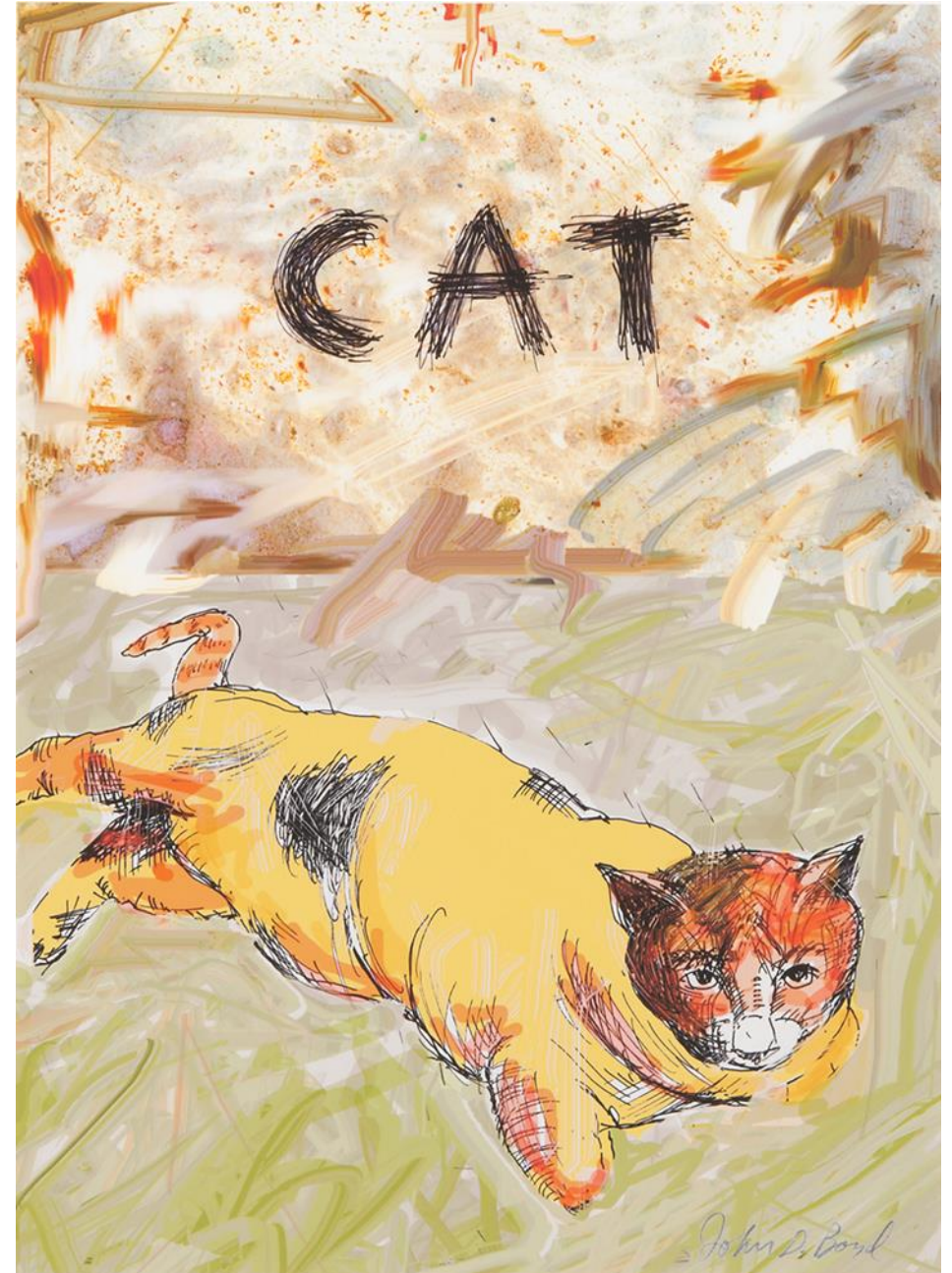


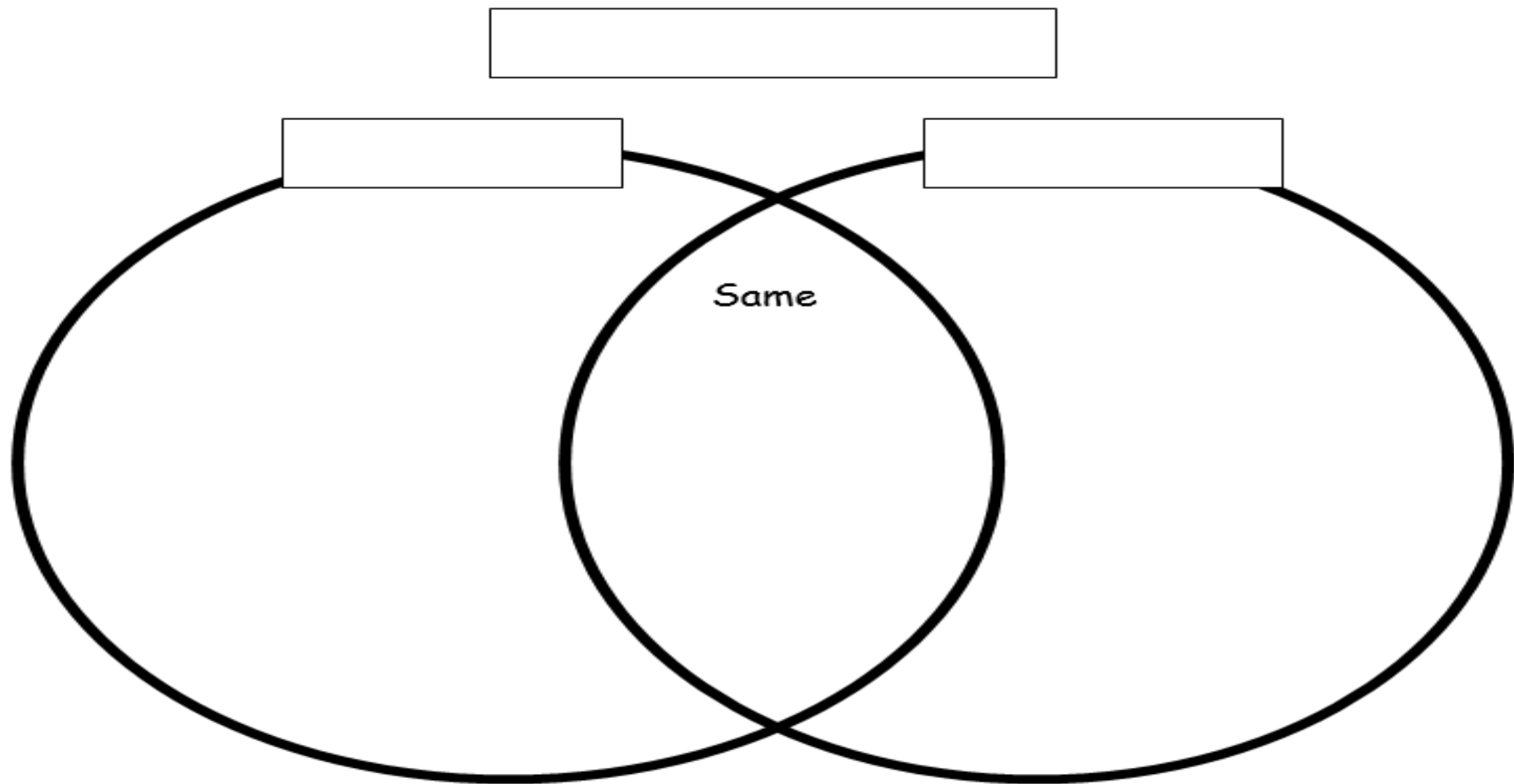
ARTSmart: Cats



Compare and Contrast

Use the Venn Diagram that follows to list how these cats are different and the same.





Jacques Hnizdovsky

Born 1915, Pylypche, Ternopol, Austria-Hungary (territory of Ukraine)

Died 1985, Bronxville, New York

Sleeping Cat, published 1970

Associated American Artists

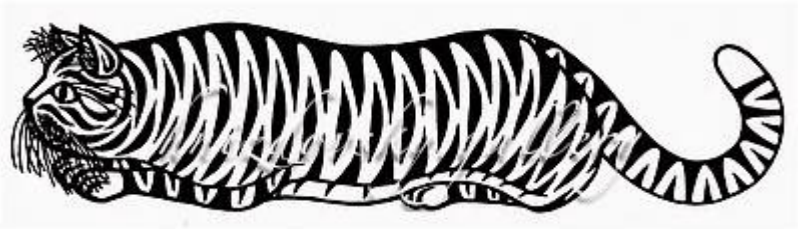
Woodcut

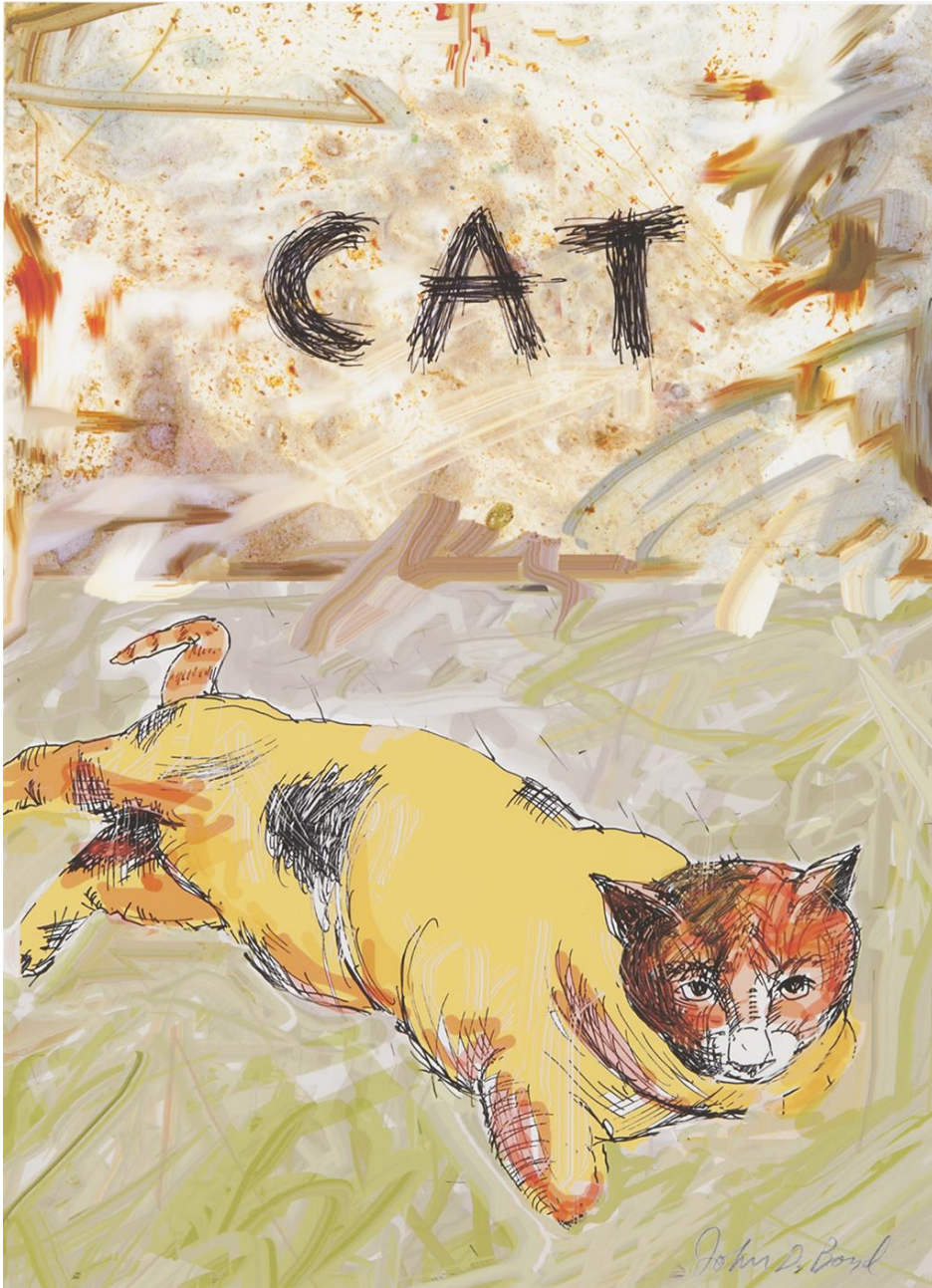
Bequest of Raymond and Melba Budge,
1992.167

When Hnizdovsky immigrated to the United States in 1949, he was penniless. Since he could not pay models, he drew his inspiration from nature and became a regular at the Bronx Zoo. *Sleeping Cat* is a good example of his borderless designs featuring distinctive patterns from nature.



More cats by Hnizdovsky





John David Boyd

Born 1939, London, Arkansas

Died 2012, Wichita, Kansas

Cat, 2012

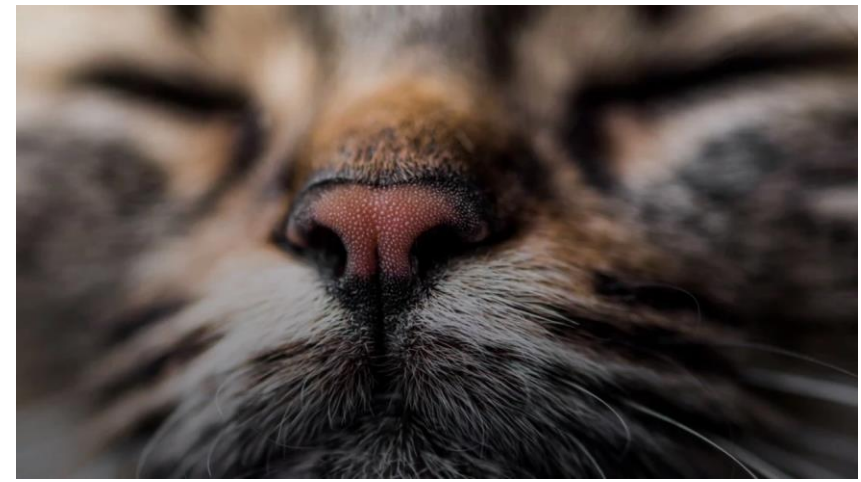
Inkjet print

Gift of the Estate of John Boyd, 2013.192

Boyd depicted the simple pleasures of life in his art. This included whimsical versions of family pets, including the cat (*Felis catus*), inspired by Ozark folk art and 1960s California counter-culture comics from his childhood and teen years.

Cat Facts

Felis catus



- A house cat's genes are 95.6% tiger, and they share many behaviors with their jungle ancestors. These behaviors include scent marking by scratching, prey play, prey stalking, pouncing, chinning, and urine marking.
- Cats typically sleep 12-14 hours a day.
- Each cat's nose print is unique, much like human fingerprints. Cats have 200 million scent receptors in their nasal cavity, which even outnumbers the scent-sensor count of some breeds of dogs.
- The definition of a purr is that of a continuous sound produced as the cat breathes in and out and which goes on for several minutes. Cats of many species purr at a frequency of between 25 and 150 Hz.

DOES A CAT REALLY HAVE NINE LIVES?

Cats have one life just like any other living creature. However, a cat is probably the most independent pet out there. Cats are incredibly intelligent and intuitive. They have lightning-fast reflexes, quick decision making skills and remarkable dexterity.

They can withstand falls and other serious accidents without being fatally wounded, which is perhaps where the saying 'a cat has nine lives' actually comes from.

This is all thanks to a cat's anatomy: they have a large surface area compared to their weight – reducing the force of landing. Cats have evolved to live in trees and therefore have adapted to conquer falls. Their 'righting reflex' enables them to twist their bodies and land safely on their feet. Cats have flexibility in their bones and ligaments, which help them to sustain minimal injury from many different accidents

Why nine lives?

The myth that cats have multiple lives exists across the world, however it's not always nine lives - the number varies in different cultures. In certain regions of Spain it is believed that cats have seven lives, while Turkish and Arabic legends say cats have six lives.

No one exactly knows where the expression came from, but it has been around for centuries. Even William Shakespeare used the expression in Romeo and Juliet:

"Tybalt: What wouldst thou have with me? Mercutio: Good king of cats, nothing but one of your nine lives."

There's also an old English proverb that states: "A cat has nine lives. For three he plays, for three he strays, and for the last three he stays".

Nine is also considered a magic number, which could also be part of the reason cats are attributed with nine lives. Cats have been both worshipped and feared throughout the ages and seen as magical creatures. In ancient Greece the number nine referred to the trinity of all trinities and a supernatural number that invokes tradition and religion.



Where Did Black Cats Get Their Bad Reputation?



Bastet and some cat mummies from Egypt.

In Ancient Egypt, black cats were worshipped, just like their more colorful friends. The Ancient Egyptian god of cats, called Bastet, was often portrayed as a woman with the head of a black cat. They also buried cats (mummified) to guide the spirit of the dead to the underworld.

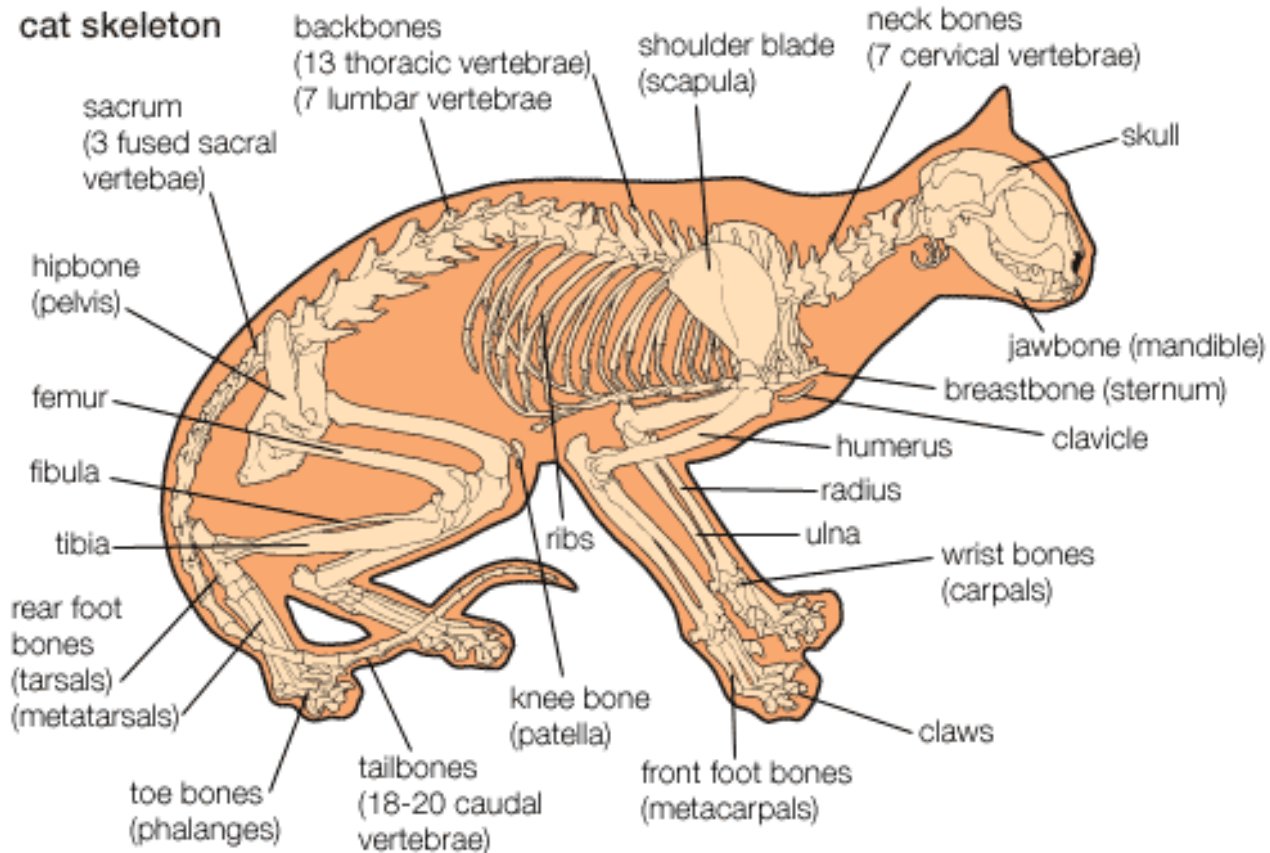
In Celtic mythology, a legend existed about a creature called the Cat Sìth. The Cat Sìth was said to resemble a large black cat with a white spot on its chest. Legend has it that the Cat Sìth could steal a person's soul before the gods could claim it, by passing over a corpse before the burial.

In the Middle Ages in Europe, black cats were often associated with witches. New research shows that witches may have been beer brewers and that jealous men said they were practicing black magic. The tall black hat and cauldron were parts of their profession, and the cat kept mice away from the grain.

There are some places in the world where black cats are considered good luck. In Scotland for example, a strange black cat arriving at your home is believed to bring prosperity. In the rest of Britain, a black cat crossing your path is considered good, rather than bad, luck. The same goes for Japan.



Cat Anatomy



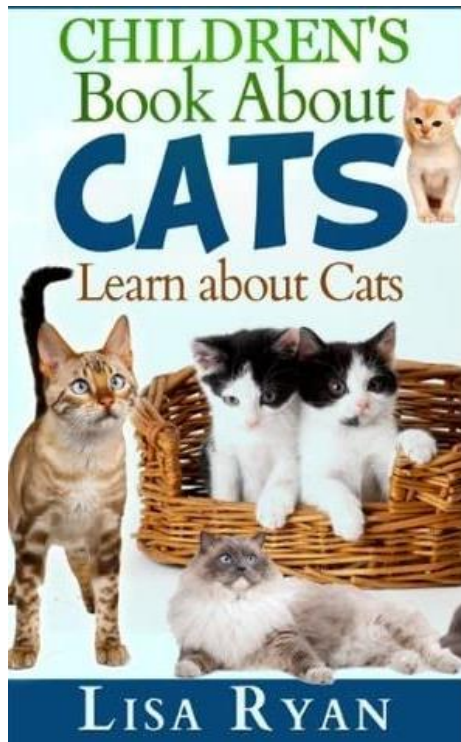
© 2007 Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

Whiskers – they help your cat identify and analyze everything she touches via sensitive nerve endings.

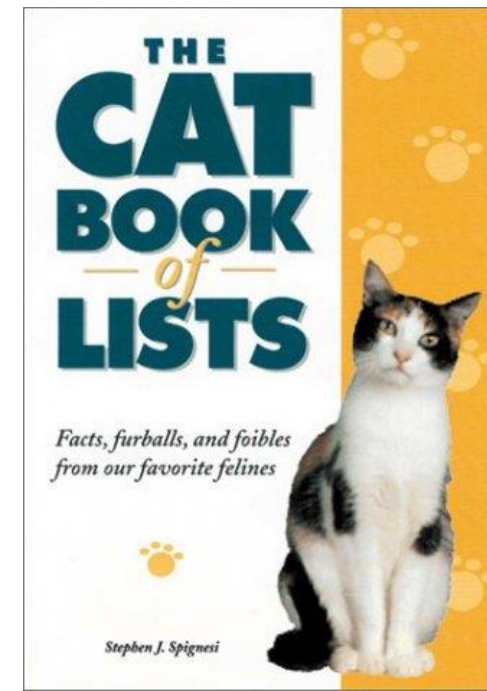
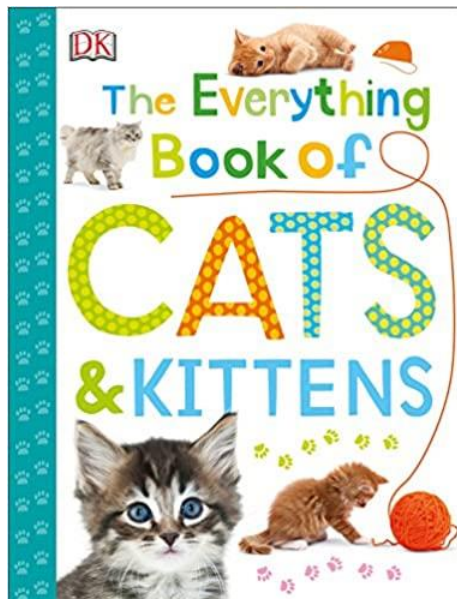
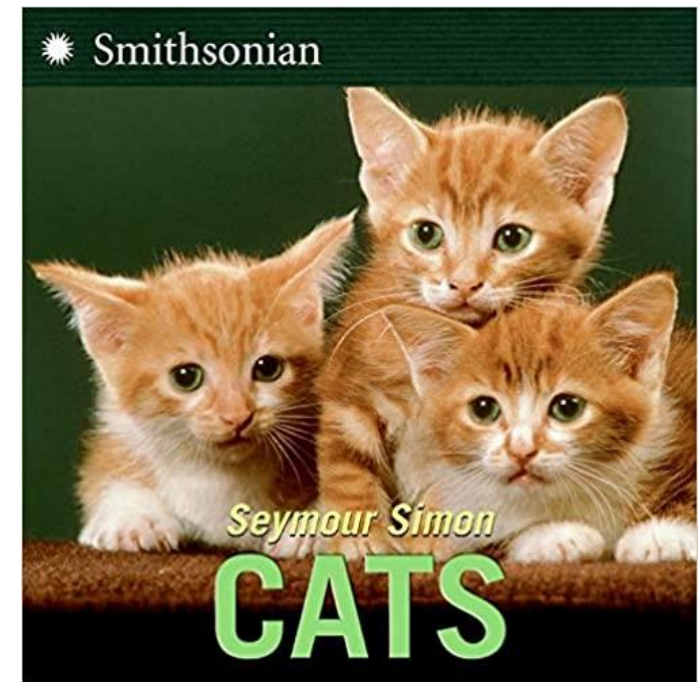
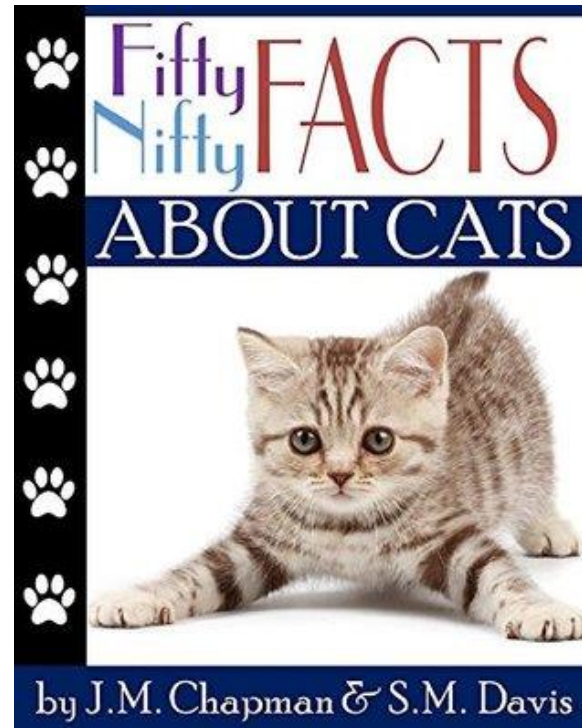
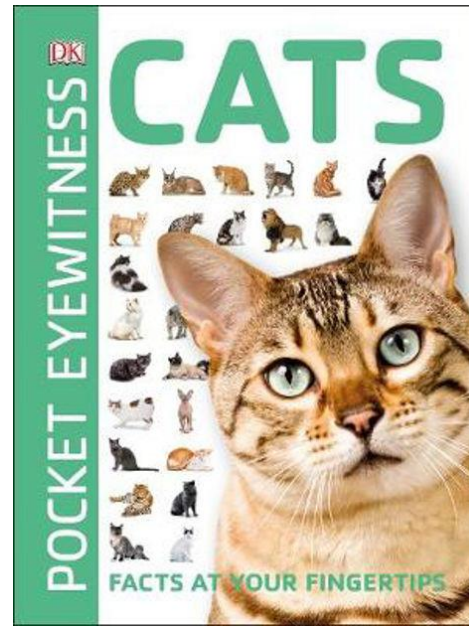
Sandpaper tongue – to help with grooming and take meat off bones.

Jacobson's organ – located in the roof of the mouth, this organ helps cats analyze scents. Your cat's mouth will be partially open when she uses this organ.

Tail – it contains almost 10 percent of the cat's bones, and acts as a counterweight in helping him keep his balance. A cat's tail also communicates his mood. Understanding "tail speak" is an important part of reading feline body language.



Learn more about cats



Additional Cats from the BMA collection



Andy Warhol

Noelle Stahel, August 1980

Polaroid Land Process (Type 108 Polacolor)

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, 2008.211

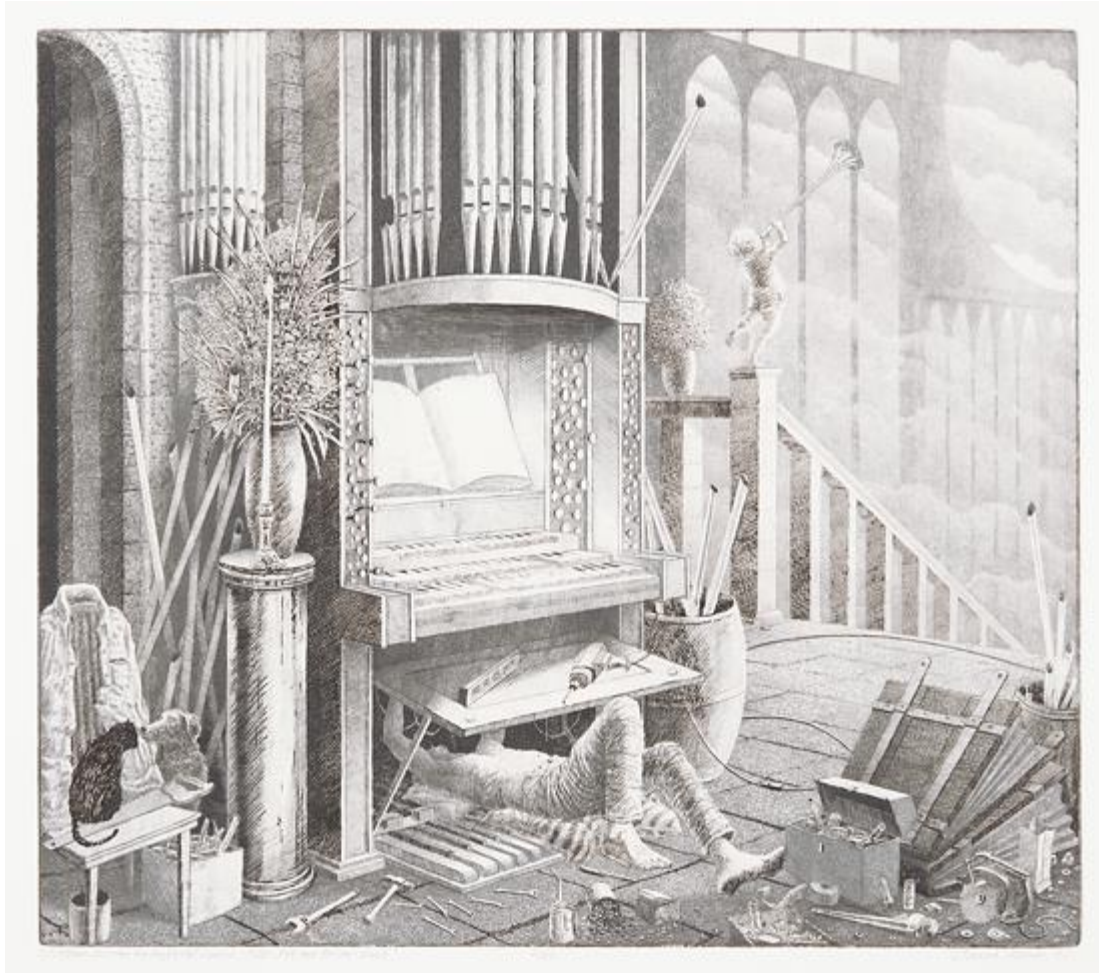
Daniel Bennett Schwartz

Two Girls in the Park with Cat, ca. 1977

Color lithograph on paper

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift of Gilbert E. Johnson, 2017.62





James Charles Munce

#IX Pipe and Bellows Work, 1996

Etching on paper

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, Friends of the Beach Museum of Art purchase, 1998.186

Charles Leroy Marshall Sr.

"Gesso" Pussy Cat, 1965

Watercolor and graphite on paper

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift of Charles L. Marshall, Jr., 2011.102



John Steuart Curry

Title unknown (anatomical sketches of a large cat), 1938

Graphite on tracing paper

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, bequest of Kathleen G. Curry, 2016.8

Title unknown (cat and mouse study), 1938

Black crayon on tracing paper

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, bequest of Kathleen G. Curry, 2016.12

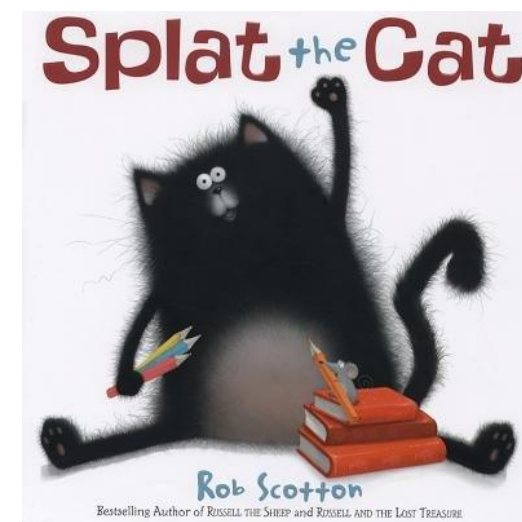
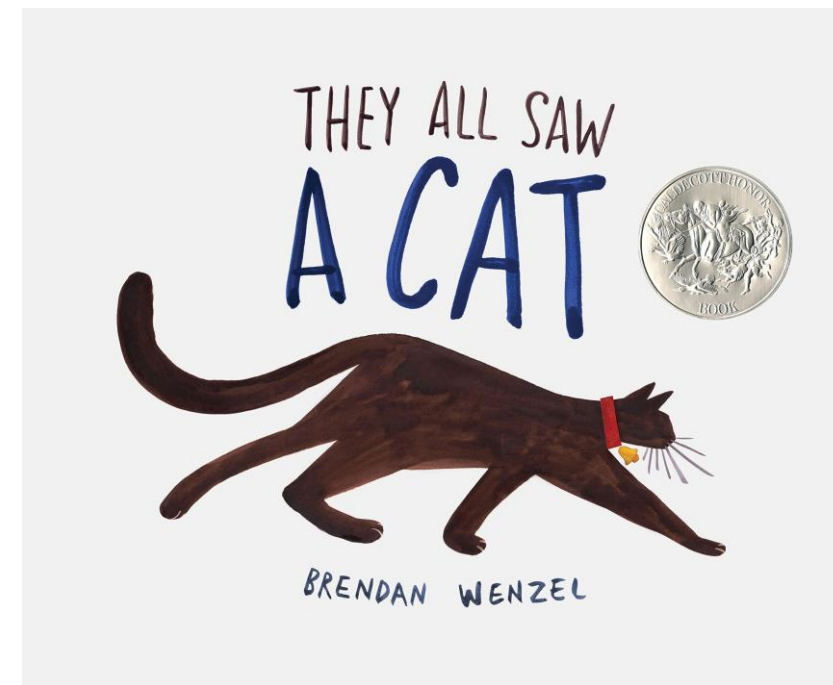
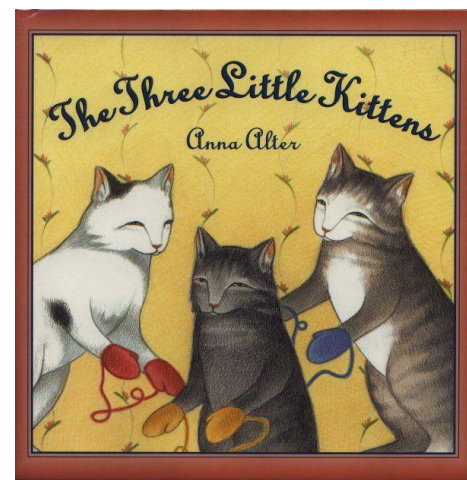
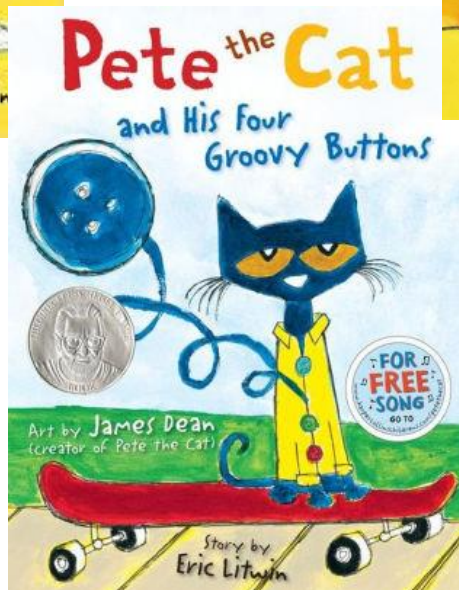
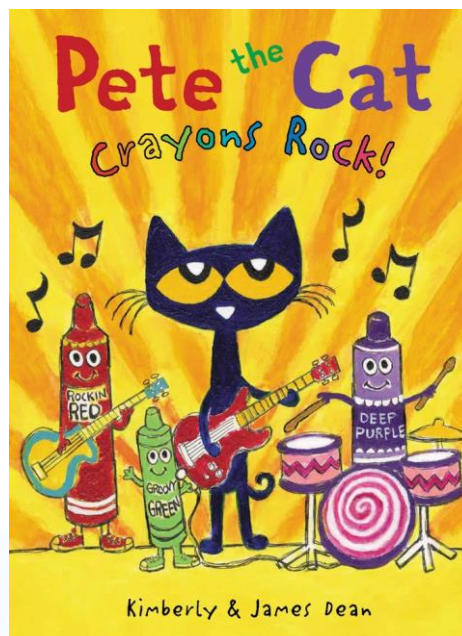
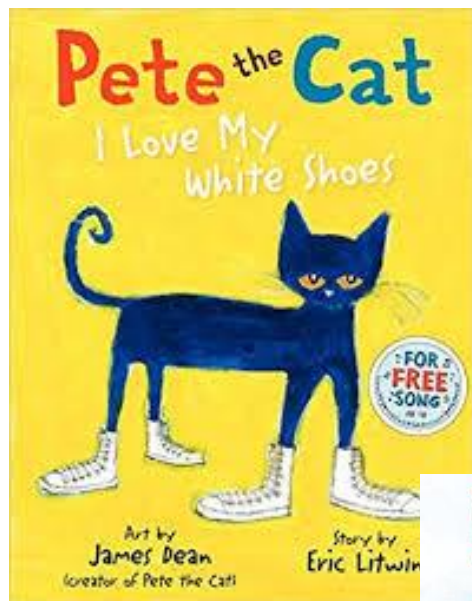
Cat Watching a Bird, 1924

Ink with graphite on paper

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, bequest of Kathleen G. Curry, 2002.753



Picture Books



THE TALE OF TOM KITTEN



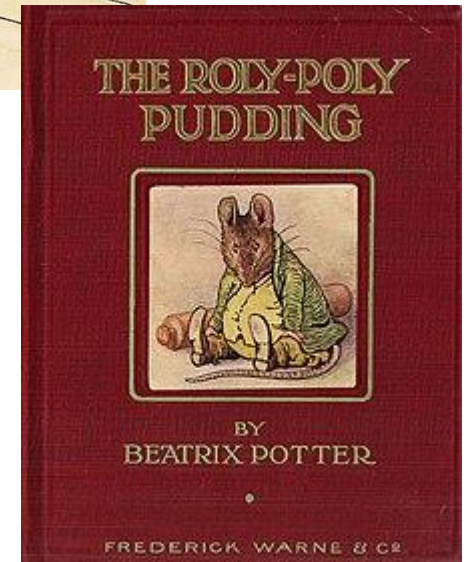
BEATRIX POTTER
The original and authorized edition

F. WARNE & CO

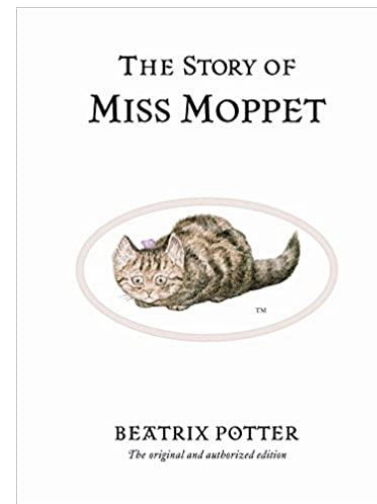
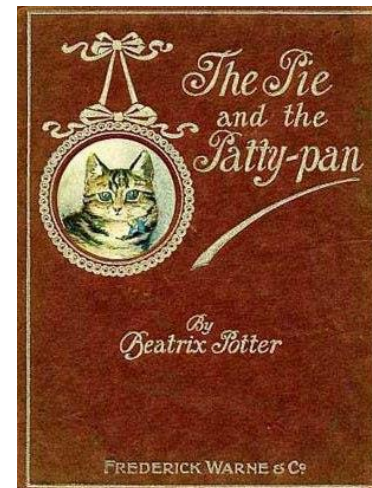
Children's author and illustrator Beatrix Potter had a famous family of cats. Tom Kitten was often in trouble.

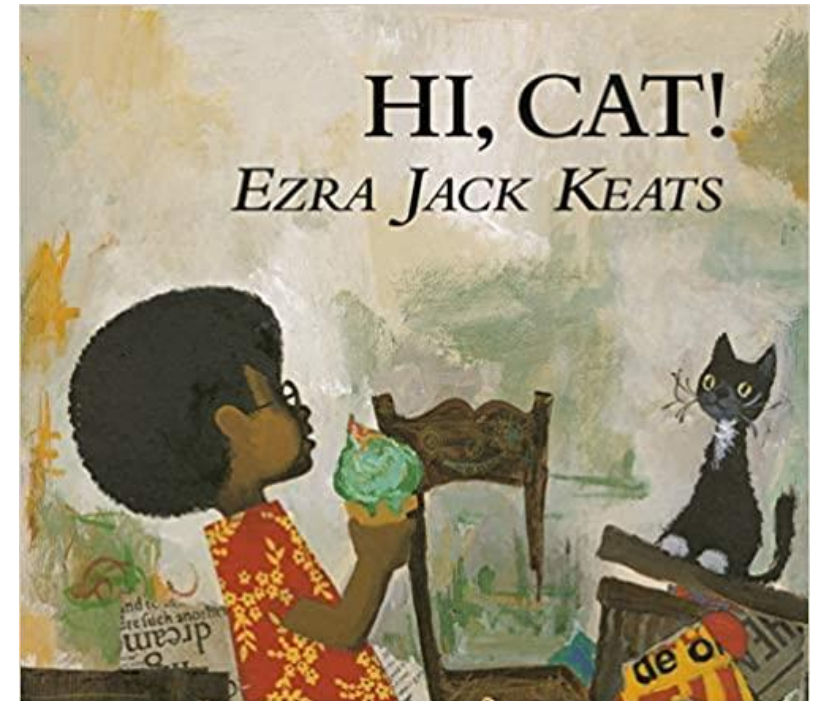
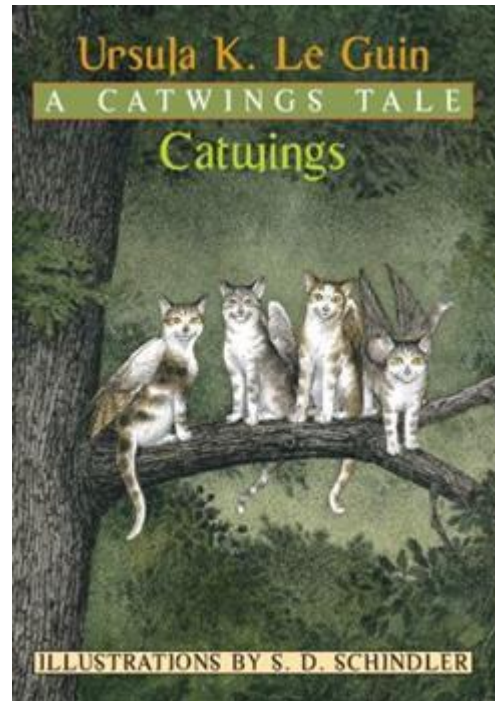
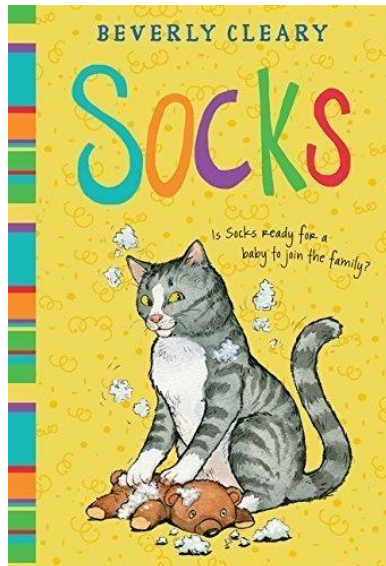
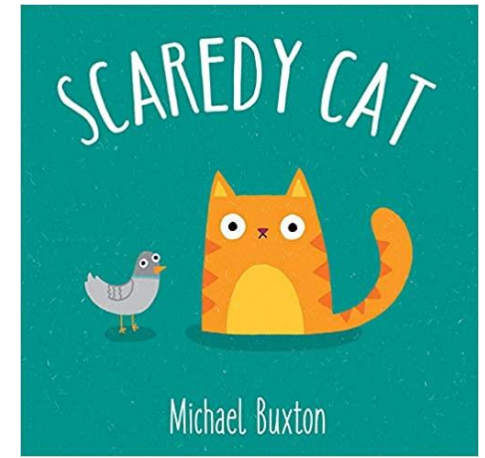
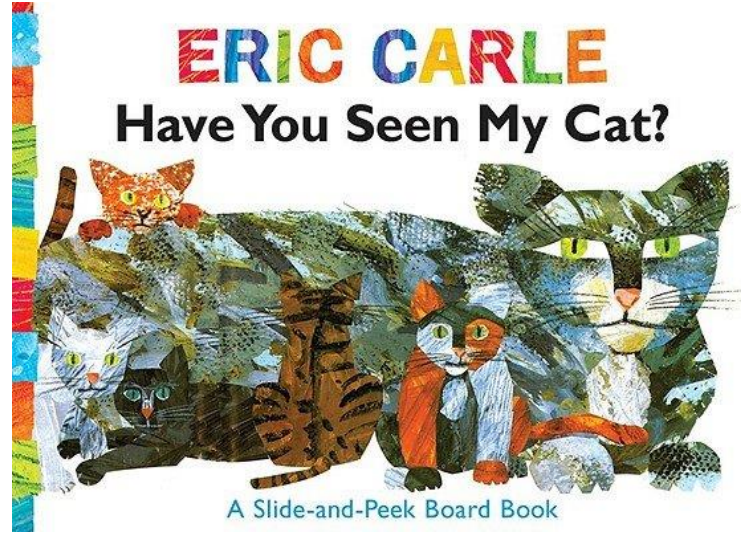
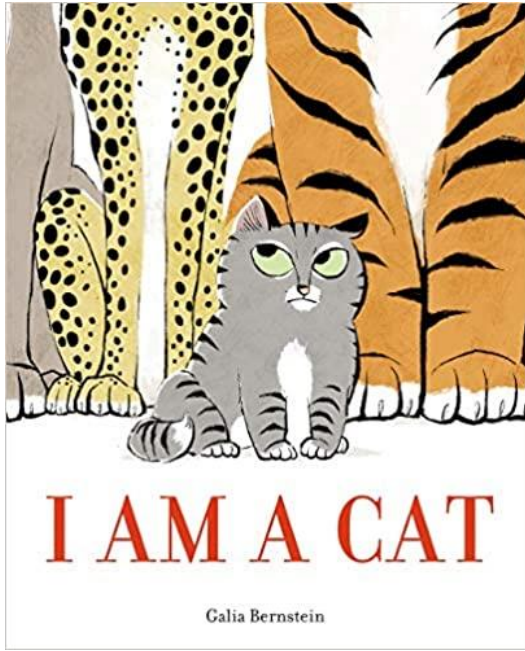


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4CN0t5c94o>



<https://www.youubte.com/watch?v=7zhKLtD24Y8>

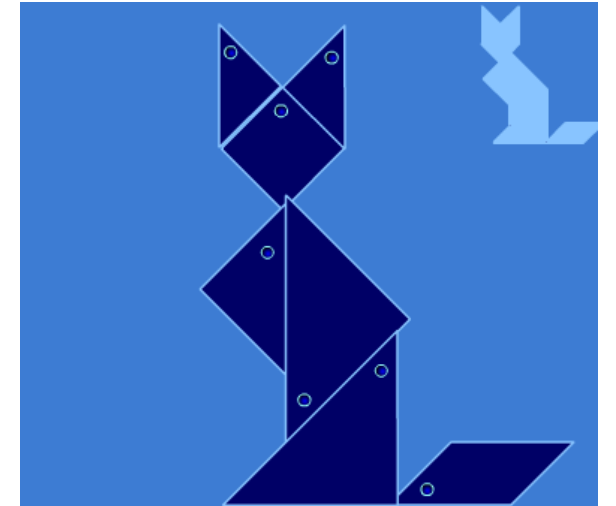


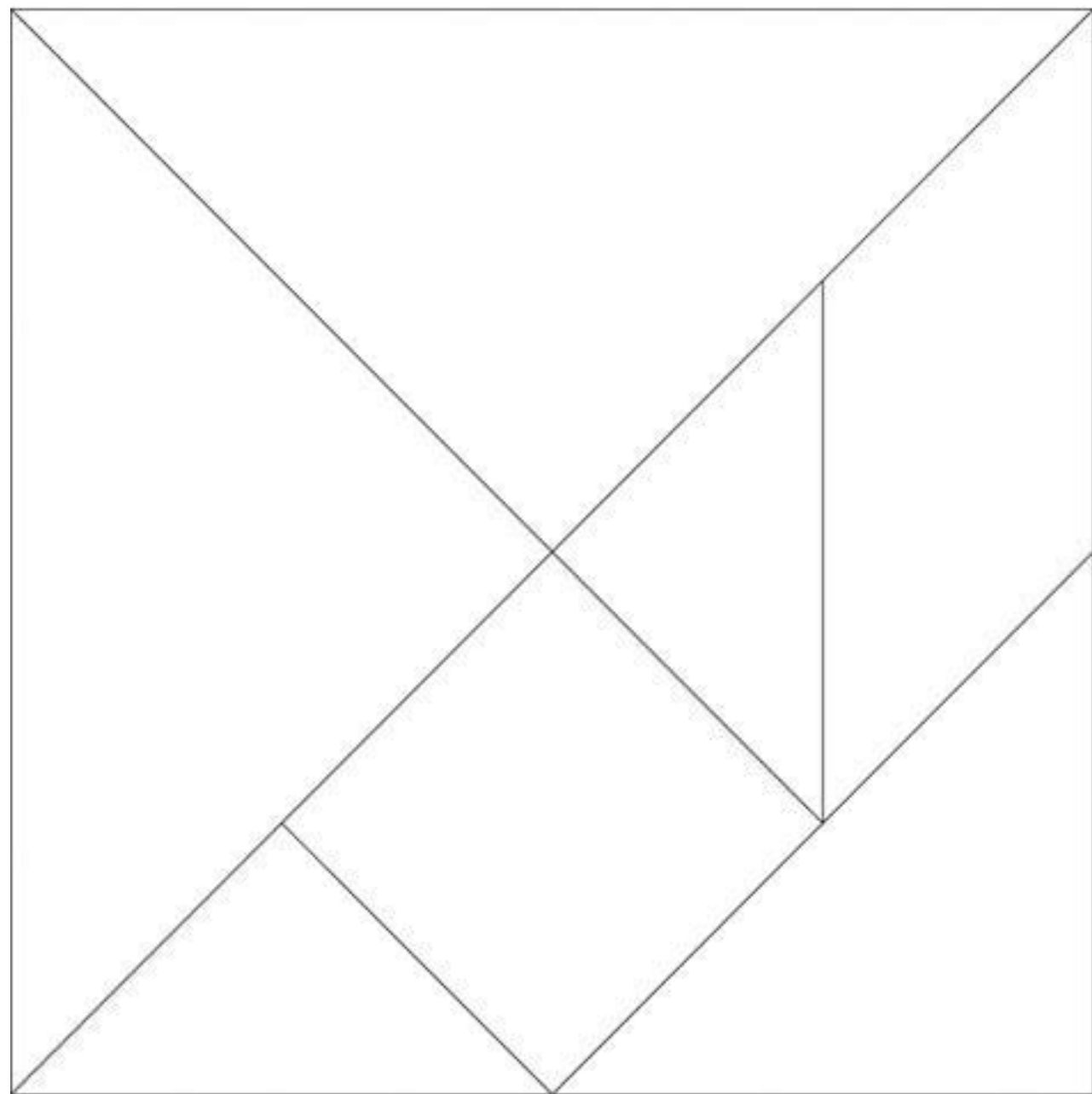


Art Projects

Shape Cats

You can use all kinds of shapes and designs to create a cat. The Tangram is a classic puzzle based on shapes! There is a pattern for Tangrams on the next slide. See if can create a new Tangram cat.





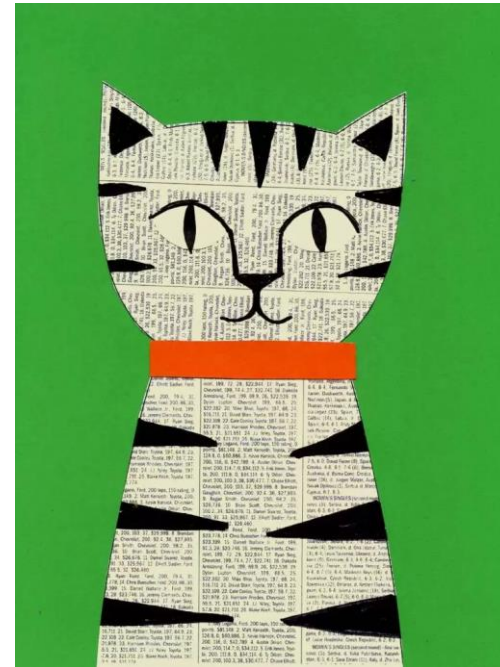
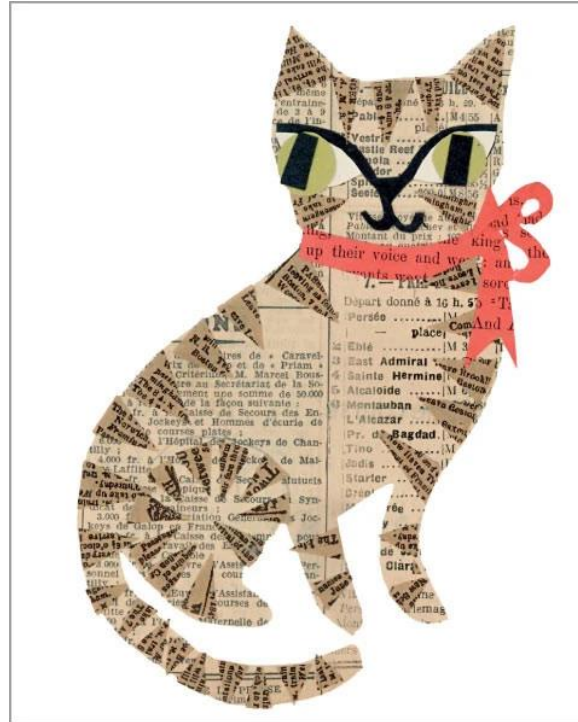


Newspaper Collage Cats

A black background will set off the newspaper.

You can decide what shapes you want to use for your cats.

Use other patterned paper for accents.



Quilled Cats



Materials:

- Colored Card Stock
- Scissors
- Glue
- Something round to coil the paper around (small paintbrush handle works well - a pencil is too thick)

Directions:

1. Cut small strips of colored card stock. The strips were approximately 14 x 1 cm.
2. Coil the strips, one by one, tightly around the paintbrush handle. They will stay coiled when you remove them.

Quilling starts with rolling a strip of paper into a coil and then pinching the coil into shapes that can be glued together.

Although its exact origins are a mystery the art of quilling is thought to have originated in Ancient Egypt. More recently quilling has been practiced as an art form in Renaissance France/Italy as well as in 18th century England. During the Renaissance, French and Italian nuns and monks used quilling to decorate book covers and religious items. The paper most commonly used was strips of paper trimmed from the gilded edges of books. Quilling often imitated the original ironwork of the day.

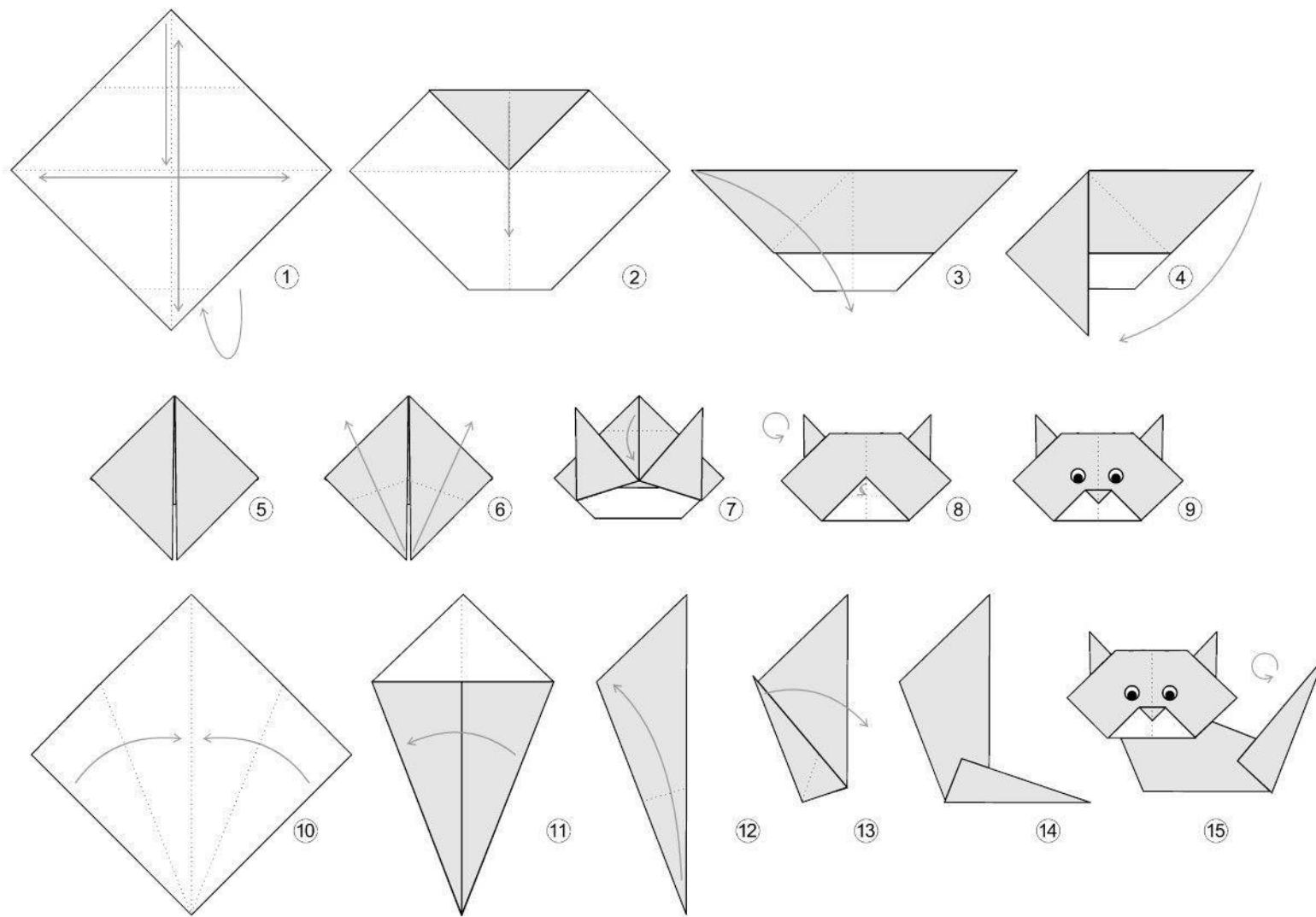
In the 18th century, quilling became popular in Europe where gentle ladies of quality ("ladies of leisure") practiced the art. Quilling also spread to the Americas and there are a few examples from Colonial times.



3. Using strips of card stock, create the main shapes for your cat. Then glue onto paper. Apply glue to the edges and hold it in place for about a minute. You can put something light like a magazine over the heart to keep it in place while it dries.
4. Dip each additional coil into a puddle of glue and place inside your shapes. This is a chance to get creative.



Origami

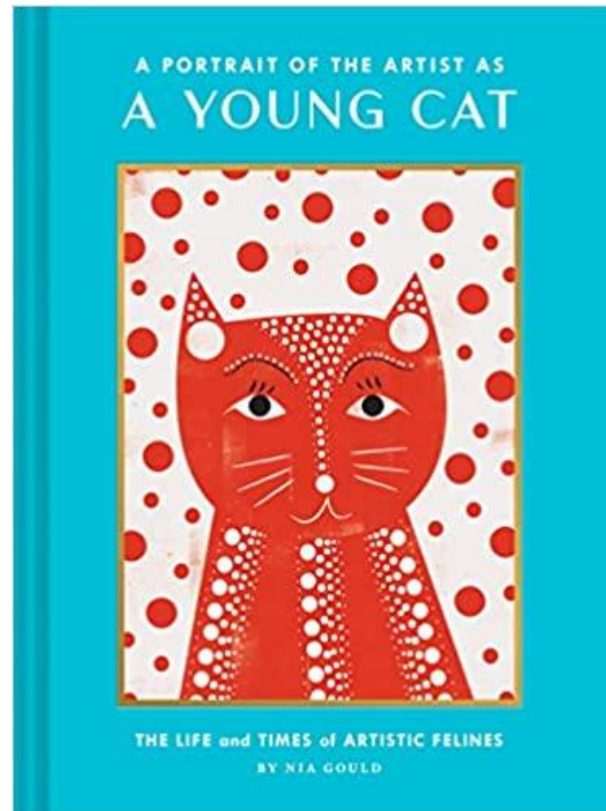
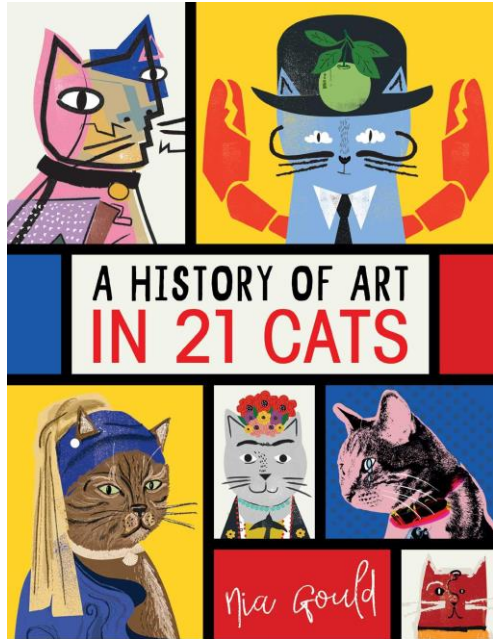


This takes two pieces of paper

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CnSyMR8hW2I>



Some ARTSY Cats



20 influential artists
reimagined as
artistic felines

