

# Fishing Cat: Built for the Water

## Student Handout (Grades 3–5)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Vocabulary

- Adaptation – a body part or behavior that helps an animal survive
- Habitat – the natural home of a plant or animal
- Predator / Prey – an animal that hunts (predator) and the animal it hunts (prey)
- Wetland – land that is covered with water, like a marsh or mangrove forest
- Webbed feet – feet with skin between the toes that help with swimming

### Before You Watch

Do you think cats like water? Why or why not?

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What body parts help a house cat hunt on land?

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### While You Watch

What is different about this cat compared to cats you have seen before?

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What do you notice about its feet?

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What does the fishing cat eat, and how does it catch its food?

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What helps the fishing cat stay safe and hidden in its habitat?

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## After Watching – Discuss

What body parts (paws, head shape) help the fishing cat hunt in water? How are these different from a house cat's?

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How is the fishing cat's habitat at the zoo similar to where it lives in the wild?

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How do baby fishing cats learn to hunt?

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## Activity: Land vs. Water Adaptations

Sort each trait into the correct column. Then add one more animal you know and sort its traits too.

| Land Adaptations | Water Adaptations |
|------------------|-------------------|
|                  |                   |
|                  |                   |
|                  |                   |
|                  |                   |

*Traits to sort: webbed feet · flat head · sharp claws (land cats) · fur · hunting by ambush · whiskers*

**My extra animal:**

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## Show What You Know

Name one way the fishing cat's body helps it survive in its habitat. Be specific!

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## Extension: 360 Habitat Tour

Find three features of the zoo habitat that match what fishing cats need in the wild (water, cover/shade, open space).

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