



TAXONOMY

# TRIVIA



WRITTEN BY  
THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL TEAM



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# WHAT IS THE MOUNTAIN LION MOST CLOSELY RELATED TO?

- A. TIGER    B. HOUSE CAT    C. DOG    D. LION

A mountain lion, otherwise known as a cougar, is not really a lion at all, but instead is more closely related to the **HOUSE CAT**. Mountain lions (cougars) purr and meow like other small cats, even though they are deadly hunters.



## AS A MEAT EATER, A RAVEN IS IN THE SAME ORDER AS A HAWK.

- A. TRUE    B. FALSE

**FALSE.** The raven, though it mostly eats meat, is actually the largest member of the Passeriformes order, or perching birds. With a wingspan of over 1.3 m (4 ft), the raven is an intelligent bird, able to kill animals as large as young sheep. Ravens have even learned how to lead wolves to their prey, giving these birds the advantage of knowing where to scavenge what is left of the kill later on. These beautiful birds can make a variety of vocalizations.



# WHICH BIG CAT LIKES WATER BEST?

- A. LEOPARD    B. LION    C. JAGUAR    D. TIGER

**TIGERS** often live around wet habitats such as tropical rainforests, swamps, and wetlands. They are excellent swimmers who will often dive into the water with great enthusiasm. Sometimes tigers find food to eat in the water; however, these playful cats may just plunge into the refreshing water to keep cool on a sultry day.



# WHAT IS THE FASTEST ANIMAL ON EARTH?

- A. PEREGRINE FALCON    B. CHEETAH    C. HUMMINGBIRD    D. SAILFISH

When this incredible bird swoops down to grab its prey, you would not want to be anywhere close by. With powerful wings and a sleek body, it can dive through the air with a speed topping 300 km (186 mi) per hour! With the cheetah clocking just 114 km (71 mi) per hour, the **PEREGRINE FALCON** wins the race for speed by a landslide.



# THE AMERICAN PRONGHORN ANTELOPE IS MOST CLOSELY RELATED TO THE GIRAFFE.

A. TRUE   B. FALSE

**TRUE.** The American pronghorn antelope is not actually an antelope at all. Unlike true antelope, such as those belonging to the family Bovidae (gazelles and impalas), the American pronghorn antelope is not closely related to sheep and cattle. Rather, it is the only living species in the family Antilocapridae, making its closest living relative the giraffe.



# WHICH OF THESE LITTLE PLANTS IN THE AIZOACEAE FAMILY SURVIVES BY PRETENDING TO BE A ROCK?

- A. FAIRY ELEPHANT'S FEET    B. CARPET OF STARS  
C. LITHOPS    D. CHILEAN SEA FIG

**LITHOPS** are small two-leafed plants native to southern Africa and are commonly called "living stones." They grow to only 2.5–5 cm (1–2 in) wide and stay flush to the ground. They can be incredibly difficult to find in their natural habitat because they look like small rocks. There are at least 37 species of this unique little plant that come in a variety of colors, including brown, pink, orange, green, and gray. Many have a small white, yellow, or pale orange daisy-like flower that blooms during early winter.



# THE PENGUIN IS THE ONLY BIRD THAT CAN SWIM UNDERWATER.

A. TRUE    B. FALSE



**FALSE.** There are actually a few birds that can swim underwater! Two outstanding examples are the American dipper and the cormorant. American dippers can not only “fly” underwater, but they can also walk on the bottoms of swiftly moving streams! They are also North America’s only aquatic songbird. The cormorant will float in the water with only part of its neck and bill out of the water. When it spots a tasty meal, it will dive and swim underwater, propelling itself with both its feet and its wings!

# SALTWATER FISH AND FRESHWATER FISH ARE CLASSIFIED SEPARATELY.

A. TRUE

B. FALSE

**FALSE.** All fish are classified as vertebrates (although hagfish have no vertebrae) and are grouped into classes by their skeletal framework: Agnatha (jawless), Chondrichthyes (cartilaginous), and Osteichthyes (bony). Although fish vary drastically in their habitats and have differing cells that allow them to or prevent them from living in salt water, this is not part of their scientific classification.



# TAXONOMY TRIVIA

THE WORLD IS FILLED WITH CARNIVOROUS  
PLANTS, FASCINATING MAMMALS, AND  
MUCH MORE!

In this colorful book, you will find that taxonomy, the classification of organisms, is complex and involves more than meets the eye. Through fascinating trivia that is both fun and engaging, you will learn about the classification of familiar and unique plants and animals, even some you may have never heard of.



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