

Ocelots



Complete this patch to learn all about this season's fall product animal mascot: the ocelot! Daisies and Brownies complete 3 activities. Juniors to Ambassadors complete 4.

Live Virtual Program: Embark on a captivating virtual journey into the elusive world of this year's Fall Product mascot: the ocelot! Join us for an educational program that delves into the mysteries surrounding the mesmerizing felines that roam the lush forests of the Americas. Get ready to be enchanted by their beauty, learn about their vital role in ecosystems, understand the challenges they face for survival, and explore the adaptations keepers make to maintain their health and happiness. Make sure to come with all of your ocelot questions - TWAS staff will be available at the end of the program to answer all your ocelot questions! You can register for this event at our [website](#).

Ocelots in Danger – Though there are large populations of ocelots in other countries around the world, ocelots are an endangered species in the United States, with less than 120 individuals remaining in southern Texas. How does an animal become listed as “endangered”? Identify 3 other animal species that are considered endangered in the United States.

Wide Open Spaces – Ocelots are very solitary creatures, meaning they prefer to spend most of their time alone and don't like sharing space with other ocelots. This means that each ocelot needs a large home territory to roam around to avoid meeting up with others accidentally. Explore and research the concept of a territory. How would you define *your* home territory? Identify 3 of your favorite places in your territory– not including your house!

Rough and Tumble –Ocelot kittens play a *lot* in order to learn about their bodies and to develop their social and hunting skills. Ocelots spend a lot of time in trees, so it's very important for kittens to learn how to climb quickly and quietly. They also have to practice their pouncing skills for hunting, of course! Create an obstacle course in your backyard to test your agility.

Glowing in the Dark – Have you ever walked into a room with your pet at night and seen a pair of glowing eyes staring back at you? This sometimes-surprising trait has an important function for nocturnal animals like ocelots. Watch [this](#) video to learn all about the awesome adaptations that animals have that allow them to see at night!



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Animal Representatives – The Aztecs are a Mesoamerican people that historically lived in modern-day south-central Mexico. Ocelots, along with their similar-looking cousin the jaguar, are a vital part of Aztec culture. In fact, the ocelots name is derived (taken from) the Aztec word *ocelotl*, which means ‘field jaguar’. These cats appear in many ways in both the Aztecs’ spiritual and social lives, representing courage, power, and divinity. What animal would you use to represent yourself? Reflect on what qualities are important to you (for example, kindness or intelligence) and consider which animals would be a good mascot for those qualities. Ask a friend or family member what they would choose and why.

Take Action! – American ocelots’ main threat is habitat loss from urbanization (building cities and roads) and expansion of agricultural and ranching land. Look up some of the ways scientists are trying to conserve these cats. After, share what you’ve learned by creating a poster or informational video, write a letter to someone who can make a difference, or choose another way to educate others about protecting this beautiful animal!

Rainforests – The majority of ocelots live in the dense tropical rainforests of Central and South America. Rainforests are home to many plants and fungi used in modern medicine and have the highest biodiversity (or different number of living things in a single area) of all the biomes in the world. Their defining feature is the amount of water it receives each year – an average of between 79 and 349 inches *every year!* Create your own tropical rainforest at home in a terrarium by following [this](#) guide. (You can even add a plastic ocelot to it!)

Hiding in Plain Sight – Have you ever wondered why zebras have stripes or fish have spots? These funky patterns on the fur and skin of some animals help them blend into their surroundings. Camouflage allows ocelots to hide from their predators and their prey. Watch [this](#) video to learn more about the different types of camouflage tricks that animals and insects use!

