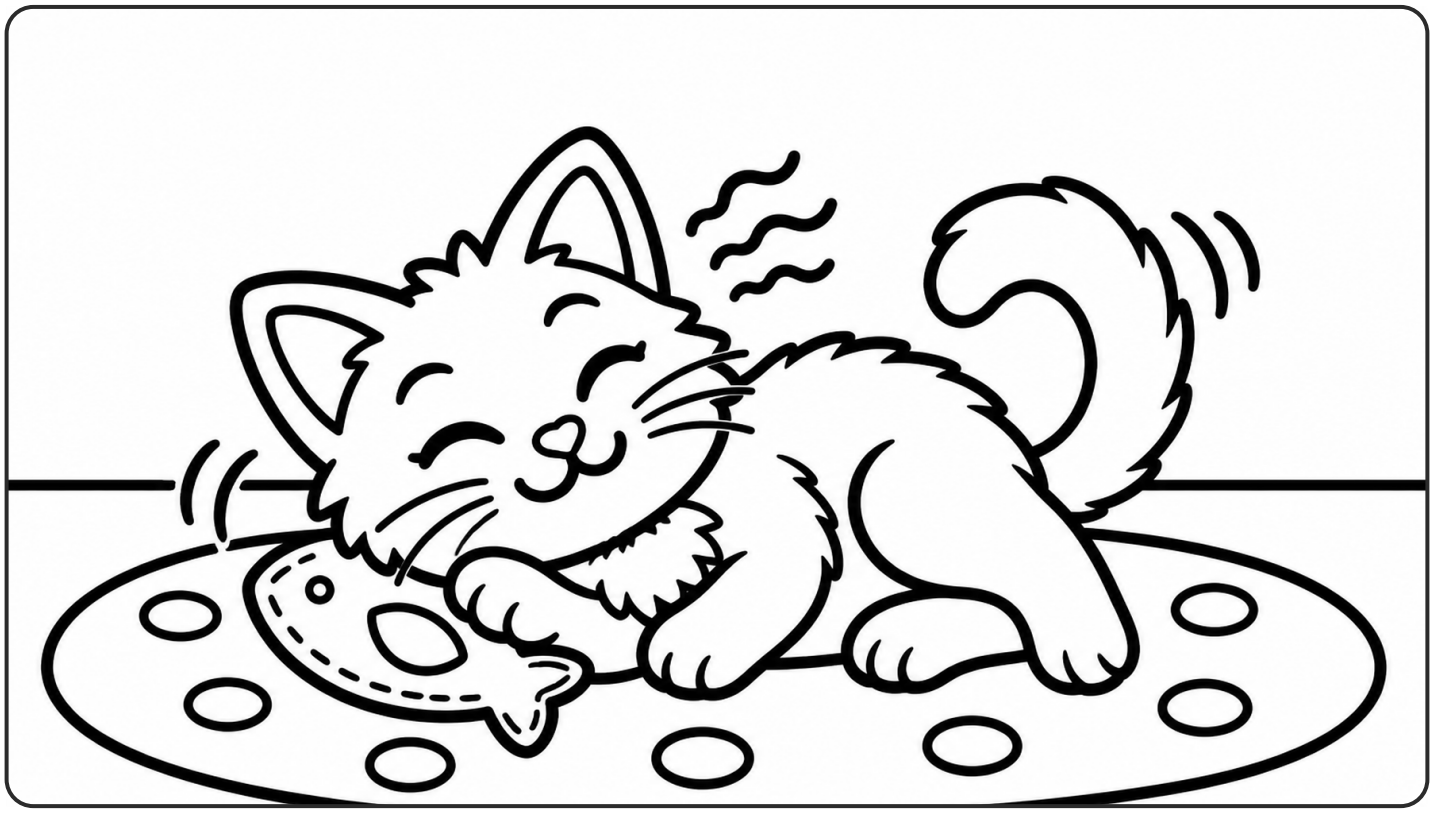
Why do cats like catnip?

Look! Midnight is rolling all over the floor! Why do cats like catnip?



Why?

1. **A special smell**
   Catnip is a plant in the mint family. Its leaves have a special smell inside.
2. **A message to the brain**
   When a cat sniffs the leaves, the smell goes into its nose, and the nose sends a message to the brain.
3. **Rolling and rubbing**
   Then the cat rubs its cheeks, rolls over, and acts silly. Some cats purr, and some leap about!

Try it! Try a catnip toy

You need: a grown-up, a cat and a catnip toy

1. If you know a cat, ask a grown-up to give it a catnip toy.
2. Does it roll, or walk away?

What happened? But not every cat feels it. Lots of cats just sniff, and walk away.

Video + more questions:
whywhywhykids.com/catnip

scan with a grown-up