

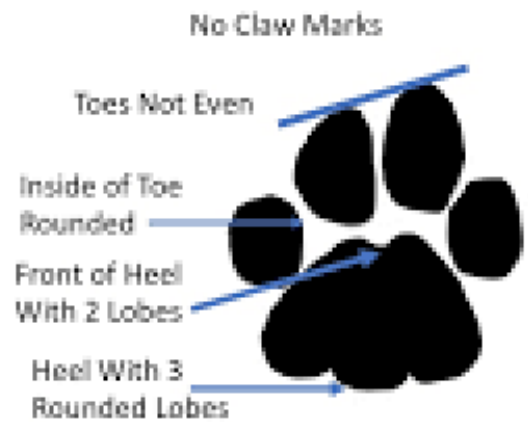


# Mountain Lion

## Safety

Mountain lions are amazing and beautiful mammals that are found all over California, however they can be quite dangerous if you come face to face with one. Mountain lions are the second largest member of the cat family in the Americas, the largest being the jaguar. Mountain lions can grow to be fairly large, averaging about 6-8 feet in length and 130 pounds.

Mountain lions can be identified by their tan fur with white bellies, and long tails tipped with black. Young mountain lions are born with dark brown spots on their body, but those usually disappear within 6 months. Mountain lions only eat meat, mostly from deer or smaller animals. The preferred habitat for mountain lions are areas with dense brush, trees and rocky ledges.











Sources: <https://www.mountainlion.org/portalprotectencounters.php>



# Activity: True/False

For this activity, you will read and analyze each statement provided about what you should do when you come into contact with a mountain lion. Write "true" in the space provided if you believe the statement is true, and write "false" if you believe the statement is false. It is okay if you don't know the answer and are just guessing! After attempting all the statements, the following page has the correct answers and explanations.

When you come across a mountain lion you should...

-  Remain calm and don't run away \_\_\_\_\_
-  Stand close to people if you are hiking in a group \_\_\_\_\_
-  Crouch down low and get close to the ground \_\_\_\_\_
-  Wave your arms and shout aggressively \_\_\_\_\_
-  Walk towards the mountain lion \_\_\_\_\_
-  Act afraid and turn your back \_\_\_\_\_
-  Maintain eye contact with the mountain lion \_\_\_\_\_
-  Throw sticks or stones if the mountain lion starts to approach you \_\_\_\_\_



# Answers and Explanations



Remain calm and don't run away (TRUE)

- Running away from the mountain lion may trigger their instinct to chase.



Stand close to people if you are hiking in a group (TRUE)

- Standing close to others is safer and the mountain lion will be less likely to approach you.



Crouch down low and get close to the ground (FALSE)

- You should always try to make yourself bigger by standing tall and waving your arms in the air.



Wave your arms and shout aggressively (TRUE)

- This will intimidate the mountain lion and make them less likely to approach you.



Walk towards the mountain lion (FALSE)

- Never approach a mountain lion, especially if it is with babies.



Act afraid and turn your back (FALSE)

- Always face the mountain lion so that you know where it is moving.



Maintain eye contact with the mountain lion (TRUE)

- Eye contact will let the mountain lion know you are not afraid.



Throw sticks or stones if the mountain lion starts to approach you (TRUE)

- This will hopefully scare the mountain lion off

