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## Resources for Youth Groups

# WELCOME TO EXPLORE

Welcome to the first edition of Explore – a poster resource for youth groups.

In each issue you'll find news from WWF, along with a poster and some supporting facts and activities or challenges for your group. Young people can earn 'The Panda Made Me Do It' badges for their efforts. This issue looks at the beautiful snow leopard of the eastern Himalayas. We consider the challenges that make it harder for them to live, breed and hunt.



## ONE PLANET FUTURE PACK

We're launching a version of our schools 'virtual visit' pack especially for youth groups. It contains activities to introduce children and young people to the concept of a one planet future. It also looks at the challenges WWF addresses to help build such a future – safeguarding the natural world, tackling climate change, and changing the way we live. **Email your details to [youth@wwf.org.uk](mailto:youth@wwf.org.uk) for your free resource.**

## BADGES & ONLINE INFORMATION

Visit our website for weblinks, further activities, links to other resources and badge ordering – [wwf.org.uk/ygresources](http://wwf.org.uk/ygresources)

## THE PANDA MADE ME DO IT

The Panda Made Me Do It is our initiative that's collecting, sharing and celebrating the positive things that people are doing to help protect our planet. We'd love you and your group members to visit [wwf.org.uk/do-it](http://wwf.org.uk/do-it) and take three simple steps:

- 1 Choose it – From our list of easy ways you can protect the natural world or take part in the activities in this resource.**
- 2 Do it – We'll help you all the way.**
- 3 Share it – Tell everyone what the Panda's made you do.**

# EXPLORE FACT FILE

## WHERE THEY LIVE

Snow leopards live at altitudes between 3,500m and 5,000m – above the treeline in the cold, rugged mountains of northern and central Asia, including parts of the Himalayas.

## WHAT THEY EAT

These fast, agile hunters prey on ibex, deer, boars, and rodents such as marmots. They can kill prey up to three times their own weight, and must kill a large animal about once every fortnight to survive.

## STATUS

There are only 4,000-5,000 snow leopards left in the wild. About 2,500 of them are of breeding age.

## THREATS

- Increases in the volume of domestic livestock have degraded and fragmented snow leopard habitat. The livestock compete for space with the leopards' natural prey species.
- In some places, domestic animals such as young yak can account for 30% of the snow leopards' diet. This can lead herders to kill leopards, to protect their stock and their livelihood.
- Despite protection under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, snow leopards are hunted to supply the illegal trade in their bones and body parts.
- Warming attributed to climate change is happening faster high in the Himalayas than the global average. It's causing the tree line to move higher, into alpine areas, making it harder for snow leopards' prey species to survive. This also 'squeezes' the space available for these big cats: they rarely venture into forested areas, and the lower oxygen levels at altitude restrict how high they can venture.

## SOLUTIONS

- We're protecting the eastern Himalayan landscape so leopards have large, connected areas in which to live, hunt and breed.
- We're helping communities avoid conflicts with snow leopards – for example by constructing predator-proof livestock pens, or setting up community-managed compensation schemes for farmers who lose livestock.
- We're supporting TRAFFIC (the wildlife trade monitoring network) to prevent trade in snow leopards and their body parts.
- We're working to convince world leaders and big businesses to cut greenhouse gas emissions drastically – by at least 80% by 2050, and 40% by 2020.
- We're promoting renewable energy, low-carbon transport and greater energy efficiency in our homes. And we're helping to preserve forests, which help regulate CO2 levels.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

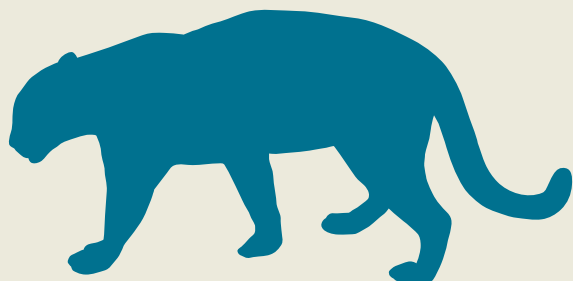
- Spread the word. Tell people how important it is to stop illegal wildlife trade.
- Make posters and display them at your meeting place.
- Use less energy. You can curb your contribution to climate change by walking or taking public transport rather than travelling by car, or switching off electrical appliances instead of leaving them on standby.
- Organise a walk to your meeting event or a sponsored event for WWF.

## SNOW LEOPARD FACT FILE

Average body length: 120 cm from the tip of its nose to its rump  
(its tail is about 100 cm long)

Average shoulder height: 60 cm  
Average weight: Male 45 – 55kg;  
female 35 – 40kg

Horizontal jump: 15 metres  
Vertical jump: 6 metres  
Running speed: 22 metres per second



Find pictures and film at [wwf.panda.org/whatwedo/endangeredspecies/snowleopard](http://wwf.panda.org/whatwedo/endangeredspecies/snowleopard)

# EXPLORE ACTIVITIES/CHALLENGES

You can earn a 'Panda Made Me Do It' badge by completing at least four of the activities below.

## A VOICE FOR SNOW LEOPARDS

Snow leopards cannot roar. Encourage group members to use their creative and communication skills to give snow leopards a voice. This could be through a poem, poster, story, newspaper article, or a mood board with photos, facts, maps and sketches.

## SNOW LEOPARD OLYMPICS

### Long jump

A snow leopard can leap horizontally about 12.5 times its own body length. Use the Vital Statistics section to mark out a 'snow leopard leap'. See how many leaps, strides, triple jumps or bunny hops it takes to jump this far.

### High jump

A snow leopard can leap vertically about 10 times its own shoulder height. Use the Vital Statistics section to work out this height. Mark it out on the floor.

Work out your best standing high jump: stand next to a wall and reach as high as you can. Ask a partner to record this point (A). Crouch down, leap up and reach as far as you can up the wall (B). Measure the distance between points A and B. How does this compare with the snow leopard's high jump?

### Balance

Snow leopards use their tails for balance. Create a straight line on the floor and see how quickly and accurately members of your group can retain their balance along it. Try holding your arms in different positions – e.g. arms by your side, arms above your head, or both arms out to the left.

## SNOW LEOPARD PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP

Snow leopards live in freezing mountain conditions, with steep cliffs, fierce winds and driving snow. Imagine you're going on a five-day trip to photograph them.

- o What equipment might you need?
- o Build a hide. It needs to be camouflaged so animals aren't scared away.
- o Practise being a wildlife photographer by taking 'action photos' of cats, hedgehogs, wild birds or insects. Send your best to [youth@wwf.org.uk](mailto:youth@wwf.org.uk)



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- o Find out more about where snow leopards live and recreate their habitat in a box.

## WILDLIFE TRADE TREASURE TRAIL

Create a snow leopard and/or illegal wildlife trade treasure trail. Write sets of questions and answers on different pieces of paper. Challenge your friends to match each question with the correct answer. Find out more at [wwf.org.uk/stop](http://wwf.org.uk/stop)

## SNOW LEOPARD BOARD GAME

Research and make a snakes and ladders game featuring the threats and solutions linked to the survival of the snow leopard. Visit: [wwf.panda.org/whatwedo/endangeredspecies/snowleopard](http://wwf.panda.org/whatwedo/endangeredspecies/snowleopard)

## ADOPT A SNOW LEOPARD

Discuss whether your group would like to adopt a snow leopard. What would this achieve? How could you raise the money? Visit [wwf.org.uk/adoptasnowleopard](http://wwf.org.uk/adoptasnowleopard)

## GAME - I SENT CLIMATE CHANGE PACKING BY...

This is a variation on the old game of 'I packed my bag'. Each player says "I sent climate change packing by recycling/reusing/reducing..." and then adds an action. The next player repeats the suggestions made before and adds their own climate change solution. You'll find ideas here: <http://wwf.org.uk/ecohelp>

# EXPLORE

## WWF'S EARTH HOUR - HELD IN MARCH EACH YEAR

WWF's Earth Hour is a simple idea that's quickly turned into a global phenomenon: hundreds of millions of people turning their lights off for one hour, on the same night, all across the planet.

But it's not to save an hour's electricity. It's something much bigger. WWF's Earth Hour is about people coming together to put the focus on this brilliant world we all share – and how we need to protect it. Not just for an hour a year, but every day.


Earth Hour is also a celebration. It's always a night to remember – whether it's a special candlelit evening at home with friends or family, or a night out on the town or watching the spectacular global switch-offs at landmarks like the Eiffel Tower, the Pyramids of Giza, Times Square or Sydney Opera House.

### And everyone's invited.

Find out more about this year's Earth Hour. To sign up to take part, and receive a free resource pack for youth and schools go to [wwf.org.uk/earthhour](http://wwf.org.uk/earthhour)



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|  | <p><b>Why we are here</b><br/>To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.</p> <p><a href="http://wwf.org.uk">wwf.org.uk</a></p> |
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