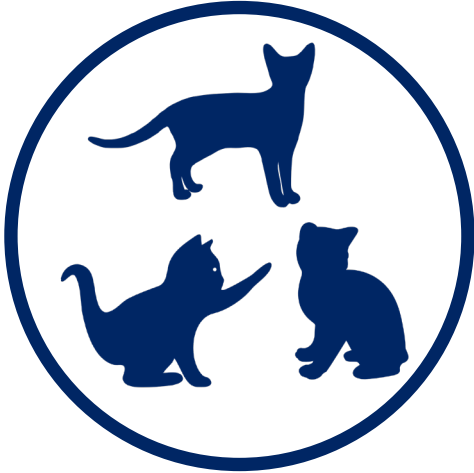


Children's Resources: All About Kittens



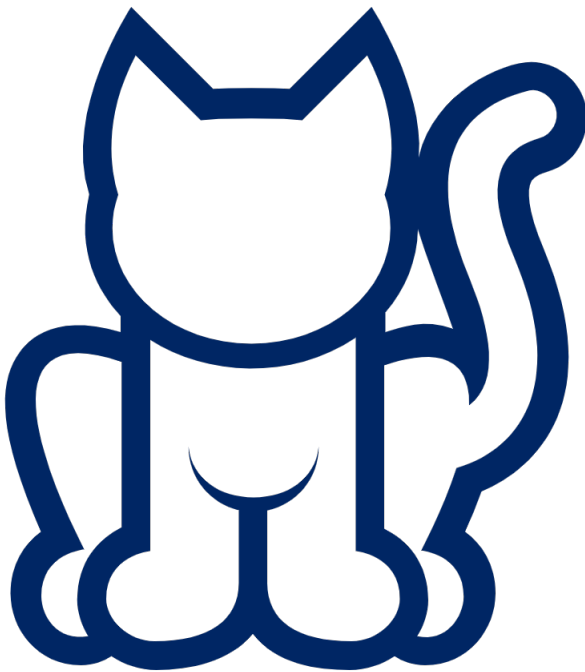
Word of the Day: Kitten

Cats are considered kittens from the day they are born up to one year of age. Newborn kittens require a lot of care and attention to grow up happy and healthy.

Discussion Questions

- Have you ever seen a kitten? Have you ever played with a kitten? What was it like?
- What do you think kittens like to do? What did you like to do when you were a baby?

If I had a kitten...



Finish coloring me in!

Name:

Fur color(s):

Likes to:

Children's Resources: All About Kittens



Kittens cannot see or hear when they are born because their eyes and ears are closed. All kittens are born with blue eyes which change into their adult colors over time.

Kittens need to drink milk every 2-3 hours when they are born. Kittens begin weaning at around 4-5 weeks, meaning they begin to switch from drinking milk to eating solid food.



Click Me!



Click Me!

Kittens lose their baby teeth too! Kittens' teeth begin to come in at 2 weeks of age and finish by 8 weeks. By 4 months, they begin to lose their baby teeth and adult teeth start to grow in.

Cats can have 4-6 kittens per litter! As the kittens get older, they will start to play with their siblings. Common play behaviors include pouncing, leaping, and chasing.



Click Me!



Click Me!

Kittens need help to use the bathroom when they are born. By 3 weeks, kittens can begin to learn how to use a litter box.

Kittens will need to visit the veterinarian to receive vaccines. Vaccines are given to help protect kittens from catching certain diseases.



Click Me!

A kitten is no longer a kitten when they reach one year of age. However, they continue to grow until they reach 18 months to 2 years. After that, they are fully mature adults.

Reference:

Bauhaus, Jean Marie. *Charting Your Kitty's Development* Hills (2018)

Cardenas, Cecilia de. *Cat Pregnancy Facts: How to Tell if Your Cat is Pregnant and More*. PetMD (2008)

Sullivan, Megan. *Kitten Development: Understanding Kitten's Major Growth Milestones*. PetMD (2018)

Activities



Infants/Toddlers

Kitten Sounds

Materials: computer/tablet, videos of kittens

- Introduce your child to what kittens sound like!
- Start by asking your child if they know what sound a kitten makes. Tell them kittens go "meow" and have them practice making the sound with you.
- Search online for videos of kitten sounds ([click here to listen](#)). Have your child practice their listening skills and mimic the kittens in the video.

Kitten Texture

Materials: pictures/videos of kittens, stuffed animal or soft object

- Introduce your child to what kittens feel like!
- Let your child pet a stuffed animal or soft object to demonstrate to your child what a kitten feels like.
- Some adjectives you can share are "soft", "fuzzy", "furry", "fluffy", and "warm".



PreK - Kindergarten

Kitten Vocabulary

Materials: paper & pencil, crayons/markers/colored pencils

- Make spelling fun by introducing new words related to kittens! Some words include: kitten, cat, paw, claw, meow, fur, tail, and whiskers.
- You can have your child practice on paper with a writing tool, or you can get creative by having them practice tracing the letters in sand, using alphabet magnets, or using letter stickers.

Activities



1st — 5th Grades

If I Had a Kitten...

Materials: paper & pencil, crayons/markers/colored pencils

- Encourage your child to brainstorm what it would be like to care for their very own kitten. What would they name it? What color would they like it to be? What would they like to do with their kitten?
- Children can write about and/or draw their kitten. Use the template on Page 1 to help guide your child along.



All Ages

Sharing Kitten Facts!

Materials: fact sheet on Page 2

- Encourage your child to share fun facts about kittens with friends/family! Use the Kitten Fact Sheet on Page 2 for a ton of kitten information!

Tune into AMC Kitten Cam!

Materials: computer/tablet

- If you or your child love cute animal videos, then you'll love this!
- The Animal Medical Center hosts a live Kitten Cam featuring foster kittens from the ASPCA. People can follow along on their journey by following our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/theanimalmedicalcenter/>.
- Be on the lookout for different kitten behaviors, such as playing, sleeping, and grooming. Try to spot developmental milestones as well! Are their eyes still blue? Do they have teeth yet? Are they using the litter box?
- Identify the items in their playpen - do you see blankets? A litter box? Toys?