

Kid's KOrner

Wonders Of Nature



No small wonder is the gargantuan dimensions of the new national champion baldcypress tree which was discovered on Georgia-Pacific timberlands deep in the Mississippi River bottomlands north of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Dwarfing the two Georgia-Pacific foresters (at either side) who found it, its trunk has a girth measuring 53 feet. This bottom-

lands monster stands 83 feet tall and its crown spread covers 85 feet. The new champion earned its official title from the American Forestry Association, which administers the National Register of Big Trees. *Taxodium distichum* may be the scientific name of this tree-mendous baldcypress, but being No. 1 is its true claim to fame.

Why cats hunt

LANCASTER — If you've had an outdoor cat, you've probably seen the pet stalking insects, birds, or small animals. And you may have wondered why the cat bothered with the chase. It already had plenty of food, and lots of toys.

The reasons why modern domestic cats continue to hunt have intrigued behavioral scientists for several decades. Several technical papers have analyzed this and other aspects of feline behavior.

According to Paul Leyhausen author of *Cat Behavior*, the cat's hunting instinct probably was developed before its association with man began. Creeping along the ground, and keeping a low profile is an effective way of reaching a small ground animal. The cat tracks the animal until it strays a reasonable distance from a hole, and then pounces on it.

If a cat corners a rat or mouse, it generally waits for the prey to turn and run before attacking. This gives the cat the opportunity to grab the back of the rodent's neck for a quick kill. On the other hand, an aggressive mouse or rat is often successful in escaping by forcing the cat to jump back in self-defense.

Although some cats are exceptionally successful in downing birds, the average cat stalks many more birds than it actually catches. A bird's erratic movements and unpredictable short flights made it difficult for a cat to plan a method of attack. Cats are most likely to chase and catch birds in areas where the rodent population is low. And even then, the cats will spend time chasing insects as well. Studies run by state fish and game departments indicate that cats use birds for only a small portion of their diet.

You may wonder why a cat spends time chasing a small animal, and then leaves it uneaten by your doorstep or on the kitchen floor. Research hasn't provided a firm answer. One theory is that the cat wants to store the food for later, when it may be hungry. Another idea is that the cat's predatory instinct is aroused by the sight of a rodent, and the full



Everybody seems to want to get in on the act of milking a cow and this donkey is no exception. However we have our doubts as to whether what he boasts is true or not. What do you think? Have you ever milked a cow?

Want to make some nutburgers?

Hey kids, mom is probably busy preparing nut recipes she found in *Home on the Range*, so why don't you get in on the act and try a new twist in the normal, dull hamburger? It's called a nutburger and the recipe is below:

Nutburgers

- 1 1/2 lb. ground beef
- 1 t. salt
- 1/8 t. pepper
- 1 small onion, to be chopped
- 1/3 c. walnuts, to be chopped
- 8 sprigs parsley, to be chopped
- 4 hamburger buns

Sprinkle meat with salt and pepper; mix, then form into 8 thin patties.

Chop and combine onion, walnuts, and parsley; spread mixture on 4 patties. Cover with remaining patties; press edges of meat together so filling is sealed in.

Grill until brown; serve on split buns. Makes 4 sandwiches

sequence of its catching and killing cycle has to take place, even if the cat isn't hungry.

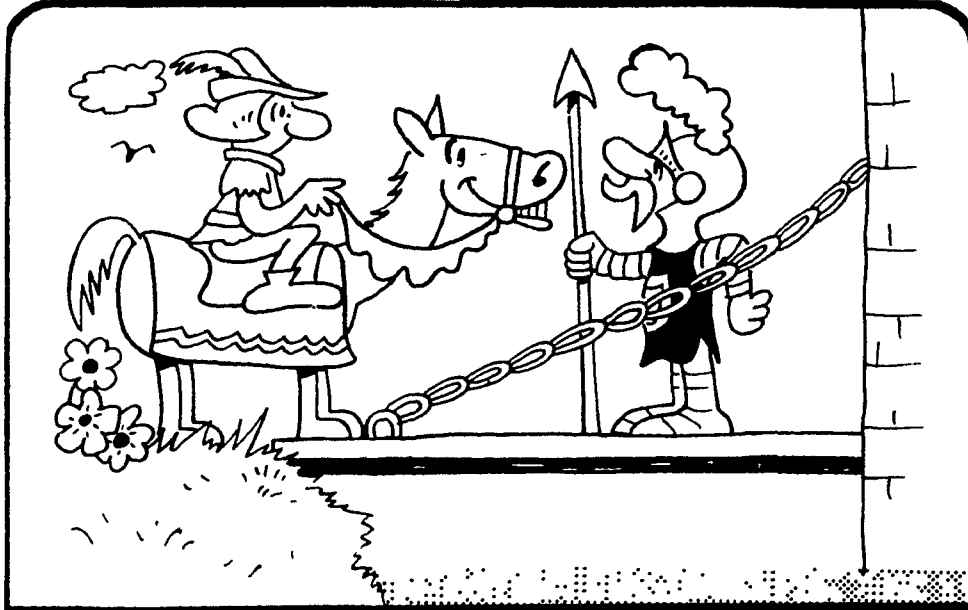
Many of an outdoor cat's injuries are related to hunting. Deep, festering abscesses start when a mouse or rat bites a heal at the surface, trapping bacteria inside. Shallow, ragged cuts are often the results of trips through landfills or construction sites littered with metal scrap. Cats also develop infected sores when they fight each other for hunting territories.

If you see your cat constantly licking one spot or favoring one

side, you might check for a small lump or hot spot that would signal a hidden abscess. Your veterinarian will have to open the abscess to help it heal from the inside out.

You will do yourself as well as your outdoor cat a favor by remembering to keep your pet's rabies vaccination up to date. Any pet that has frequent contact with wild animals — particularly raccoons and skunks — should be protected against this fatal disease.

it's DIFFERENT By How



There are seven differences in the second picture, Can you spot them?

ANSWERS: Spear, Plume, Ear, Mustache, Teeth, Belt, Hair.

