

Spotted leopard India

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A rare animal has been spotted in India. The rare black leopard has been spotted for the first time in a 100 years.

We interviewed a science teacher, Miss Evans, about the black leopard. The teacher said "it is so rare that you wouldn't see it every day." Miss Evans also said that it has been spotted before and it is really rare. When asked if the black leopard will become extinct, Miss Evans said "it is likely, due to the panther species' habitat being destroyed by humans. And there are so few it would be hard for them to reproduce and maintain their species' population."

In the whole world there are about 250,000 black leopards left. They feed on a greater diversity of prey than other members of the panther species. Leopards will eat any warm-blooded animals, from mice to hares to a large antelope. But a leopard is the supreme opportunist and so will also eat birds, reptiles and even insects. Scientists say the last confirmed observation in the published record was in 1909 in Ethiopia.

The only realistic opportunity to see the black leopard in the wild is by going on safari in the jungle of southern India. The best time to go is in March and April. Only 11% of the world's leopards are black leopards, most of which live in South-East Asia.