

Cougar

The cougar is on the endangered species list and is rarely seen in the wild. Farmers cleared the hardwood forests where it liked to live. The animal was seen as a potential killer and therefore hunted.

It is about the same color as a deer, has a long, slender body and long tail.

- Talk to wildlife specialists about cougars in your area.
- Are there people who have seen or captured pictures of cougars on a camera?
- Examine how the values of people have changed through the years. Have a puppet show the changes in cougar population on a chart. Let a puppet lead a discussion about values of the past, present, and future.
- Read the story about a panther in *Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder. (Pages 67-72)
- Let a puppet teach related vocabulary words, such as puma, panther, catamount, and mountain lion.
- Learn about the ways the animal communicates through sounds and actions. Have a puppet share this information.
- The cougar is used as a symbol for strength and sleekness. Athletic teams sometimes choose it to represent their capabilities. Let a puppet talk about the panther as a symbol. The animal is also used in advertising. Find ads using the cougar as a propaganda device. Let a cougar puppet discuss these ads.
- Examine the place of the cougar in the environment. Use it, along with other North American wildlife puppets, to discuss this placement.
- Use a cougar puppet, along with others that may be seen in a zoo, to talk about caring for zoo animals.
- Let a cougar puppet teach about the alphabet and the sound of hard "c".
- Find synonyms for cougar. Review the concept of synonyms.