



UNTAMED S2E9: Indoor Cats

Discussion Questions

These discussion questions are designed to be used as a resource that inspires conversation, critical thinking, and promotes a “big picture” understanding of topics covered in each episode. Questions may be answered individually, or out loud in a group setting. Key terms and vocabulary that will help educators and students engage in discussion include:

Wildlife vs domestic pet, invasive vs native species, predator, prey, ecosystem, population

The following questions are best used when paired with a complete viewing of the full episode, and may be more suitable for advanced levels:

1. Why do you think the subject of outdoor cats is one that often sparks disagreements and arguments? Can you think of any other wildlife or environmental issues that people tend to feel deeply emotional about?
2. Should domestic outdoor cats be considered a part of the natural ecosystem? Why or why not?
3. What are some of the impacts domestic outdoor cats have had on wildlife? Will these impacts stay the same during the foreseeable future, or change in some way?
4. Who (or what) benefits from cats being kept indoors? How?
5. Domestic cats living outdoors is a human-caused problem. Who should be responsible for fixing it?

The following questions are best used when paired with a viewing of “Indoor Cats: In (About) Two Minutes”, a synopsis of the major themes and key topics covered in the full episode, that may be more suitable for younger audiences:

1. What makes an invasive species different from animals that are native to a particular area?
2. Why are cats so dangerous to wild animals? Are pet dogs just as dangerous, too? Why or why not?
3. What would you say to someone who lets their cat outside on purpose?