

# The Lynx

*the spirit of the forest*



Children s activity book  
aged 7-14 years



This book belongs to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_





Do you know...

# ...what the Eurasian lynx looks like?

The lynx has a short body, long legs and large feet with fur between the pads so that they act as snowshoes in winter. Its round head, with a short neck is often bearing a flared facial ruff. The lynx has triangular ears with black tufts and a short black-tipped tail.

What is missing?

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*Finnish  
the drawing*

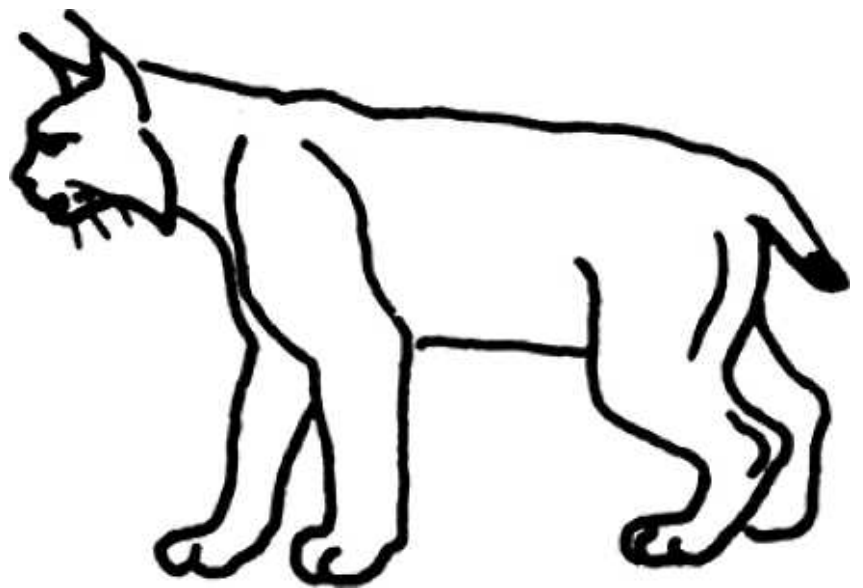
*Colour  
the picture*



Do you know...

# ... what kind of colour is the lynx's fur?

The coat is greyish with various tints (yellowish, rusty or reddish) along the back and sides of the body, but creamy to white at the belly. There are three major coat patterns: spotted, 'striped' and unspeckled



Do you know why the lynx has spots on his fur?

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Can you give this lynx his colour back?



Do you know...

## ... what kind of adaptations lynxes have to survive?

The Lynx has very good adaptations and senses like:



- \* sharp teeth
- \* sharp hearing
- \* keen eyesight

- \* good sense of smell
- \* forward facing eyes
- \* camouflages colouring

*Can you put the adaptations in the right place in this drawing?*

Which of the adaptations or senses will be the best one to:

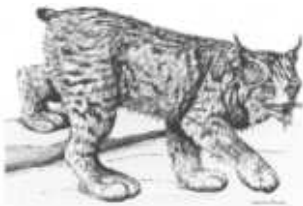
- \* Catch a prey? \_\_\_\_\_
- \* Kill a prey? \_\_\_\_\_
- \* Hide from prey and people? \_\_\_\_\_



Do you know...

## ... whether lynxes live in a group or live solitary?

Some animals, like the wolves, live in big groups. Lynxes prefer to live alone so they doesn't need to share their food. Only the females live together with their cubs of the year.



Do you know more animals that live in groups?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Do you know more animals that live solitary?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Do you know...

## ... where you can find lynxes?

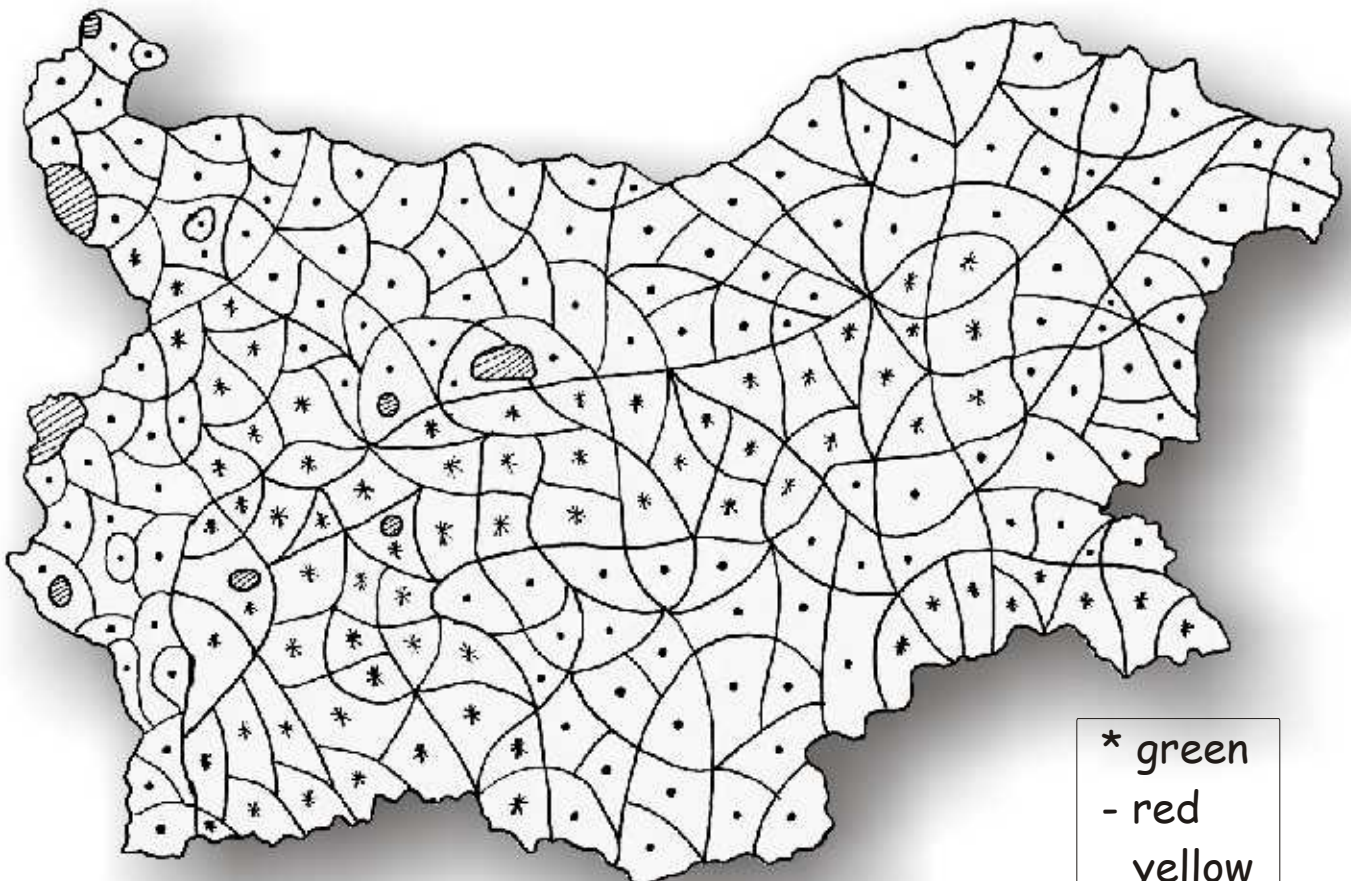
Here you see a map of Europe. The black and grey areas show the places where the lynx is living. Possible areas where it can be present by this is not proved yet are marked with question. Previously wide spread almost in all European forests, today there are not many places where it still can be found.



Are there lynxes present in your country or nearby?

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To find out more about lynx past and present in Bulgaria - colour the map following the legend. The green will show you where the lynx lived in the past, the red areas hide the most recent news where lynx had probably appeared.



\* green  
- red  
yellow



Do you know...

## ... in what kind of habitat lynxes live?

The lynx lives in large deciduous, mixed and coniferous forests, which have good ungulate populations, so the lynx had enough food to eat.

Can you find the three lynxes in their habitat?



Have you found them?

The lynx is very hard to find because it is a very shy and quiet animal, so only a few people saw a lynx in nature. It will always hide from you in or under a tree or in rocks.

This lynx is frightened as it is on an open space. Can you give it its habitat back?





Do you know...

## ... how large a home-range of a lynx is?

Each lynx lives in a particularly part of a forest area that is called home range. A home range of a lynx consist rocks and trees to hide, water to drink and roe deer to feed on, so the home range consist all living conditions.

Have you any idea what your home range is?

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Females use the central part of their home ranges more extensively, but male lynxes regularly visit the periphery of their home ranges. In every home range of a male lives one female and no other male. Males don't come in the central part of the female's home range, they control a zone around the female and their kittens, thus decreasing the competition for prey and keeping away other male competitors.

The home ranges are very big and sometimes lynxes travel for weeks to cover it.

Can you draw the home ranges of these lynxes?

m = male, f = female.



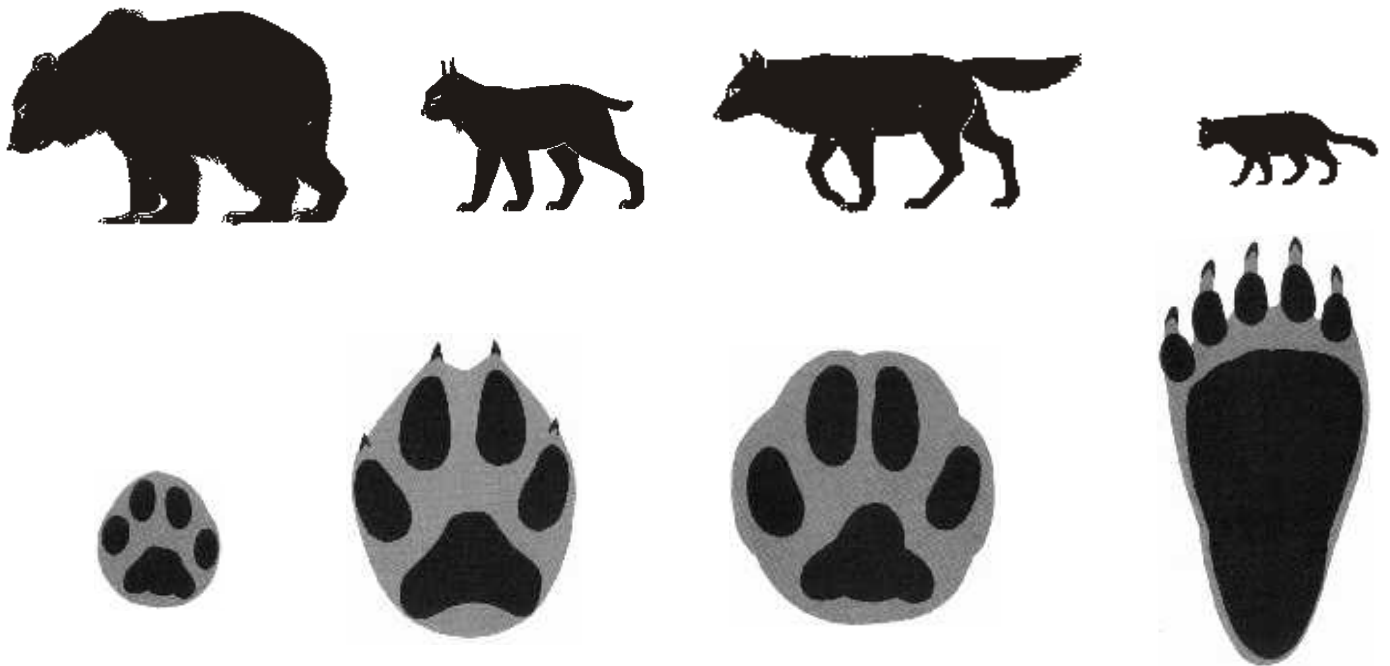


Do you know...

## ... how you can find a lynx in nature?

The lynx is very shy so it's hard to find. A good manner to find lynxes is to search for their tracks.

Here you see the tracks of the European large carnivores the bear, the wolf, the lynx and the wildcat, can you combine the right silhouette with the right track?



The track of the wildcat and the lynx are often mistaken because they look similar but the lynx track is more bigger, 7-cm, than the wildcat, 4cm.

Can you tell the difference between the wolf and the lynx track?

The lynx walks on its fingers, the front feet have five fingers (the fifth does not touch the ground) whereas the hind feet have only four fingers. The claws are sharp, strong and retractile.



The fully retractable Lynx claw

Retractile means that the lynx can pull back their claws into fleshy sheaths to protect them. This stops them getting blunt or damaged. When the muscle tightens the claw is unsheathed, just look at the picture below.



Do you know...

## ... anything about the reproduction of the lynx?

Lynx breed in spring, from February till mid-April, but sometimes the females have a rest year. After a gestation period of 67-74 days the female seeks a sheltered place under a fallen tree or in rocks and gives birth to two or three young, usually in late May.

Combine the dots and colour the drawing.







Do you know...

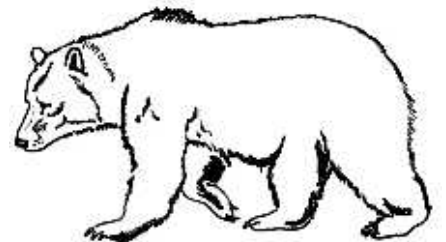
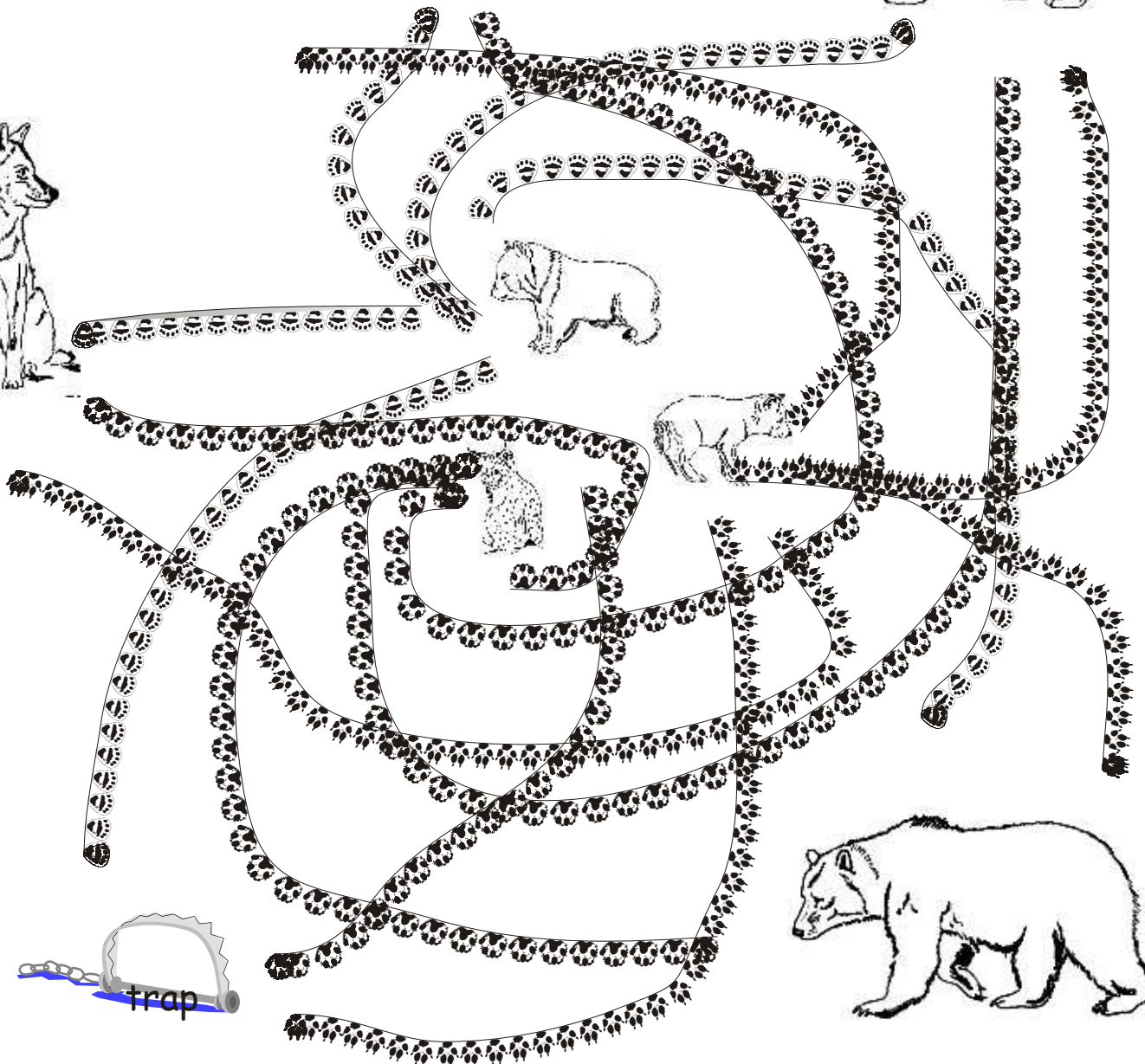
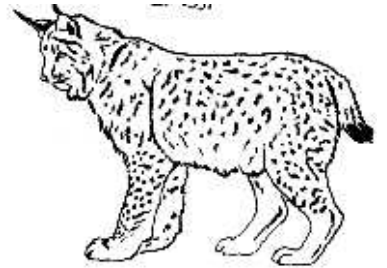
## ... how the kittens survive?

The kittens grow quickly and learn from their mother how to hunt. After eight to ten months they become independent and establish their own territories.

Now you learned the different tracks can you help these cubs to return to their mother?



hunter's house





Do you know...

## ... what the lynx eats?

The lynx eats things like roe deer, chamois and hares..

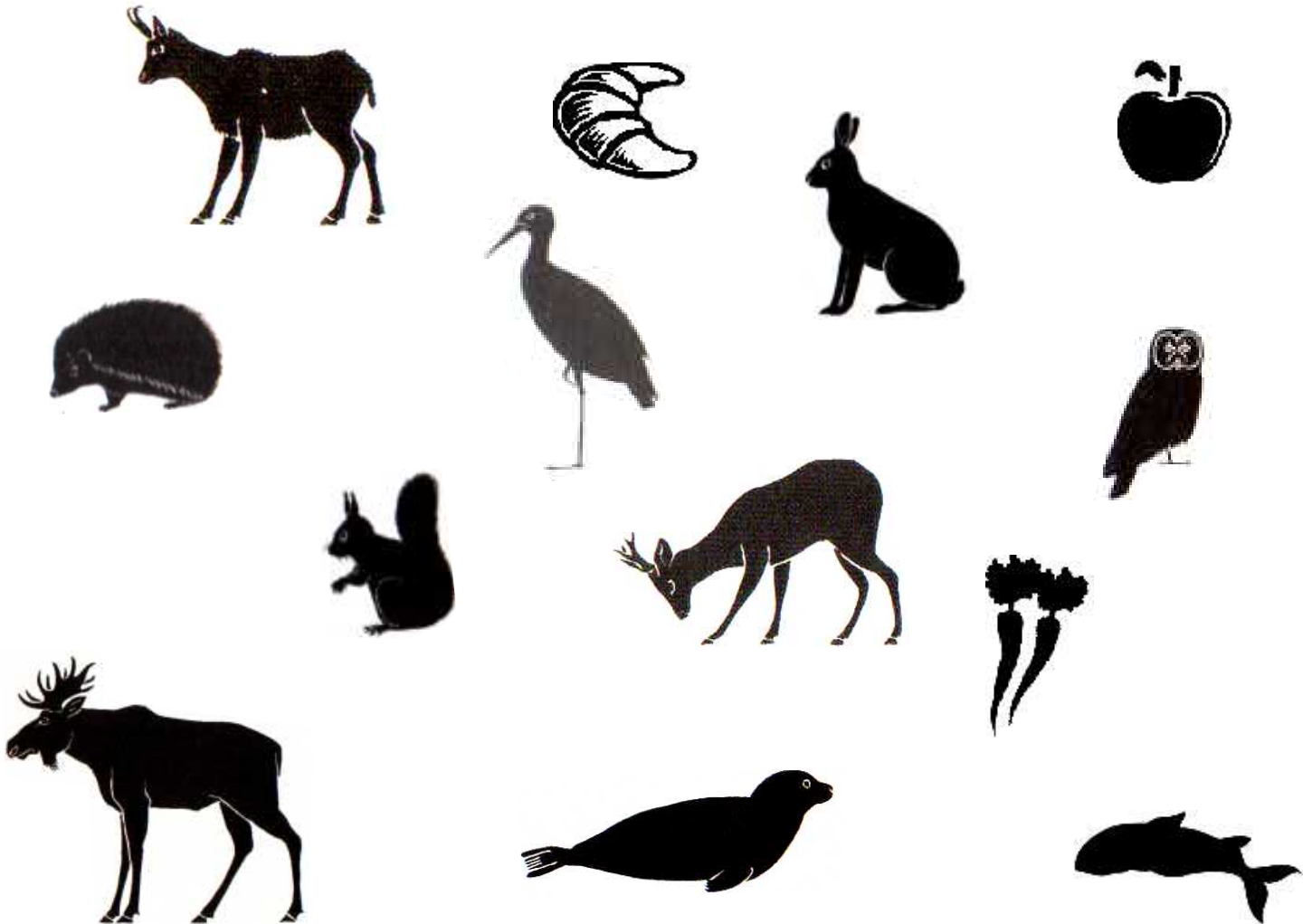
By looking what an animal eats we can divide them into 3 groups:

Plant eating animals such as the goat are called **herbivores**.

Meat eaters such as the lion are called **carnivores**.

Some animals eat both meat and vegetation, they are called **omnivores**.

Can you draw a circle around the food of the lynx?



So the lynx is called a \_\_\_\_\_



Do you know...

## ... what the teeth of a lynx looks like?

The teeth of the carnivores are designed for catching and killing their prey. Below you see a picture of a lynx skull

Can you mark the teeth which are good for grabbing and stabbing?  
They are called canines.



Carnivores are very important to the ecosystem because they eat some of the herbivores. When they don't eat the herbivores the herbivore population will grow and grow and they will eat all the forest. So if the carnivores don't eat the herbivores there will be no more forest and the herbivores will starve and disappear.



Do you know...

## ... what the close relatives of the lynx are?

The lynx is part of the catfamily, like lions and tigers. Here you can see the lynx and its relatives in the whole world.



Bobcat - North America



Canadian Lynx - North America



Eurasian Lynx - Europe



Pardel lynx - Europe (Spain)



Caracal - Africa and Asia

Do you know which one lives in North-America, feeds on rabbits and has a white tail?



Do you know...

## ... how the people are trying to protect the lynx?

The lynx is fully protected all year round in the Balkans. It is also protected in different conventions, like CITES and Bern Convention. Although well protected the lynx is threatened by local hunters and poachers, because they kill it for its beautiful skin. Illegally killing is forbidden and there are high punishments when you will be caught.

Somebody had arranged the puzzle below in a wrong way. Put the pictures in the right order and colour them - they will tell you the story of the baby lynx Lex.





## Do you know... ... what the threats for the lynx are?

The biggest threat for the lynx is that in some places there is not enough food to feed on. If no food is available, it will starve. Another big threat is the destruction of the habitat where the lynx live. When the habitat is gone so will be the lynx and a lot of other animals.

Hunters or poachers also often kill lynxes, although it is illegal.

Find the differences between two drawings.



Do you know which habitat the lynx would prefer to live in?

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Can you draw the lynx path to get to his prey without being shot or make contact with people?

The lynx can go through an open field but will be easily seen by the hunters so it will be dangerous. (Tell the right way the lynx has to follow to get to the deer-population)



Do you know...

... **how you can help the lynx to survive?**

How can you help preventing the lynx from extinction?

Don't throw dirt on the floor outside

Don't buy things of lynx fur or trophy

Turn lights, TV etc out when not using it

go walking instead of taking the car

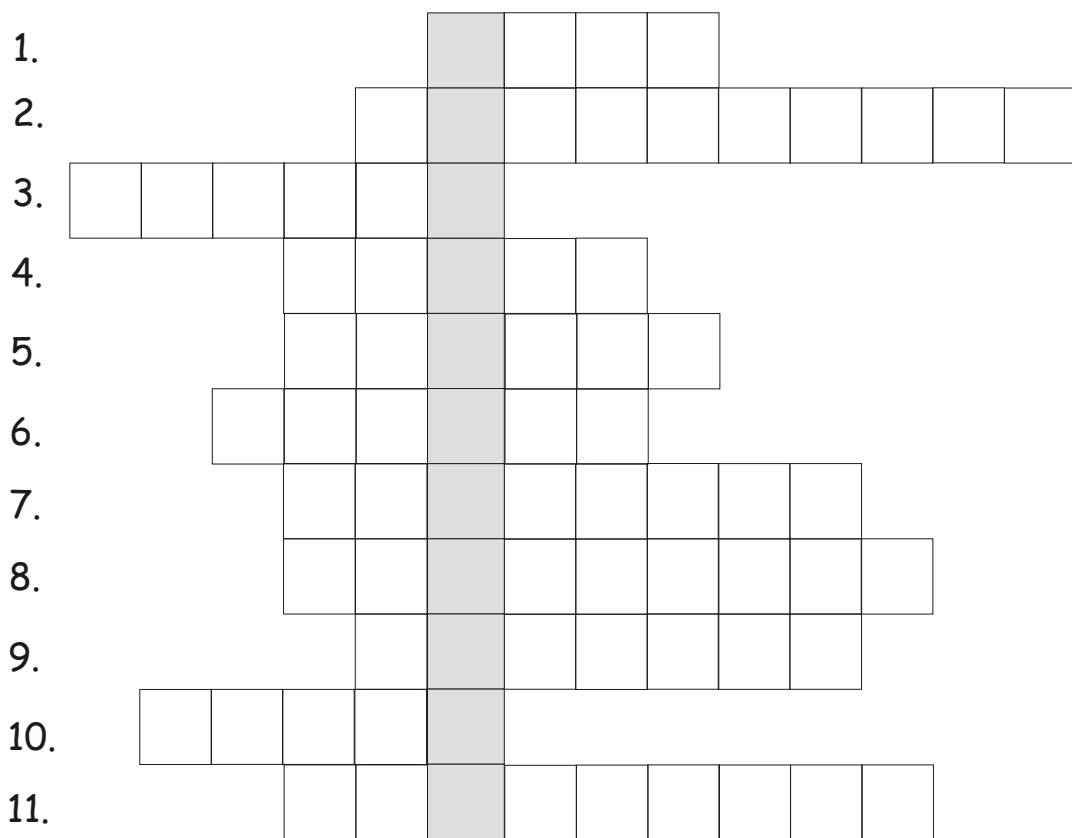
Tell everybody you know the importance of the lynx

Can you suggest something else that will help to prevent the lynx from extinction? \_\_\_\_\_

## Now you learned all these things a final test to see if you really understood everything!

Fill in the puzzle and find the hidden sentence. All the answers you can find on the previous pages.

1. The lynx smells with it s .....
2. It helps to hide from people .....
3. Smallest close relative ....
4. The lynx track is almost .....
5. Lynxes are born in .....
6. They live in a .....
7. Lynxes live .....
8. In winter the pads act like .....
9. The home ranges of a male and a female .....
10. The belly of the lynx is .....
11. The lynx eats meat so it s called a .....



# Lynx puzzle

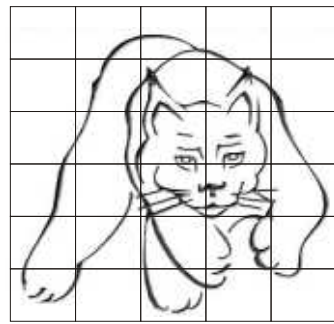
# Appendix I

Cut the pieces and put the lynx back together!

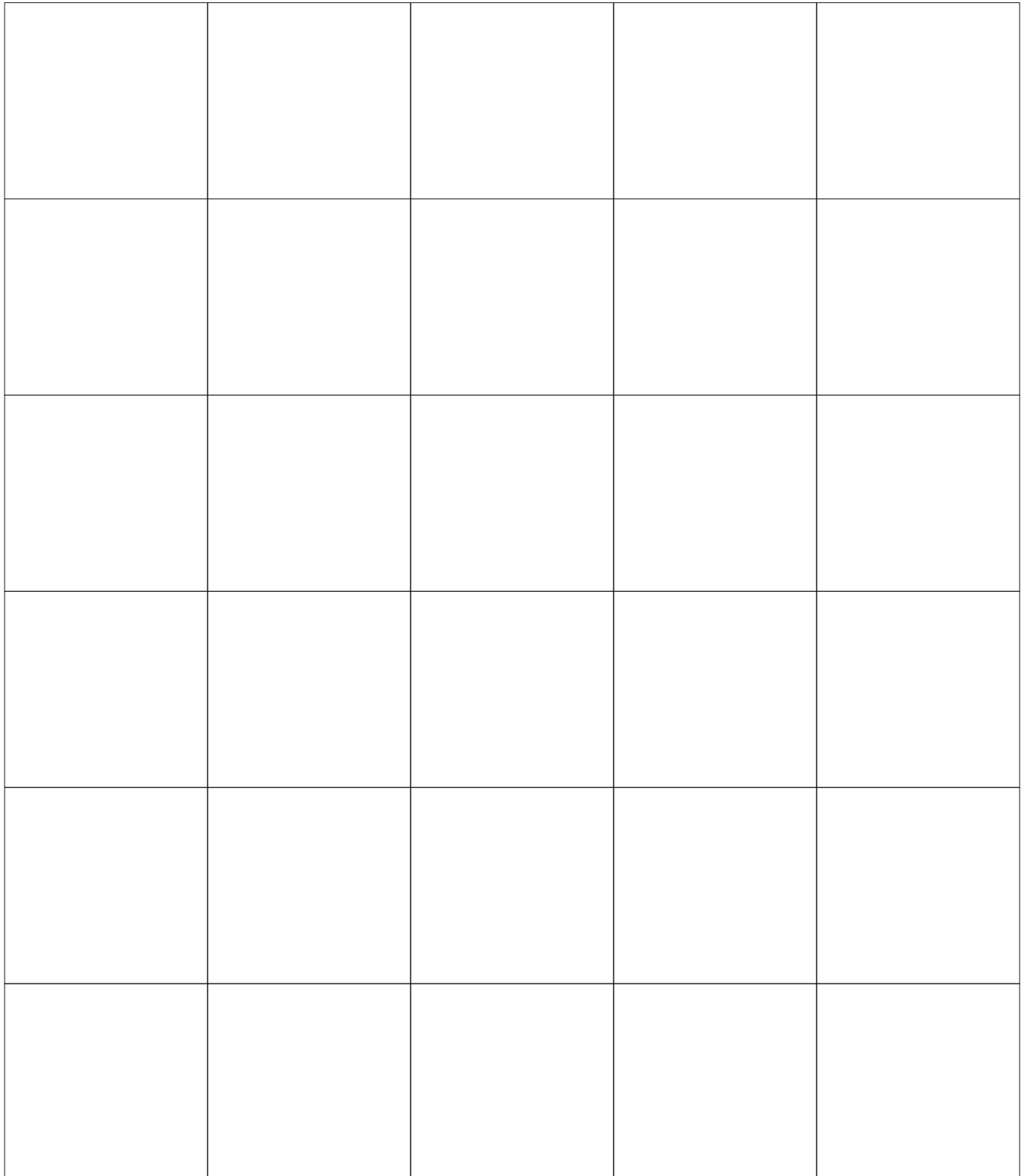




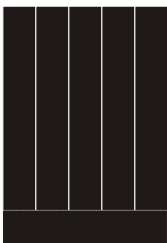
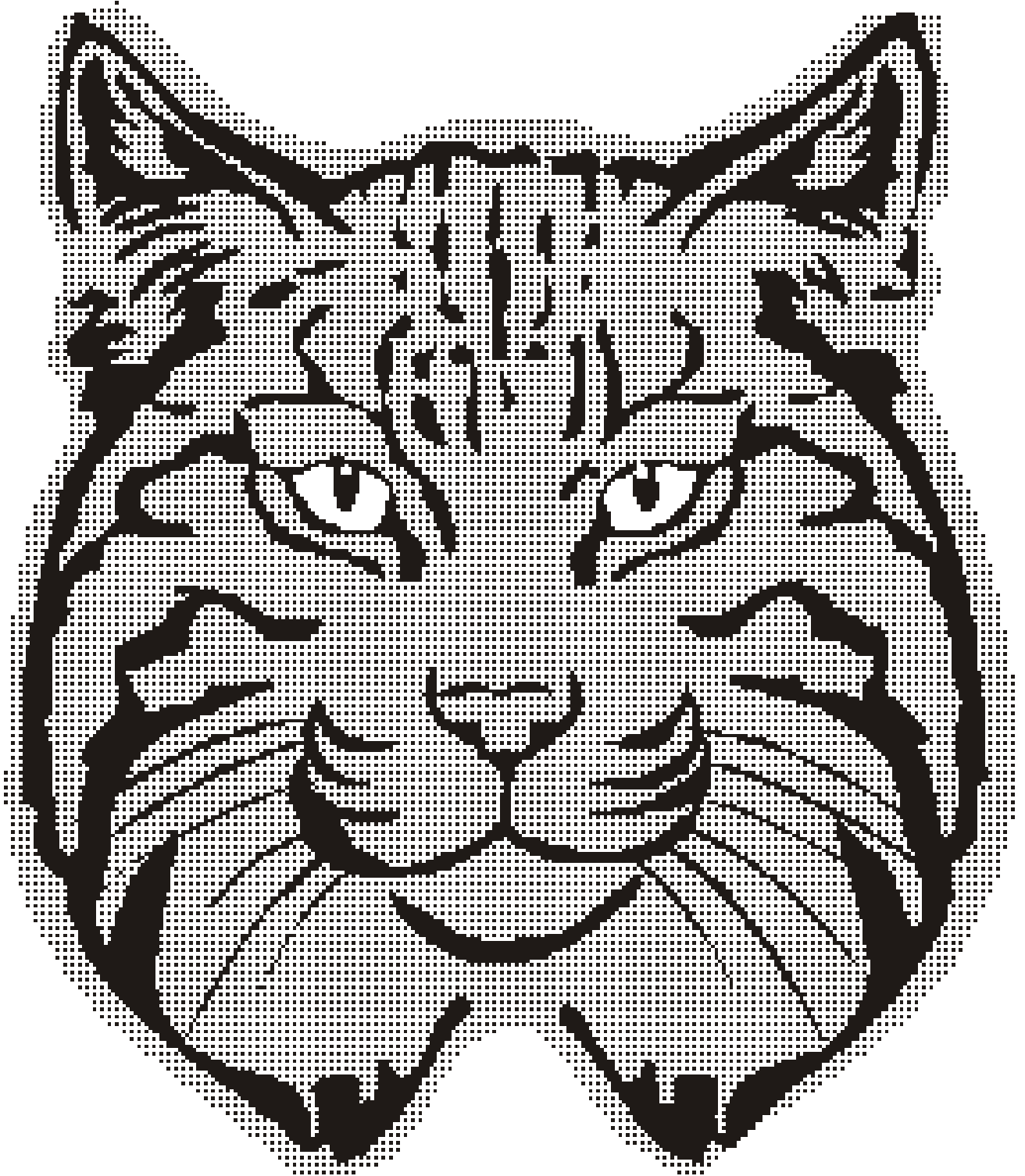
# Lynx puzzle (cont.)



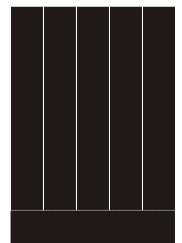
Put the puzzle pieces here! Colour the drawing to enjoy its full beauty.



This is a gift for you - lynx-mask with eartufts. Cut, colour, stitch and enjoy!



Eartufts



*The forest legend*



*Lynx (Lynx lynx)*



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