

Talk About It

In what ways do people protect wildlife? What kinds of things can harm wildlife?



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Protecting Wildlife

Protecting the Clouded Leopard

by Amrik Singh

Vocabulary

speculated	propelled
conserve	sedated
analyzing	dehydrated
vital	embedded

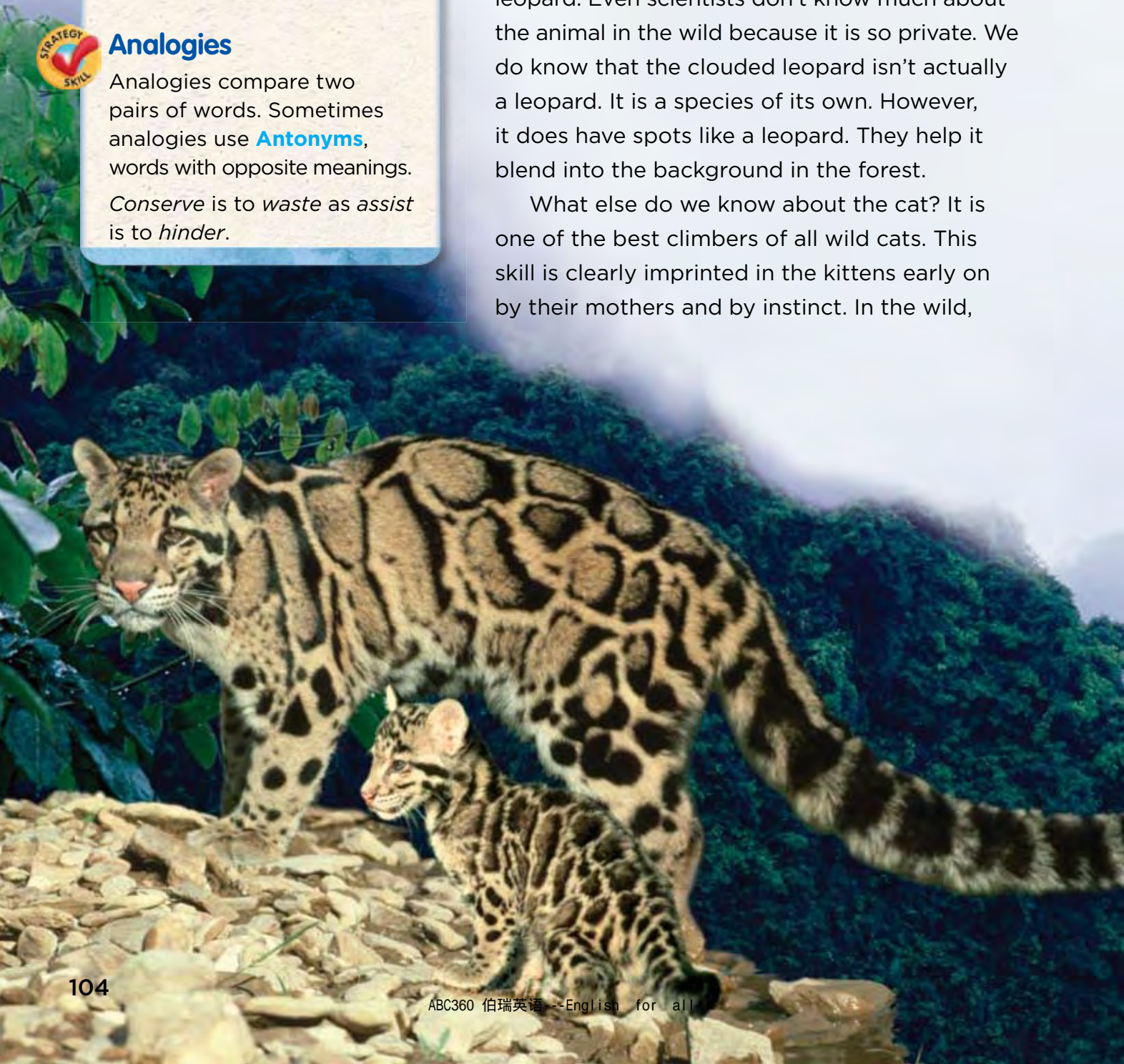
Analogies

Analogies compare two pairs of words. Sometimes analogies use **Antonyms**, words with opposite meanings.

Conserve is to *waste* as *assist* is to *hinder*.

Not many people know about the clouded leopard. Even scientists don't know much about the animal in the wild because it is so private. We do know that the clouded leopard isn't actually a leopard. It is a species of its own. However, it does have spots like a leopard. They help it blend into the background in the forest.

What else do we know about the cat? It is one of the best climbers of all wild cats. This skill is clearly imprinted in the kittens early on by their mothers and by instinct. In the wild,



the cat lives in the tropical rain forests of Asia. It hunts small animals, such as squirrels and monkeys. It is listed on the United States Endangered Species Act. This protects it from being hunted. Scientists have **speculated** that the wild population is getting smaller, but no actual numbers are available.

The Clouded Leopard Project works to **conserve** and protect the population of these cats. The project teaches about clouded leopards, **analyzing** their habits in captivity by watching their behaviors and interactions. The project realizes it is **vital** to the cats' survival to breed the animals in zoos. If more clouded leopards aren't born, the population will be **propelled** quickly into extinction.

The Clouded Leopard Project has recently begun a conservation effort in Thailand. It is a natural home of the clouded leopard. Funds will be given

to the Khao Kheow Open Zoo to help with the breeding of these cats. Part of the money also will help save the habitat of the wild cats. People will work to monitor these wild cats. They will be photographed instead of being **sedated**, or drugged, to be tagged. Sedating clouded leopards could cause the cats' bodies to lose too much water and become **dehydrated**, or worse.

The project has had some great successes in the last few years. Two cubs were born in the United States, and two were born in Thailand.

Members of the Clouded Leopard Project hope the urge to protect such species will become **embedded** in people. They sponsor several education programs at zoos. They also sponsor programs to directly help the cats. Through their work they ultimately will increase the population of this species.

Reread for Comprehension



Make Inferences and Analyze

Main Idea and Details

To understand a text, the reader must make inferences and analyze information. This will help the reader understand the main idea. Authors use various details to help readers understand the main idea.

Use a Main Idea Web to help you record the main idea and details as you reread "Protecting the Clouded Leopard."

