

Houston Zoo at Home

JAGUARS

Napping Nooks

All ages

Jaguars spend a large portion of their day napping. This is to help them conserve energy during the warmest parts of the day and so they can hunt later in the evening or early mornings. In the wild, they're often nestled high up in the trees draped across a branch where the shade provides them protection from the sun and a safe place to relax. Our jaguars, Maya and Tesoro will spend their afternoons tucked into rock crevices or lounging in shady spots under the plants.

Materials Needed:

Blankets/sheets

Couch cushions

Chairs

Steps:

1. Where is your favorite napping place in your home?
2. Build yourself a sleep spot or fort out of furniture, pillows and blankets around your home or take the adventure outside!
3. What portable items can you bring outside to create a cool, shady space for relaxing?

Share your project with us!

Tag your photo using #HoustonZoo or email us your story at communications@houstonzoo.org.

Learn your Spots! Snack Time

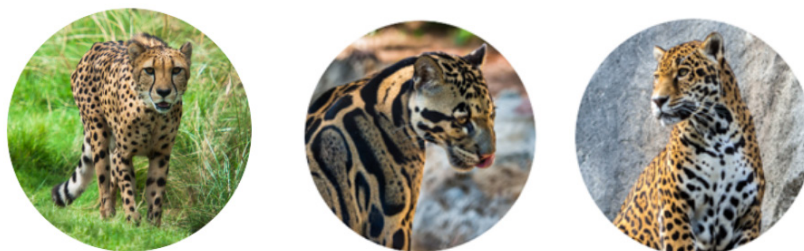
All Ages

Is it a jaguar, leopard, or cheetah? While these three big cats can often be mistaken for one another or used interchangeably, there is a surefire way to know what kind of cat you are looking at the next time you visit a Zoo, watch a nature documentary, or go on safari. It's by their spots! Practice identifying and creating these three different spot patterns the next time you enjoy a tasty afternoon snack.

Cheetahs have solid, closely spaced dark spots. The one exception to this is a king cheetah as their spots are often elongated. They're still solid though. Chocolate chips!

Leopards have rosettes, which look like jagged black circles. Clouded leopards have large, often elongated rosettes. They kind of look like sugar cookies.

Jaguars have rosettes like leopards, but they also have darker spots within the rosettes. They kind of look like chocolate chip cookies.



Build your own spotted snack:

Spots on a log:

1. Collect your favorite nut butter, celery, and raisins, or yogurt, berries, and a banana half for a sweeter option
2. Assemble ingredients and you have cheetah spots on a log!

Leopard stacks:

1. What round or circular snacks do you have in your cupboard? Here are some ideas: cheerios, pretzel rounds, and dried fruit rings
2. Spread out a handful of the snacks on a clean surface and you have leopard spots!
3. Challenge: how many "leopard spots" can you stack before they tumble?

Jaguar trail mix:

1. Jaguar rosettes are a mix of cheetah and leopard spots!
2. Search for snack items that are solid and round like chocolate chips, nuts, fruit pieces, and more circular items with open centers like pretzels and cereal.
3. Combine all ingredients and you've got a mixed bag of jaguar mix!

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