



Learning Activity:

SNOW LEOPARD DOOR HANGER

Activity Type	Arts and Crafts—Wall Decoration
Focus Area	Arts Education
Duration	20–25 minutes

Overview

In this arts and crafts activity, students will make a snow leopard door hanger while learning general facts about the species. In addition, students will discover the main threats facing these elusive cats and how WWF is working to protect them.

Learning Objective

At the completion of the activity, students should be able to:

- Recognize snow leopard characteristics.
- Understand the main threats facing snow leopards.
- Identify the importance of snow leopards and how they benefit their habitat.

Materials Needed

- Snow leopard door hanger cutout located at the end of the activity
- Scissors
- Glue



Female snow leopard with small cub



Vocabulary

- **Habitat:** a natural environment in which plants and animals live, breed, and get their food, water, and shelter
- **Human-wildlife conflict:** situations in which interactions between humans and wildlife lead to negative impacts on both sides, resulting in fear, injuries, death, and loss of property or livelihoods
- **Predator:** an animal that obtains food by killing and consuming other animals
- **Prey:** an animal that is hunted and killed for food by a predator

Activity Procedure

Part 1: Introduction and Preparation

- Ask the students to share what they know about snow leopards.
 - Snow leopards are found in the mountains of Central Asia, specifically in 12 countries, including China, Bhutan, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Russia, and Mongolia. They prefer to be in the high, mountainous landscapes of these areas.
 - The snow leopard has a spotted coat and a long, thick tail that wraps around to protect it from the cold. The tail also helps the leopard balance as it travels through the dangerous landscape.
 - The snow leopard has a powerful body, which allows it to climb tall mountains. They also have strong hind legs that give them the ability to jump six times the length of their body.
 - They have wide, fur-covered feet that act as snowshoes and distribute their weight so they do not sink into deep snow.
 - Snow leopards are very elusive and are called “ghosts of the mountains” because their coats allow them to blend into their snowy habitat.
 - Snow leopards are solitary creatures, which means they live and travel alone. Because it is so rare to see even two snow leopards together, there is no official term for a group of them.



Snow leopard in the mountains of Nepal



- They are top predators and can take down prey that is up to three times their own weight. They hunt animals that include blue sheep, argali wild sheep, ibex, marmots, pikas, and hares.
- Snow leopard populations are suspected to have declined by at least 20% in under two decades (although estimating this number is difficult because snow leopards are hard to find). They are classified as vulnerable by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List.
- Continue the discussion by explaining the importance of snow leopards in their habitat.
 - Snow leopards are top predators in their environment. Without the snow leopard, the balance of animals and plants living together in a habitat would be disrupted.
- Finish the student discussion by talking about the threats facing snow leopards. Start by mentioning that humans are their main threat.
 - Snow leopards are illegally hunted for their white-gray coat, which is spotted with large black dots.
 - Snow leopards are often killed by local farmers because the leopards feed on the herders' livestock, such as sheep, goats, horses, and yak calves. As food for snow leopards become harder to find, they resort to feeding on livestock, causing human-wildlife conflict.
 - Climate change is the greatest long-term threat to snow leopards. Impacts from climate change increase habitat loss, especially in places such as the snowy mountains, with melting ice and snow.

Part 2: Activity

1. Print out the snow leopard door hanger cutout sheet provided at the end of the activity for each student.
2. Have the students carefully cut out the body of the snow leopard and one of the faces of their choice.
3. Have them glue the face of the snow leopard onto the designated space on the hanger.
4. They may then hang the snow leopard door hanger by its long tail over a doorknob.

Part 3: Discussion and Assessment

- After the students complete the activity, have them share their door hangers with you and their classmates.
- Review the lesson by reinforcing the point that human activity, such as illegal hunting, human-wildlife conflict, and actions that result in habitat loss, are the main threats to snow leopards.





- Remind students that, even though there are many threats facing snow leopards, WWF is working to protect these animals.
 - WWF’s work focuses on reducing human-snow leopard conflict, preventing habitat loss, and controlling the illegal wildlife trade.
 - WWF also works with local communities to educate them on ways to reduce human-snow leopard conflict.
 - Because snow leopards are hard to find, they are challenging to study. WWF tracks them through technology such as camera traps and collaring to learn more about this elusive species.
 - In Nepal, WWF scientists tracked snow leopards with GPS collars that will provide details of the snow leopards’ behavior, range, use of the landscape, and factors that threaten their conservation.
- Have the students brainstorm with their classmates about the different ways they can protect snow leopards. Ideas may include raising awareness and educating their family and friends about the threats facing snow leopards.

Extended Learning Options

- Snow leopards are extremely elusive, meaning that they are hard to track and count. To learn more about how WWF experts and scientists study snow leopards, watch this [session about tracking snow leopards in Nepal](#) from Wild Classroom’s Conservation in the Classroom series. The video features an interview with a WWF research expert in Nepal. Have students watch the video and share with friends and family what they learned about snow leopard tracking.
- Use a tablet or smartphone (if available) to download the [WWF Together app](#). Encourage students to explore the snow leopard segment to learn more.
- Start a class fundraiser to protect snow leopards and other wildlife and their habitats using WWF’s online fundraising tool, Panda Nation. Learn more at [pandanation.org](#).

Additional Background Information

- Article: [WWF Featured Species: Snow Leopard](#)
- Article: [A Landmark Snow Leopard Collaring in Nepal](#)
- Article: [Where Do Snow Leopards Live? And Nine Other Snow Leopard Facts](#)

For more fun classroom activities with a focus on wild species and conservation, visit [wildclassroom.org](#).



AFFIX
SNOW LEOPARD
HEAD HERE