

Looking for the Cat in the Ghats

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STAGE 4

Looking for the Cat in the Ghat





Deepa



Sandesh



Tim

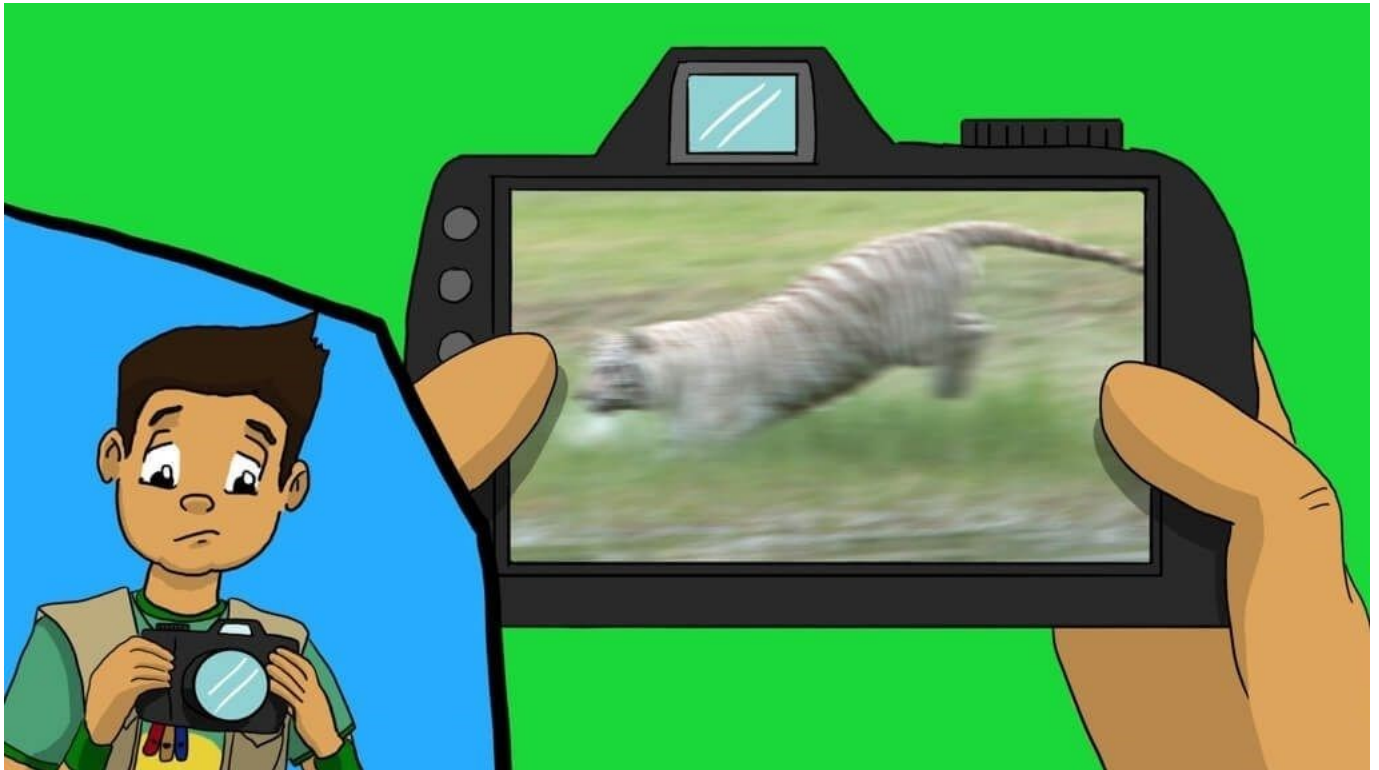
Characters



Today, Deepa and Tim take a trip to the Western Ghats forest. They are with Sandesh, a wildlife photographer. He takes photos of wild animals. Tim plans to take photos of animals in the Western Ghats. Deepa wants to use her new invention to speak with the animals in the forest.



First, they see a huge white cat with black stripes. Tim really wants to get a photo of the huge feline. Just as he takes out his camera, the cat runs into the forest.



Tim is upset because his photo is fuzzy. He wants a good photo of the wild cat because no one has ever gotten close enough before to take a photo of this rare cat. So, Tim and his team make a plan to find the huge white cat with black stripes. They will use Deepa's invention to ask the other animals for help.



First, the team spots a herd of elephants bathing in the lake. Deepa asks the family of elephants, "Did you see a huge white cat with black stripes?" One elephant wails, "No, do I look like a tiny cat? We are the biggest animals here. We have our own big problems. Go away!" Tim takes a photo of the huge elephants, and the team leaves.



Next, they see a tiger resting in the grass. They ask the tiger, "Did you see a huge white cat with black stripes?" The tiger moans and tells them, "No, can't you can see I am not a huge white cat with black stripes, I am huge orange cat with black stripes? I cannot help you. I have my own problems. Go away!"



Then, the team goes deeper into the forest. They hear quiet footsteps. It is a herd of deer. Deepa asks the deer, "Did you see a huge white cat with black stripes?" A doe, a female deer, shakes her head. She says, "No, we are afraid of huge cats. We have our own problems. Go away!" The team does not want to give up, so they go deeper into the forest.



Next, the team meets a monkey. Deepa asks the monkey, "Have you seen a huge white cat with black stripes?" The monkey screeches, "Why should I help you, after what people have done to the forest? I have my own problems. Go away!" Deepa replies, "We just want to take pictures of beautiful animals like you." The monkey smiles, "You think I'm beautiful? Okay, I will help you. Go to the pond and find the green frog with the yellow stripe down his back. The frog knows everything about the forest." The team thanks the monkey and goes down the trail to the pond.



When the team reaches the pond, Deepa spots the frog with the yellow stripe on its back. Deepa asks the frog, "Have you seen the huge white cat with black stripes?" The frog croaks back, "Yes, you are seeking Pom-Pom. He is the Cat in the Ghats of great fame. He is the only white tiger in the Western Ghats, but he fears people because of what they have done to the forest. If you want to find Pom-Pom, keep walking towards the stream. But Pom-Pom may not want to talk to you." The team feels confused and walks away from the frog.



As the team walks towards the stream, they see that many trees are cut down. Deepa cries out, “This is the problem the animals were talking about! Their homes are being cut down, and they have nowhere to live.” Tim has a plan. “We need to show the world what is happening in the Western Ghats. Let’s take photos to show people at home.” Sandesh adds, “That is a good plan. If people knew about the beautiful animals that live here, they would want to preserve the forest, to save the animals.”



Finally, the team reaches the stream, where they see the famous Cat in the Ghats drinking water. As the team approaches, he starts to turn away, but Deepa yells, "Wait, Pom-Pom. We need your help to save the Western Ghats." Pom-Pom replies, "The only people that come to the forest want to cut down the trees. How can you possibly help?"



Deepa says, “No one has ever seen a photo of the Cat in the Ghats before. If we can take your photo, we can use it to inspire people to protect your habitat.” “Hmmm,” says Pom-Pom. “That’s a good idea! You may take my photo if you use it to tell the world to preserve the homes of the animals in the Western Ghats.”

STUDENTS WANT TO SAVE THE WESTERN GHATS



Sandesh, Deepa, and Tim write a newspaper story about the problems in the forests of the Western Ghats. They say that people are cutting down too many trees. The animals need the trees to survive. They show photos of all the animals they met in the Ghats. They even show a photo of the black and white Cat in the Ghats!



Deepa and Tim speak with their class about the animals in the forest and their problems. The students are excited to see pictures of the famous Cat in the Ghats. They want to tell everyone to help preserve the forests of the Western Ghats.

Map of India



Western Ghats Facts

- Considered one of the top 10 hotspots in biological diversity in the world.
- The mountains of the Western Ghats are older than the Himalayan mountains.
- There are at least 139 species of mammals in the Western Ghats region.
- The forests and rivers of the Western Ghats are considered critically endangered by the World Wildlife Federation.



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fe/male		shakes	leaves	sur/vive		
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