

4th Grade Reading / LA

1st Blizzard
Bag

Mrs. Hashman

Point of View

Learn About It

Point of view is the view from which a story is told. In **first-person** point of view, the character telling the story uses the pronoun *I*. In **third-person** point of view, an outside narrator tells the story. Some third-person narrators know everything about all the characters and their actions.

Read the two passages. Each has a different point of view. Notice that the information you get in each passage is different.

Little Red Riding Hood skipped happily through the woods, thinking about the nice day ahead. She carried a basket of treats for her grandmother. She didn't know that a wolf was waiting for her in the woods, hoping to steal her treats.

As soon as I heard about that girl visiting her grandmother, I knew it would be good news for me. She always brings a basket of goodies to her grandmother. I will hide behind a tree until I see her coming, then jump out and steal her treats. These will make a delicious snack!

	First Passage	Second Passage
Point of View	Third person	First person
What You Know	What the girl is doing What she can see, hear, and think	What the wolf is saying and thinking What the wolf will do

Try It

Read the passage. Underline the details that help you figure out the point of view of the passage. Use the questions to help you.

Jake Is Late

I walked back and forth in front of the gym for at least half an hour, waiting for Jake. I looked at my watch every two minutes. "This is it!" I thought. "This is the last time I will agree to meet Jake anywhere."

Even though I must have looked like a crazy person talking to myself, I didn't care. I was so annoyed.

A couple of other kids walked past me, into the gym. They probably all knew that I was waiting for Jake because he was late, as usual.

They weren't going to miss the first half of the game. Only *I* was stuck outside in the cold, waiting for my soon to be ex-best friend.

Jake is a good kid and a great friend. We have known each other since first grade. We hang out together and go to each other's houses almost every single day. He has always been there when I needed him. He also has a great sense of humor. We spend hours together talking, laughing, and just having fun.

Unfortunately, he is not very reliable. He is late *all* the time. He is late handing in his homework, late meeting people, and late getting anywhere. He is even late getting his books back to the library! Today, like every other day, he was late again.

When he finally showed up twenty minutes after the game started, I gave him a look and waited to hear what he would say.

"Here I am!" he said, with an awkward smile on his face. "Let's go."

There are clues in the first paragraph that tell you the passage is written in the first person. What are they? What is the narrator saying and thinking?

We learn about Jake only through the eyes of the first-person narrator. What do we learn about him?



How would a third-person narrator give you a different impression about Jake?

Apply It

Read the passage. Pay attention to details that might help you figure out the point of view. Answer the questions on the next page.

Paulo

On most Saturdays, Paulo helped out at his uncle's small store. He put food away, swept the floors, and made deliveries. It was also his job to keep the sidewalk in front of the store clean. He didn't mind doing this. He was happy to help out. Uncle Alec was always very generous to Paulo and his family.

But this Saturday was different. It was the final day of baseball practice before the big tryouts next week. All his friends would be there, as well as some of the coaches. He thought about asking Uncle Alec for the afternoon off, but then he decided against it. Helping Uncle Alec was something he knew he should do.

It was near lunchtime when some of the kids from Paulo's team walked by the store. Paulo and Uncle Alec were outside sweeping the sidewalk. The kids waved and said hello to Paulo and his uncle. As they left, one of them called out, "See you on the baseball field at three, Paulo!"

Paulo kept on working. At about 2:30 his uncle said, "Paulo, why don't you go over to the field now? You have been a big help today. I can manage by myself for the next few hours. If you want, you can come back at six to help me close up."

Paulo was thrilled to hear this. He quickly finished what he was doing and took off. Uncle Alec smiled as he watched Paulo head for the field. He remembered what it was like to be a kid.



Answer these questions about "Paulo." Write your answers in complete sentences.

1. Which clues in the passage tell you that it is written from a third-person point of view?

2. What do you learn about Paulo from what he does and thinks in the first paragraph?

3. Which details in the second paragraph give you more information about Paulo?

4. Which details in the passage tell you about Uncle Alec?

5. In what ways does the third-person point of view help you understand the passage?

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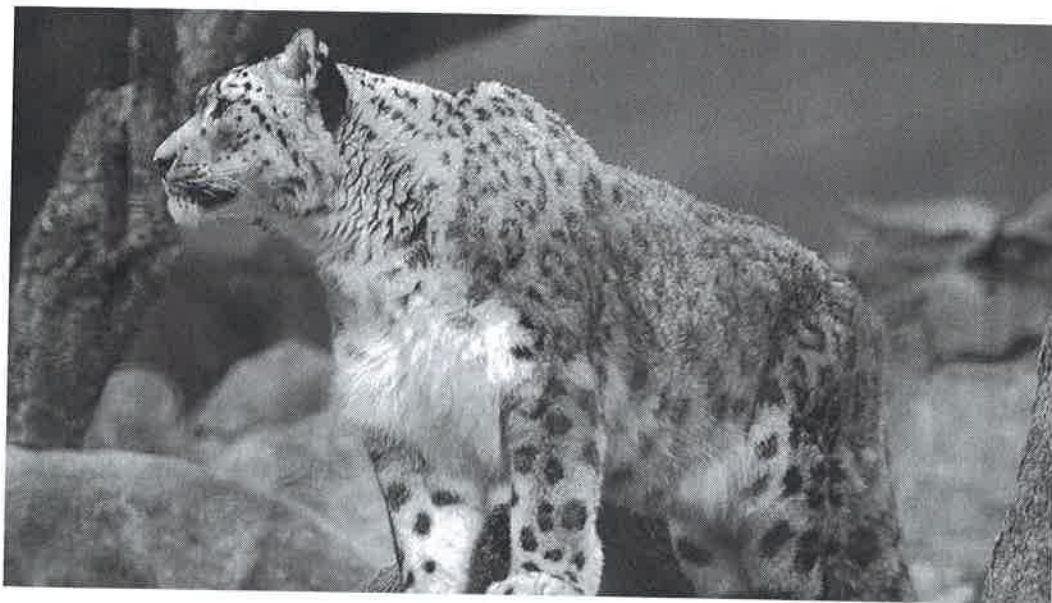
4th Science

NEWSLA

Bones from millions of years ago show big cats first roared in Asia

By Los Angeles Times, adapted by Newsela staff on 11.15.13

Word Count **676**



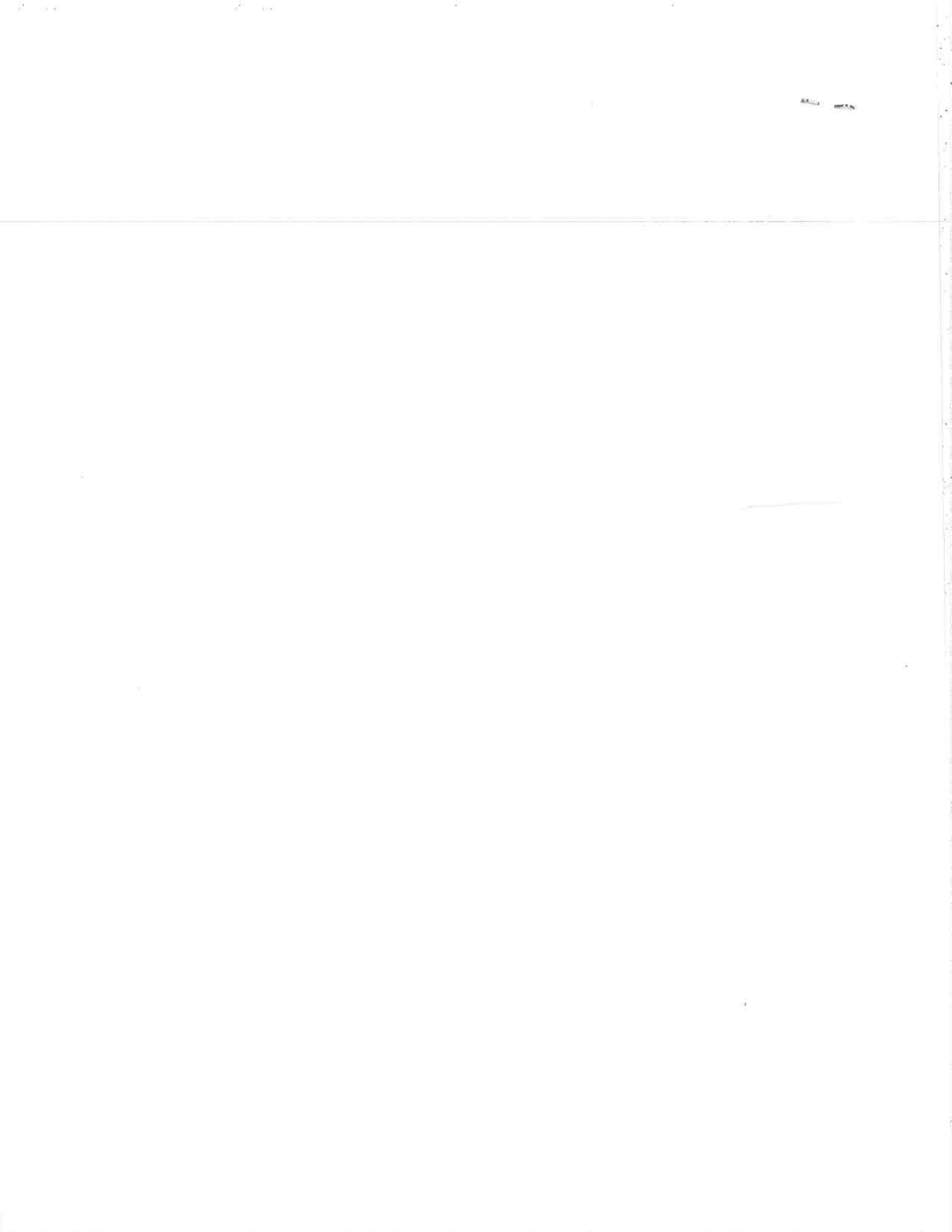
Scientists say the now-extinct *Panthera blytheae* was closely related to the modern snow leopard. Photo: Wikimedia Commons

LOS ANGELES — Scientists are studying the bones of a newly discovered kind of ancient leopard. Those bones and other remains are shaking up old ideas. They suggest that big cats first arose in Asia, not Africa.

The new kind of big cat was discovered by paleontologists in Tibet. It was found in 2010. Paleontologists are scientists who study ancient bones known as fossils.

The newly discovered leopard does have one close relative: the modern snow leopard.

The remains of seven cats were found. The fossils range in age from 4.1 million to 5.9 million years old. They are as much as 2 million years older than any big cat fossils previously found.



Problem of the Month



Courtney's Collection



Level A:

Courtney has a bank of pennies, nickels and dimes. Courtney pulled out three coins from the bank. Name the coins she picked. How much money does she have?

Show how you figured it out.

Show a different way that Courtney could pick three coins. How much does Courtney have now? Show how you figured it out.

Level B:

How many different ways can Courtney pick three coins out of her bank? Show all the ways you can find.

What are the different amounts of money Courtney would have by picking any three coins?

How do you know you found all the possible ways?
Explain your answer.

Name _____

Blizzard Bag #1 4th Grade Social Studies

When the founding fathers designed the United States government they considered how they would make sure that it would work well. The first goal was to design a government that would not be unfair.

The first time they tried the government was too weak because there was no one who could make sure that people would follow the laws. The government could make laws, but no one had to follow them.

So the Constitution was written. Its first duty was to make a fair government. They made the system of Checks and Balances to make the government fair. Checks and Balances is how the three parts of the government work together to run the country.

First we will look at the roles of the different branches of government. Think of a tree with three large branches, these are the three branches of the government. But tree branches have even smaller branches, these are the other parts that help these parts of the government.

The Legislative Branch

The United States is a representative democracy. In this kind of government a few people-out of everyone in the country-are elected to the legislature. In the United States, this group is called the US Congress.

Congress is made up of two parts: the House of Representatives and the Senate. The House of Representatives has a number of members to represent each state based on how many people are in that state. Every ten years a census is taken and everyone in the United States is counted. This is how they decide how many Representatives there should be per state.

Each person in Congress can be seen as a little branch on the larger Legislative Branch. The Senate only has 100 members, two per state. If the country got a new state there would be two more Senators, so there would be 102. But the last time a state was added to the United States was over 60 years ago, so there will only be 100 Senators for a while.

The Executive Branch

The Executive Branch is tasked with making sure that everyone listens to the laws that Congress makes. The President is elected by citizens who live in the United States. The smaller branches on the Executive Branch are called the Cabinet. The Cabinet is in charge of the day-to-day work in running the government. The President is in charge of bigger problems.

The Supreme Court

The third branch of the United States government is the Supreme Court. Congress and the President are elected by the people and they make sure things are fair for the people, but the Supreme Court is there to make sure that the law agrees with the constitution.

The smaller branches that come off of the larger branch are smaller courts that deal with smaller problems. The Supreme Court makes decisions for the whole country. The Supreme Court also decides whether or not something that either Congress or the President does is legal.

Checks and Balances

The government's job is to make laws that are legal and to make sure everyone obeys them. This happens through the system of checks and balances.

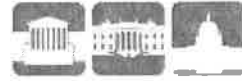
Congress will come up with an idea for a law, called a bill, and vote on it. If enough people in Congress say that they want the bill to become a law by voting for it they send it to the President.

The President decides whether or not he likes the bill. If he does he can sign it. By signing it, it becomes a law and he now must make sure that everyone in the country follows that rule.

If someone thinks that the law is not legal the Supreme Court will look at it. They can decide whether or not it is legal.

This system, where three different sets of the government look at each other's work to see if it is the best for the country has been the United States system for over 200 years. So far it has worked pretty well!

3 Branches of Our Government



FILL IN THE BLANKS IN THE SENTENCES BELOW

1. What are the 3 branches of our government? _____, _____, _____.
2. The _____ Branch of our government makes the laws.
3. The _____ Branch of our government enforces our laws.
4. What are the two parts of our Congress? _____ and _____.
5. There are _____ senators.
6. The _____ is elected by eligible United States citizens who vote and by the Electoral College system.
7. _____ and _____ are elected by voters in their states.
8. _____ study laws to see if they are correct according to the Constitution.
9. Where do the major branches of our federal government meet and work?

10. The _____ is the leader of the Executive Branch of our government.

