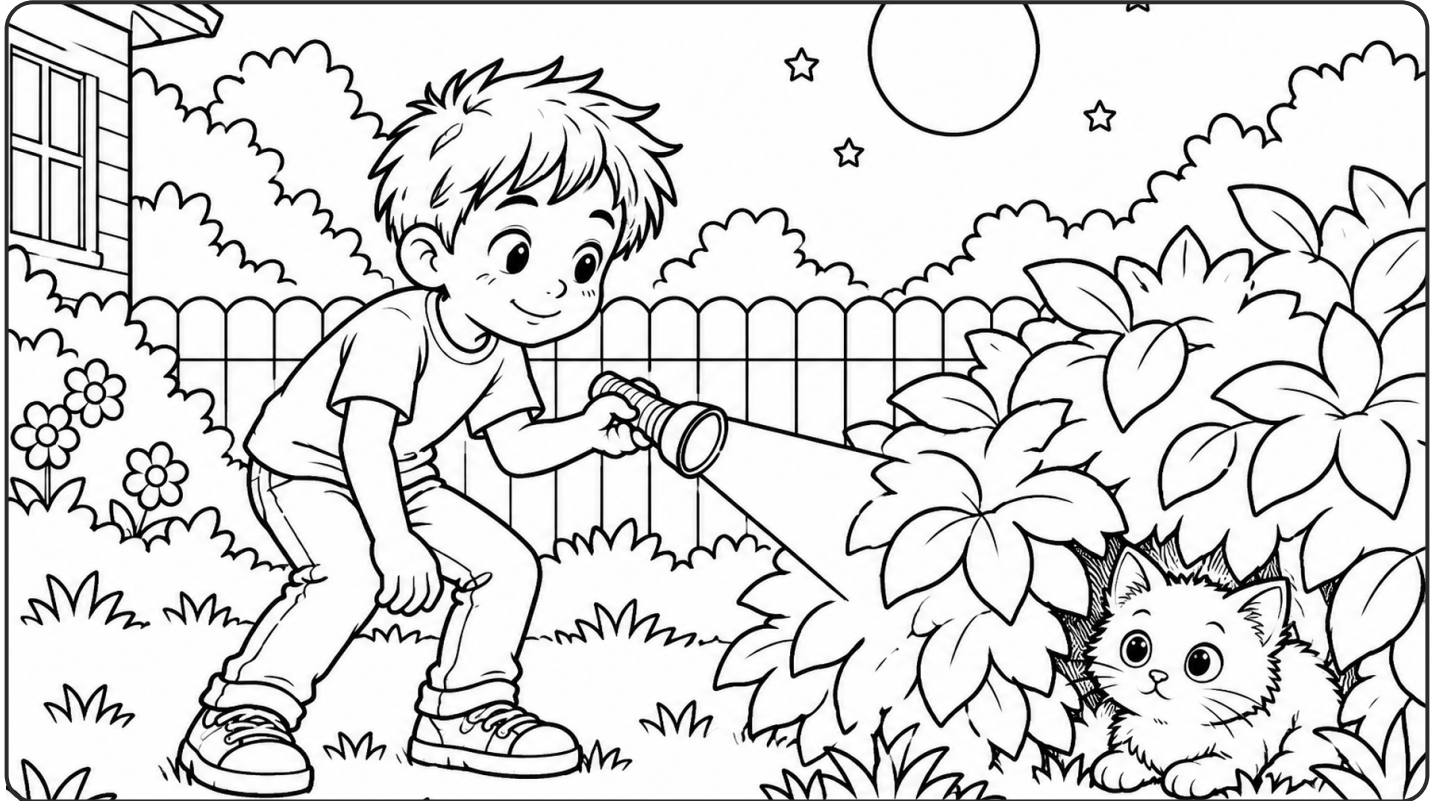


Why do cats' eyes glow in the dark?



At night, when a light shines on a cat, its eyes glow like two little lanterns. Do cats have lights inside their eyes?



Why?

1. Nope, there are no lights inside!

A cat's eyes don't make any light. They bounce light back, like a mirror.

2. Cats have a shiny mirror at the back of each eye.

Light that slips past the seeing layer bounces off the mirror and goes through the eye a second time. So cats can see in very dim light, about six times dimmer than what you need.

3. Some of that bounced light comes back out.

When a flashlight or a car light shines at a cat, you see the light coming back. That is the glow!

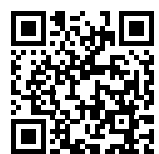
Try it! Watch your pupils grow

You need: a mirror and a grown-up

1. Stand in front of a mirror in a bright room. Look at your pupils, the dark dots in the middle of your eyes.
2. Ask a grown-up to dim the lights. Wait a little bit.
3. Look again. Did your pupils get bigger?

What happened? Pupils open wide in the dark to let in more light, just like a cat's.

Video + more questions:
whywhywhykids.com/cateyes



scan with a grown-up