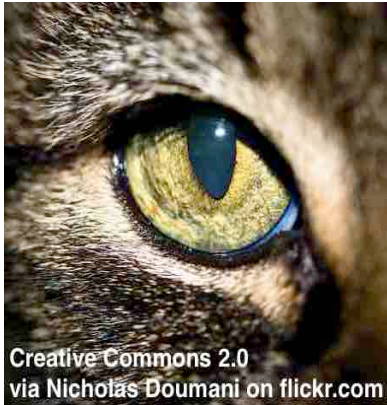


'Cat-fox' found in France could be new species

22nd June, 2019



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via Nicholas Doumani on flickr.com

Wildlife experts have discovered an unusual animal that they believe could be a new species. The animal was found on the French island of Corsica. The experts showed reporters a "cat-fox" that they had captured in the mountains of Corsica. The experts said they found a group of sixteen cat-foxes in a remote area of Corsica. The captured cat-fox measured nearly 90 centimeters in length from head to tail. The creature has very wide ears, short whiskers and a thick coat. It also has stripes on its front legs. Gilles Simeoni, a local government official, thanked the wildlife team for finding the cat-fox. He said: "It's a wonderful discovery." He added that Corsica was a "paradise of animal and plant biodiversity".

The cat-fox has been talked about by local people in Corsica for decades. It had become a mythical creature with farmers, who tell stories about seeing it. Corsicans are now happy and proud that their island is home to a news species of animal. Scientists believe that the cat comes from a little-known species that could have originated in Africa and the Middle East thousands of years ago. It is largely a nocturnal animal. One scientist said the cat-fox could have been brought to Corsica as far back as 6500BC. Another scientist said: "By looking at its DNA, we could tell it apart from the European wildcat. It's close to the African forest cat, but its exact identity is still to be determined."

Sources: foxnews.com / cnn.com / livescience.com

Writing

Foxes are more important animals than cats. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

wildlife / experts / species / mountains / tail / creature / stripes / discovery / paradise / local people / decade / mythical / farmers / Middle East / nocturnal / 6500BC / identity

True / False

- The new species was found on the French island of Levant. T / F
- The cat-fox was captured in the middle of a city. T / F
- The captured cat-fox was over a meter in length from head to tail. T / F
- A government official said finding the cat-fox was a wonderful discovery. T / F
- The cat-fox had been a mythical creature for decades. T / F
- Islanders are not happy that the cat-fox comes from their island. T / F
- The cat-fox could have come from the Middle East over 8,500 years ago. T / F
- Scientists need to look at the DNA of the cat-fox. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. experts | a. pleased |
| 2. believe | b. nirvana |
| 3. remote | c. precise |
| 4. creature | d. legendary |
| 5. paradise | e. think |
| 6. mythical | f. mainly |
| 7. proud | g. specialists |
| 8. largely | h. discovered |
| 9. exact | i. faraway |
| 10. determined | j. animal |

Discussion – Student A

- Would you like to be a wildlife expert?
- How many species do you think there are that we don't know about?
- What do you want to know about the cat-fox?
- Is the cat-fox more like a cat or fox?
- What do you think of the name 'cat-fox'?
- Do you prefer foxes or cats?
- What is a paradise for animals?
- What would be paradise for you?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. The animal was found on the French | a. nearly 90 centimeters |
| 2. a "cat-fox" that they had captured | b. creature |
| 3. The captured cat-fox measured | c. we could tell it apart |
| 4. very wide ears, short whiskers | d. island of Corsica |
| 5. a paradise of animal and | e. still to be determined |
| 6. talked about by local people | f. and a thick coat |
| 7. a mythical | g. nocturnal animal |
| 8. It is largely a | h. plant biodiversity |
| 9. By looking at its DNA, | i. in Corsica for decades |
| 10. its exact identity is | j. in the mountains |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How much do you know about wildlife?
- Are there any mythical animals in your country?
- What animals from your country are you proud of?
- In what ways are humans nocturnal?
- What are the characteristics of foxes?
- What are the characteristics of cats?
- What questions would you like to ask the wildlife experts?

Spelling

- Wildlife stpreex have discovered an unusual animal
- ratuepdc in the mountains of Corsica
- in a eertom area of Corsica
- It also has seirstp on its front legs
- It's a wonderful icysderov
- a sredaipa of animal and plant biodiversity
- It had become a mythical reuaetc
- happy and durpo
- iatdgoivre in Africa
- It is largely a catorulnn animal
- Another icsetnits said...
- its exact iyitednt is still to be determined

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. i	4. j	5. b
6. d	7. a	8. f	9. c	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Dragons

You think dragons are the best mythical creatures. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their creatures. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): unicorns, mermaids or fairies.

Role B – Unicorns

You think unicorns are the best mythical creatures. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their creatures. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): dragons, mermaids or fairies.

Role C – Mermaids

You think mermaids are the best mythical creatures. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their creatures. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): unicorns, dragons or fairies.

Role D – Fairies

You think fairies are the best mythical creatures. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their creatures. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): unicorns, mermaids or dragons.

Speaking – Mythical creatures

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| • Mermaid | • Yeti |
| • Fairy | • Unicorn |
| • Troll | • Kappa |
| • Loch Ness Monster | • Dragon |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.