

## THE WAMPUS CAT

If you go wandering in the Appalachian region late at night, beware the Wampus Cat. Like a cougar, but a whole lot bigger, this catlike creature is said to stalk folks in rural Tennessee.

Appalachia is the part of the U.S. that surrounds the Appalachian Mountains, which run from Canada all the way to the Southern United States. In Tennessee, many folks believe in the Wampus Cat, a catlike creature that lives in the hills and forests of the mountains. Most say it has the body of a woman but the face and fur of a mountain lion, and a strong smell that warns folks of its approach.



A local Native American legend says that a woman once disguised herself as a mountain lion to spy on the elders of the tribe, and when her spying was discovered, she was cursed to stay that way forever. Many people think the Wampus Cat is actually her lonely spirit, wandering Appalachia forever. She's most often seen in the dark of night or just before sunrise.

People who say they have seen a Wampus Cat claim they will hiss, howl, and scream. However, the Wampus Cat has never hurt anyone—just given them a good scare!

**Write a longer version of the Wampus Cat myth. What happened in between the beginning and the end? Make sure to include dialogue between the characters in the story.**

*"Long ago, there was a woman who lived in the Appalachian mountains.*

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*She wanted to know what the tribal elders were planning, so one night, she snuck off into the woods to listen in on their meeting.*

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*To this day, her spirit wanders the woods, scaring anyone who trespasses in her home after dark!"*