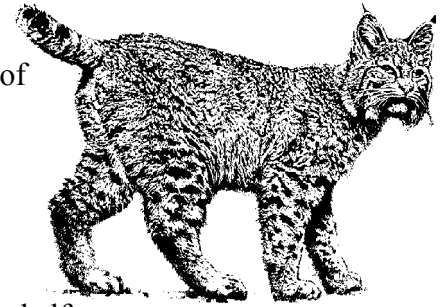


CAT CANYON

The Cat Canyon Exhibit provides both ground-level and overlook viewing of some of the small cats found in the Sonoran Desert Region. The cats may seem hard to spot in the crevices and vegetation of their enclosures, but keep looking! You'll be rewarded.



CATS

Look for the cats from above. You will often see them curled asleep upon a rock shelf.

Ask: *Where do cats like to sleep?*

Possible answers:

- on a cliff under a rock ledge
- in a high, hidden place

Ask: *Why would they choose this spot?*

Possible answers:

- it is shady and cool
- it is safe from other animals
- it is a good spot from which to watch

OCELOT

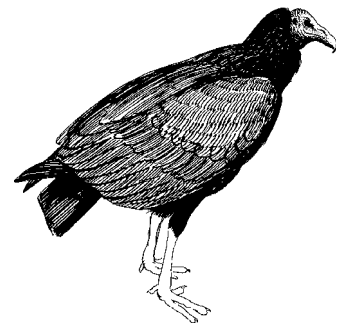
Ask the children: *How do you think the ocelot's stripes help it?*

Possible answers:

- they help the ocelot blend in to its home and surroundings so other animals cannot see it easily (they camouflage it)
- they help hide the ocelot while it hunts its prey

BIRDS*

The bird circulars in front of the Cottonwood refreshment stand offer a close up view of regional birds of prey, colorful jays, and parrots.



VULTURES

Ask the children: *Why do vultures have no feathers on their faces?*

Possible answer:

- Vultures eat rotting meat and sometimes really have to dig into a carcass with their heads to get at their food. Having few feathers on their faces keeps them cleaner.

HAWKS, AND OWLS

Point out the **talons (claws)** and **beaks** of the **hawks**, and **owls**.

Ask: *What do their talons and beaks look like?*

Possible answers:

- sharp
- curved like hooks

Ask: *How do talons and beaks help them get their food?*

Possible answers:

- both help them kill their prey
- beaks help them tear prey apart
- talons help them grab and carry prey

* If your group chooses to go into either of the walk-in aviaries, **please move slowly and quietly**.