3. <u>B</u>      | 28. <u>fact</u>          |                          |
| 4. <u>B</u>      | 29. <u>opinion</u>       |                          |
| 5. <u>D</u>      | 30. <u>fact</u>          |                          |
| 6. <u>A</u>      | 31. <u>opinion</u>       |                          |
| 7. <u>D</u>      | 32. <u>fact</u>          |                          |
| 8. <u>B</u>      | 33. <u>fact</u>          |                          |
| 9. <u>A</u>      | 34. <u>opinion</u>       |                          |
| 10. <u>D</u>     | 35. <u>opinion</u>       |                          |
| 11. <u>A</u>     | 36. <u>true</u>          |                          |
| 12. <u>B</u>     | 37. <u>false</u>         |                          |
| 13. <u>true</u>  | 38. <u>true</u>          |                          |
| 14. <u>false</u> | 39. <u>false</u>         |                          |
| 15. <u>false</u> | 40. <u>true</u>          |                          |
| 16. <u>false</u> | 41. <u>false</u>         |                          |
| 17. <u>true</u>  | 42. <u>false</u>         |                          |
| 18. <u>true</u>  | 43. <u>false</u>         |                          |
| 19. <u>false</u> | 44. <u>true</u>          |                          |
| 20. <u>false</u> | 45. <u>true</u>          |                          |
| 21. <u>false</u> | 46. <u>declarative</u>   |                          |
| 22. <u>true</u>  | 47. <u>interrogative</u> |                          |
| 23. <u>false</u> | 48. <u>declarative</u>   |                          |
| 24. <u>true</u>  | 49. <u>declarative</u>   |                          |
| 25. <u>false</u> | 50. <u>interrogative</u> |                          |



**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) What is the primary diet of a Margay? (paragraph 2)  
A. Meat  
B. Plants  
C.  
D.
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A. They use their speed to catch their prey  
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C.  
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A. Large, spotted dogs from the grasslands of Australia  
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C.  
D.
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A.  
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C.  
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A. Fruit  
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12) What special skill do Margays have? (paragraph 1)

- A.
- B. They can rotate their ankles 180 degrees
- C.
- D.