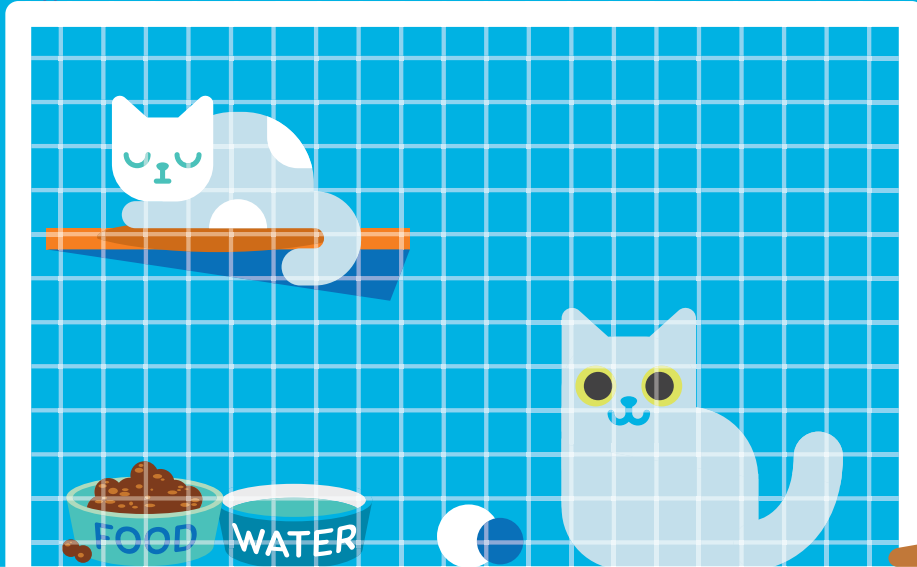


RSPCA  **Cat Program**
New South Wales

Stage 3

Name:



TenLives

Contents

English **5**

NSW Curriculum: Composes, edits and presents well-structured and coherent texts (EN3-2A).

Maths **6**

NSW Curriculum: Uses appropriate methods to collect data and constructs, interprets and evaluates data displays, including dot plots, line graphs and two-way tables (MA3-18SP).

Science **8**

Australian Curriculum: Represent and communicate observations, ideas and findings using formal and informal representations (AC SIS060).

NSW Curriculum: Examines how the environment affects the growth, survival and adaptation of living things (ST3-4LW-S)

Creative Arts **11**

NSW Curriculum: Makes artworks in a particular way about experiences of real and imaginary things (VAS1.1)

Certificate **15**

Top 9 reasons to contain your cat

1. Lost cats

Cats roam much further than their owners think.

Cats that are not contained can become lost.

Sadly, less than 10% of all the lots cats and kittens taken to animal shelters in NSW each year are microchipped and reclaimed by their owners.

NSW Lost Pet Register receives lots of calls about lost cats every day.

Some cats wander and find themselves a new home. People who find a cat may keep it, rather than try to find the cat's owner.



Photo: Kingborough Council

Solo the cat

- Travelled 4km
- Visited 16 different back yards
- Crossed 3 roads
- Explored bushland



Jetzt/ 123RF Stock

2. Cats and cars

Cats hit by cars often have major injuries, resulting in expensive vet treatment. Some may be so injured they cannot be saved.

Some cats hit by cars become lost as well as injured.

3. Cats and other cats

Cats are territorial animals and will fight to claim areas that belong to other cats. This can cause stress and fighting which may result in injury.

The most common injury from cats fighting is called a cat bite abscess. Cats have long, sharp, pointy teeth. When a cat bites another cat, bacteria from its teeth enter deep under the cat's skin. Since it is only a small hole, it quickly closes over, but the bacteria continue to grow until there is a large wound full of puss. Cat bite abscesses require vet treatment.

If your cat interacts or fights with a sick cat, infectious diseases like cat flu and other more serious diseases like feline aids and feline leukaemia can spread to your cat. Vaccinations cannot prevent all diseases.



don57/123RF



ysevich / 123RF Stock

Bite wound opened to remove infection from a cat bite abscess.

4. Cats, dogs, possums and snakes don't get along

Dog attacks can seriously injure or kill cats.

Cats can be bounced oences into a dog's yard, especially by large dogs jumping against fences.

Possums have very sharp claws and can cause serious wounds and even kill cats.

Many snakes in NSW are poisonous and a slithering snake will be very interesting for a cat to try to catch. Snake bites require urgent vet treatment and may result in death.



Clarence Valley Council

Cat attacked by a dog receiving oxygen at a vet hospital.

5. Cats and people in your neighbourhood

Some people do not like cats going onto their property. They may not like cats defecating (pooping) in their garden, marking areas as their territory by urinating (weeing), harassing or fighting their cat, harassing or killing their pets or killing wildlife. This can cause problems between neighbours and may put the cat at risk of being taken to a shelter, dumped far from home or hurt in some way.



forestpath /123RF Stock

If your family do not like the neighbour's cat entering your property, discuss it with the cat's owner, as they may not know what the cat is doing. If this is unsuccessful your local council may be able to offer advice or assist.

If you find a lost or stray cat your family could: call the owner if the cat has an identification tag, make found posters/ pamphlets and deliver to local houses and shops, contact Lost Pet Register, advertise on social media, or take it to a vet or animal shelter to check if the cat has a microchip.

6. Cats and wildlife don't get along

A cat's instinct is to hunt, and they are extremely good at it. Even well-fed pet cats will hunt.

Some people think that their cat does not hunt or only catches a few birds, mammals or reptiles a year. However, research tells us that cats only bring home a third of what they catch. In other words, if your cat brings home an animal it has killed, it has killed or injured another two animals that it did not bring home. If that animal has babies that depend on it for food and warmth, they will die too.

Cats stalking and hunting wild animals stop the animals from eating. The wild animals are too busy hiding from the cats, so they have less time to eat.

Containing cats reduces the spread of the disease toxoplasmosis, which is spread by contaminated poo from infected cats. Toxoplasmosis can harm wildlife, farm animals (like sheep) and even some people.

Containing your cat from dusk till dawn helps to protect some nocturnal wildlife. It does not protect animals, such as lizards, or birds that are active during the day.

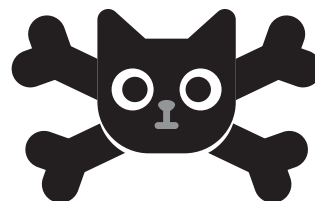
Cats and other factors such as habitat loss have a large impact on wildlife, driving some species to become endangered or at worst extinct.

7. Cats and poison

Outdoor cats can get poisoned by chemicals we use for cleaning the house, cleaning the car, or in the garden. Rotting rubbish, spoiled foods and some plants are toxic to cats.

Many types of human foods and medicines, as well as dog medicines are toxic to cats. Any poisoning can kill a cat or be extremely expensive to treat.

Not all cats will survive even when given vet treatment.



8. Saves you \$\$\$\$\$\$

Parasites like fleas, ticks, paralysis ticks and worms can make cats very sick or even die, they can make people sick too. Contained cats are at less risk of getting fleas and ticks if they do not have other animals entering their enclosure but this depends on the environment surrounding the enclosure.

Containing your cat(s) will save you money in the long run. Vet treatment for injuries and poisonings can cost thousands of dollars, which can be a lot more expensive than setting up a containment area (enclosure) for your cat.

9. Saves you a broken heart

Cats play a very important role in our lives. They are our friends and one of the family, and they bring a lot of joy and love into our hearts. Losing a pet is devastating, yet in so many cases it may have been prevented by containing your cat.



Rose Bray / Ten Lives

Extra, extra, read all about it!

Create your own newspaper front page to report on the latest news on cat welfare.

Points you can cover include:

1. Advice for pet owners to keep their cats indoors
2. Advertisement for adopting a cat from an RSPCA NSW shelter
3. Report on a cat cruelty case

Headline

Image

Subheading

Body

Caption

Advertisement

Cat Survey

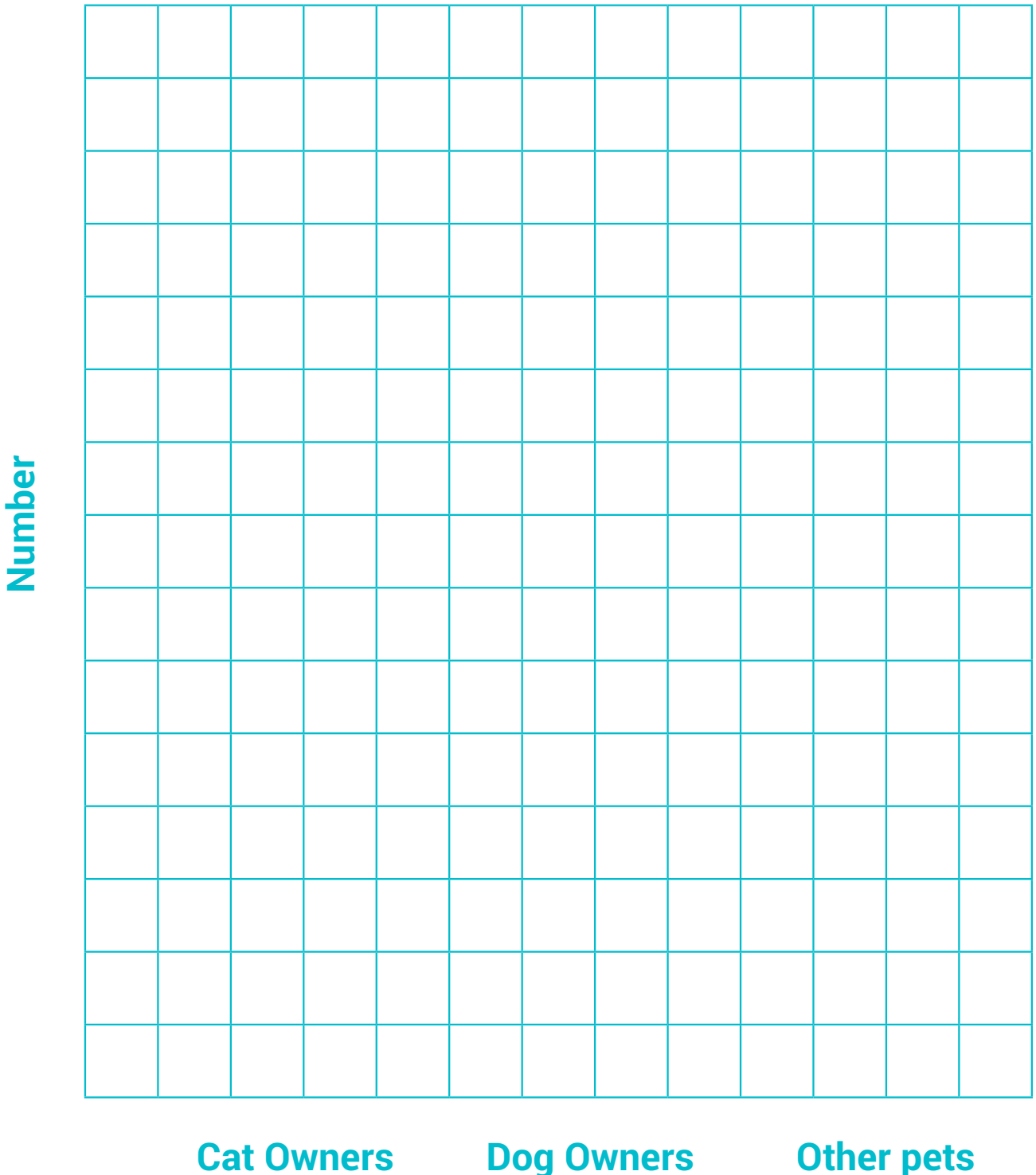
Conduct a survey in your class or year level to find out who owns a cat or a dog. Then also find out how many of these pets are either desexed, microchipped and/or kept indoors.

Record your data in the two-way table below:

	Desexed	Microchipped	Indoors
Owned cats			
Owned dogs			
Owned other pets			
Total			

Cat Survey

Use the collected data and produce line graphs to compare the statistics for cats versus dogs versus other pets.



Individually, or in partners, design a model of a cat playground (or catio) with living and non-living features.

Factors to consider when designing a cat containment playground

Needs of the animal

- 🐾 Feel safe, or able to reach a space where they feel safe at all times
- 🐾 Able to move freely from inside home to outside enclosure
- 🐾 Able to choose to be with owners or not

Needs of the animal

- 🐾 Easy access for cleaning, repairs and feeding
- 🐾 Clear view of cat or access to the cat's private hidey-holes
- 🐾 Looks nice
- 🐾 Not too expensive

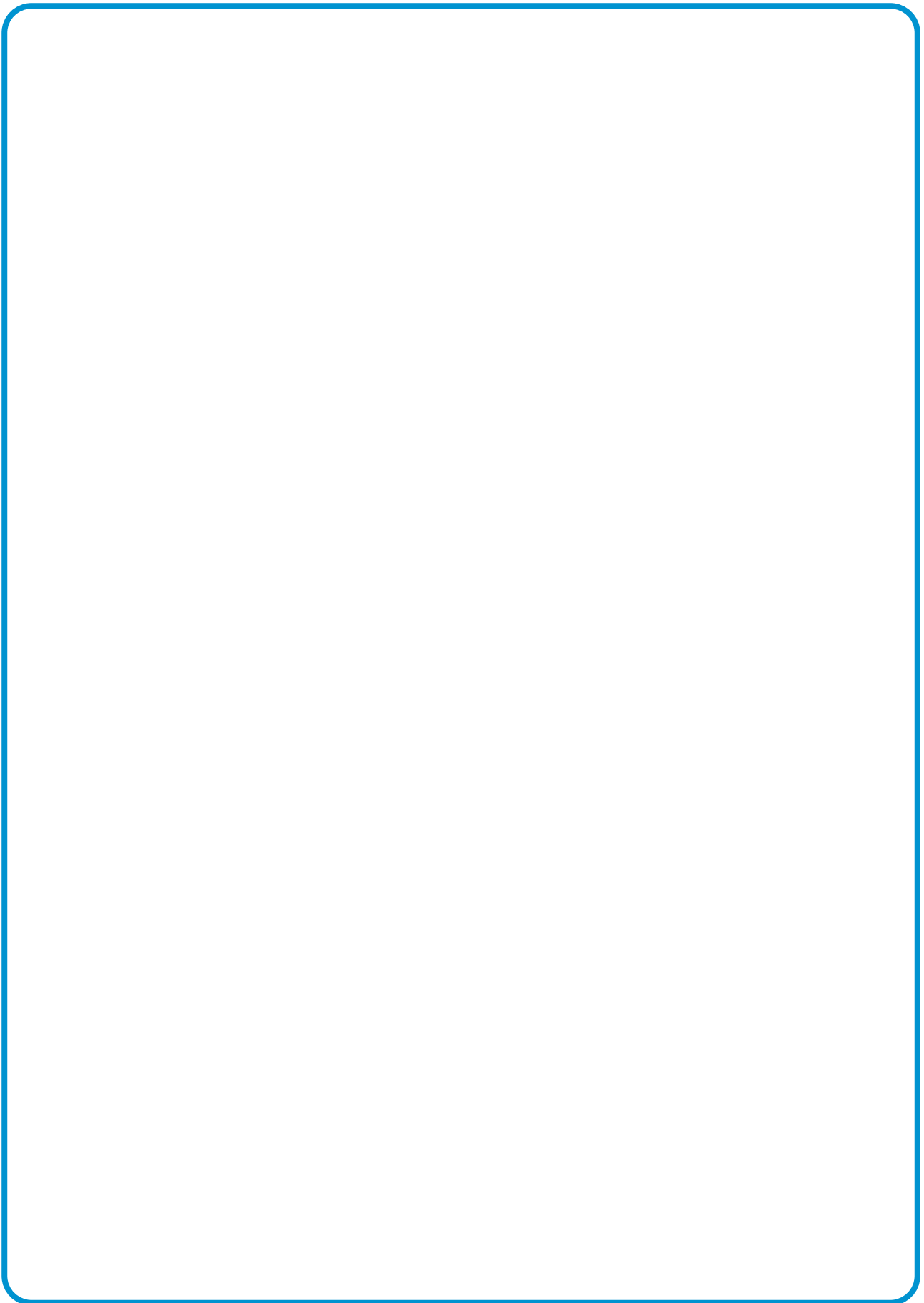
Using complete sentences, describe your cat playground.

What is the tallest item in your enclosure?

What is the widest item in your enclosure?

Using complete sentences, describe the living and non-living feature of your cat playground.

Draw a sketch of your cat playground design:



Cats, cats, cats!

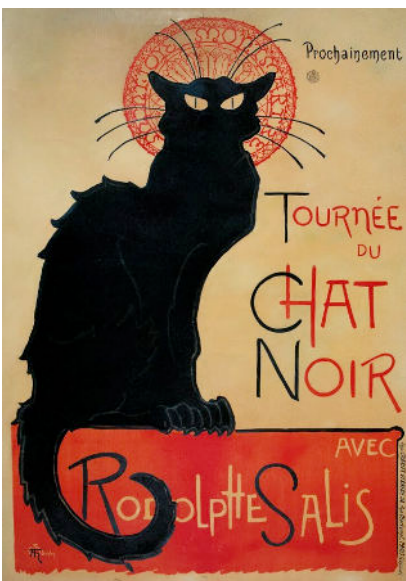
Take inspiration from famous cat artworks throughout history and recreate the style of your choice, depicting a scene of what it means for a cat to live the good life!



'By Day She Made Herself Into A Cat' (1920)
by Arthur Rackham



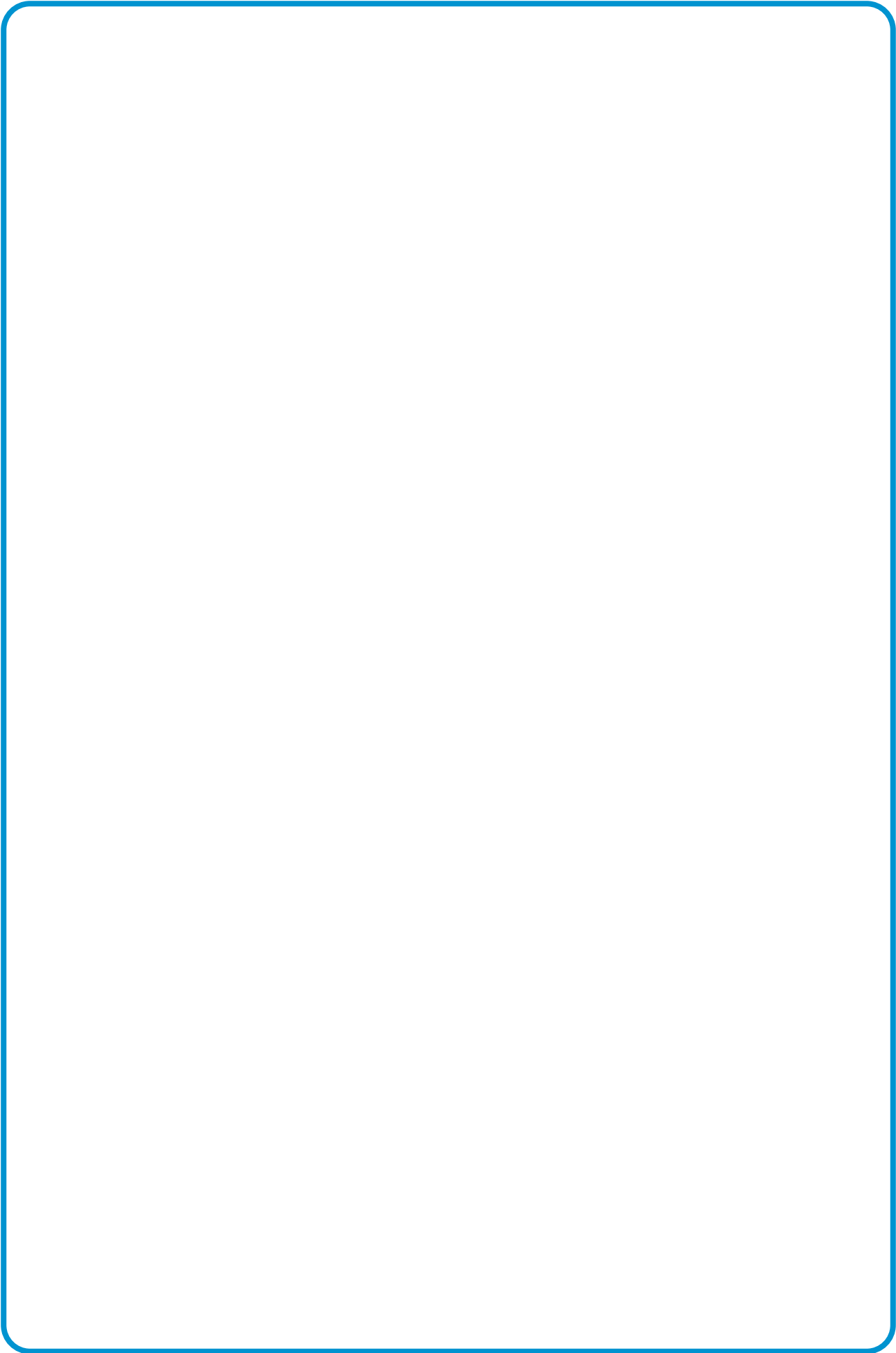
'Cat Devouring A Bird' (1939)
by Pablo Picasso



'Le Chat Noir' (1896)
by Théophile Steinlen



'Child with Cat (Julie Manet)' (1887)
by Pierre-Auguste Renoir



CONGRATULATIONS!



You have completed all the activities in your Cat Booklet!

This certificate of achievement is presented to:
