

## Key stage 2 exercise 2

### Pupil C - Piece C: an information text

Context: as part of their cross-curricular topic work, pupils were asked to research 2 animals that might have the potential to form a hybrid. They then wrote an information text on this newly discovered, genetically engineered hybrid animal.

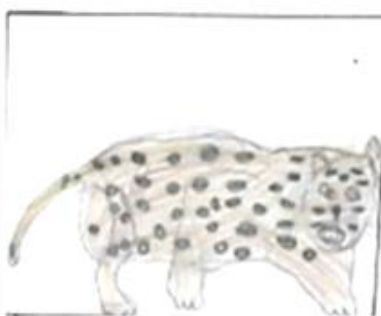
# THE COUPARD

The coupard (*Panthera concolor cougar*) is an interbreed of the African leopard – its mother – and the North American cougar – its father. These two animals bred when the leopard escaped from a North American zoo, roaming into the wild where it came across a male cougar.

#### Appearance

This carnivorous predator has many features, all benefitting it in different ways. One of these is the black rosettes, which come from the leopard, helping it to blend in with the surrounding area. It also has crooked claws and strong hind legs, both of which assist it to climb trees: the shape of the claws also supports the grasping of prey.

Weighing in at 50kg, this mammal can run at speeds of up to 82mph and can jump 15 feet into the air, leaping onto branches of trees where it likes to settle.



The coupard waiting to pounce for prey.

#### Food and Hunting

This solitary animal has a unique way of hunting: stalk and ambush. Despite its speed, the coupard prefers to stay hidden, before pouncing and digging its claws deep into the throat of its prey. Its diet consists of beetles; rodents; birds; antelope and deer; and, incredibly, sometimes baby giraffe. To help catch their prey, these animals have world-class hearing and a highly developed sense of smell.

#### Habitat

Despite originating from North America, this cat, a member of the Felidae family, lives in the sub-Saharan desert. For reasons unknown, the coupard struggled to survive in the wilds of North America and, because of its mother, born in Africa, it was shipped to this warmer continent. Instead of struggling, the coupard thrived in the Sahara, one reason being the plentiful supply of food.