

# MEET THE CHEETAH



Adventure

Conservation

Education






*An Activity  
Guide for*  
**Primary  
Students  
(United States)**

**Lower Primary  
Learners  
(Namibia)**

[www.cincinnati-zoo.org](http://www.cincinnati-zoo.org)  
[www.cheetah.org](http://www.cheetah.org)








# Meet the

The  is a very special kind of cat and is not a threat to people. Most of the cheetahs in the wild are found in  where they live in the .

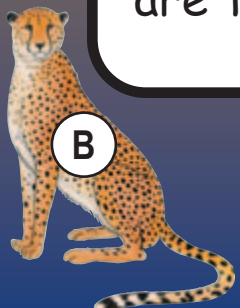
They are covered with  that help them hide in the grass. Sometimes people mistake a  for a .

Look closely. The leopard's  are different from the cheetah's .

The  is the fastest land animal on . It can reach speeds up to 70 mph (110 kmph) in just a few

seconds. That's as fast as a . To be so fast, the  has long .

Being really fast helps it chase down other animals to eat. Some of the animals it eats are the  and . A long  helps

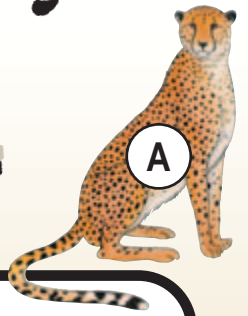





B





Throughout this guide, you will notice that certain words are **highlighted in color**. Turn to page 7 to read a definition of the word in the glossary.

# Cheetah!



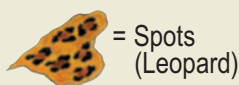
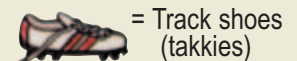
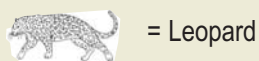
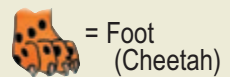
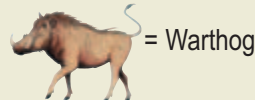
the  turn and keep its balance when running. Its  are like .

The  can give birth to up to six cubs at a time.

The cubs are very small and weigh less than one pound (0.45 kg). Their  begin to open after a few days. After a few weeks, the cubs begin to follow their mom. They play a lot and learn to hunt. Once they are about two years old, the cubs are living on their own.

Cheetahs are in danger of **extinction**. There are not very many of them left on . They need our help.

## KEY

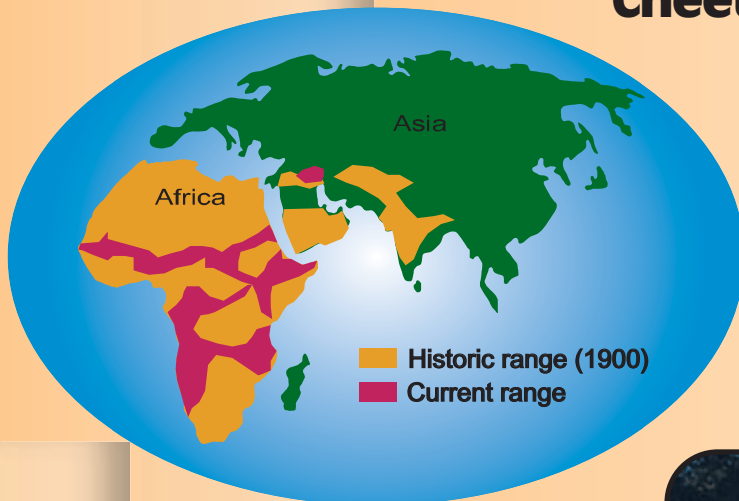


# Cheetah FAST FACTS!



## Cheetah • *Acinonyx jubatus*

The fastest animal on land, the cheetah can reach speeds up to 70 mph (110 kmph). Sadly, this cat is also one of the fastest disappearing animals. Less than 15,000 cheetahs remain in the wild.



- **Range:** Pockets in Africa and Iran
- **Weight:** 80-120 lbs (36-55 kg)
- **Height:** 30 in (75 cm)
- **Prey:** Small antelope, young of large antelope, warthog, hare, game birds

• **Status:**  **SPECIES@RISK**  
(IUCN-Vulnerable)



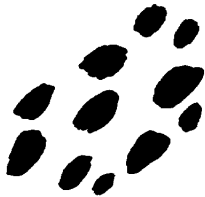
# Help for a Hunter

Cats have to be good hunters and cheetahs are one of the best. Finish drawing the following body parts on the cheetah and color it.



## Tail

While chasing **prey**, sometimes the cheetah has to turn in another direction in a split second to stay close behind the **prey**. The cheetah swings its tail to one side to help it keep its balance in a high speed turn.



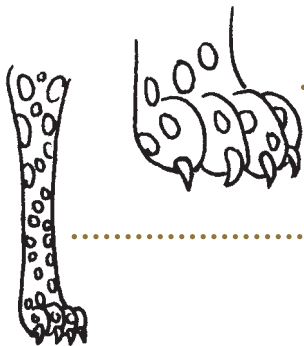
## Spots

Cheetahs have a tan coat of fur with black spots that helps it blend in to its **habitat**. This **camouflage** keeps them from being seen by **prey** they might be sneaking up on and even other **predators** such as lions and leopards.



## Eyes

Cheetahs are not the only animals that hide in the grasses. The cheetah has excellent eyesight for spotting **prey**. They can see clearly up to 3 miles (5 km) away. We would have a tough time seeing that far even with binoculars.

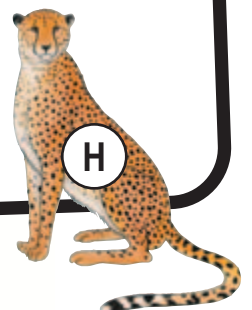


## Claws

Claws dig into the ground as the cheetah runs. This keeps the cheetah from slipping, gives it better footing and more speed.

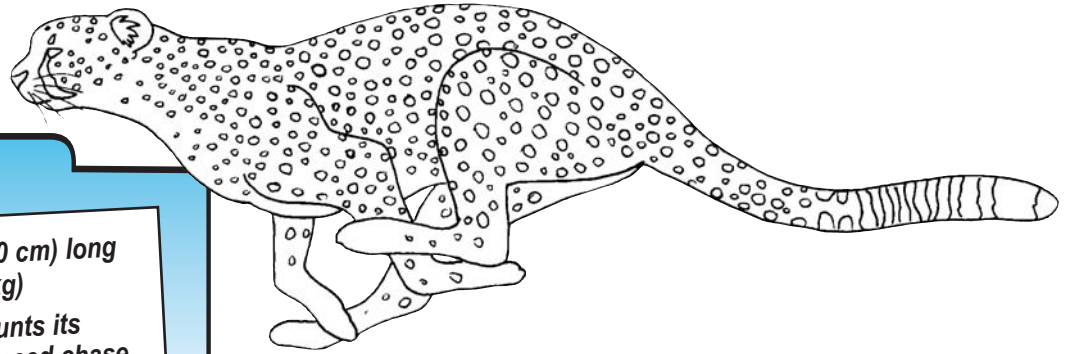
## Long legs

Long legs allow the cheetah to move farther and faster than it could with shorter legs.



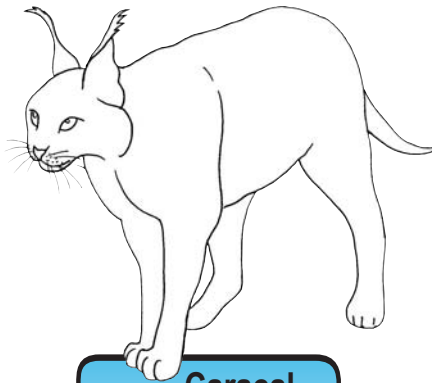
# The Cheetah's Cousins

Cheetahs belong to the cat family. Cats are predators. That is, they hunt other animals called prey. There are many cats that live in Africa. The cheetah is just one of them. Color in these African cats.



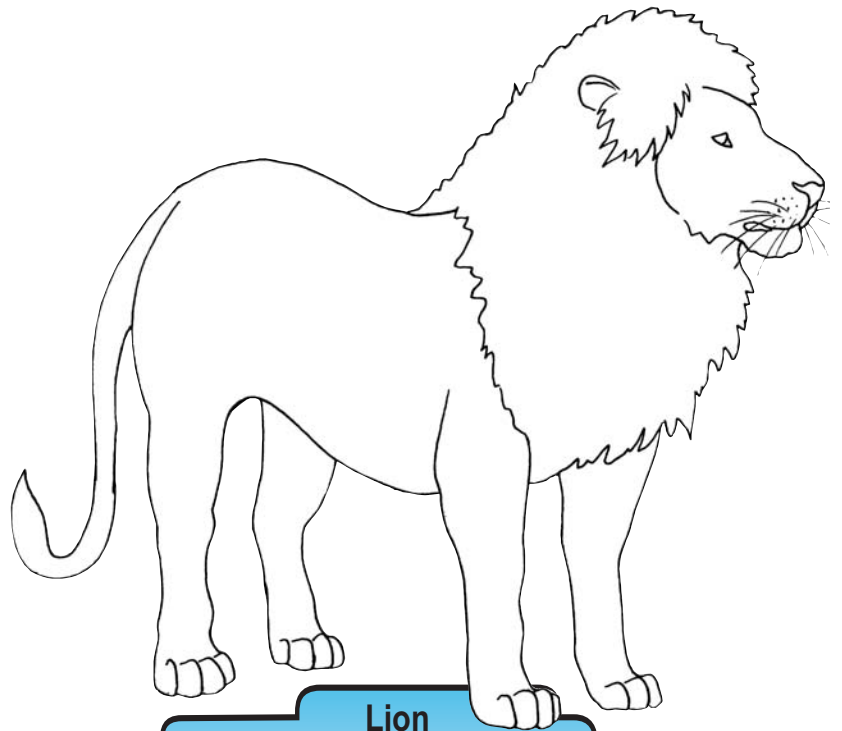
**Cheetah**

- Up to 55 in (140 cm) long and 120 lbs (55kg)
- The cheetah hunts its prey in a high-speed chase during the day.



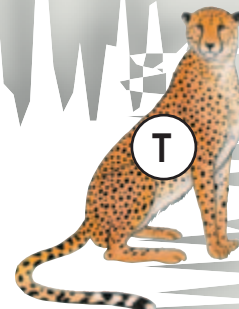
**Caracal**

- Up to 30 in (76 cm) long and 61 lbs (28 kg)
- A small, tan cat, the caracal blends in with its desert and shrub habitat.



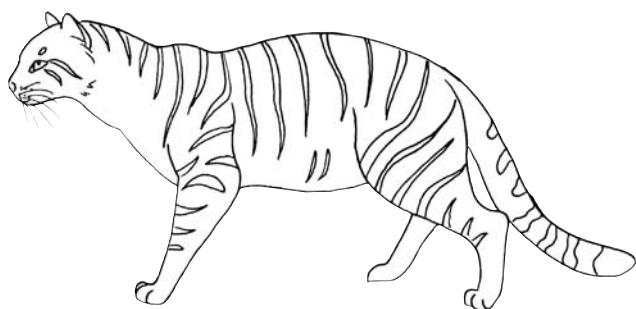
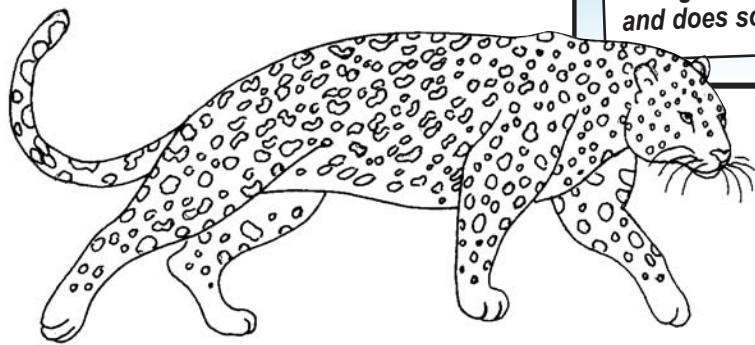
**Lion**

- Up to 86 in (220 cm) long and 496 lbs (225 kg)
- Lions live and hunt together in groups called prides.



### Leopard

- Up to 59 in (150 cm) long and 132 lbs (60 kg)
- The leopard is strong enough to hunt large antelope and does so mostly at night.



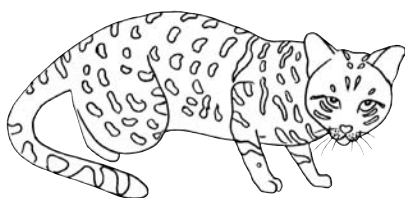
### African wild cat

- Up to 29 in (74 cm) long and 14 lbs (6.5 kg)
- About the size of a large housecat, the African wild cat lives and hunts alone for small animals in the woodlands and savannahs.



### Serval

- Up to 40 in (101 cm) long and 41 lbs (19 kg)
- Large ears help the serval locate small rodents by sound.



### Black-footed cat

- Up to 19 in (49 cm) long and 5 lbs (2.4 kg)
- The black-footed cat is one of the smallest cats and hunts small prey such as mice, birds, spiders and insects.

# Feed a Cheetah

Like all cats, cheetahs are **carnivores**, or meat-eaters. Circle the following foods that would be on the cheetah's menu and find them in the word search.

Do you know the names of these foods in any other languages?



Kudu



Warthog



Guinea fowl



Leaves



Hare



Vegetables



Duiker



Steenbok



Fruit



Hartebeest



Springbok



Soft drink



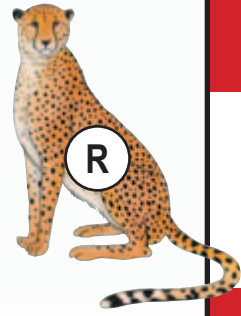
Oryx

People eat both plants and animals. Draw some of your favorite foods below.





# Word Search

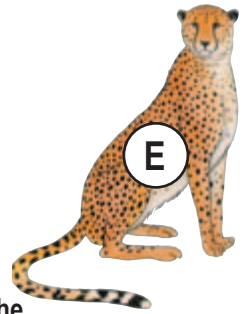


S B Y S Q X U Z H T F P E W Y  
L P K F B E J D S D E M R U A  
E M R Y K R H E U A B L A H I  
I I T I S X E J M K J S H Z W  
R W T K N B G A G E E B M W B  
W J Z U E G N E F Y J V A B P  
I F B T C M B C U F N R S C U  
P R R J D G S O I D T R T J S  
F A W U U Q N V K H T J E L Y  
H G U I N E A F O W L X E A X  
R E K I U D D G D Q Y P N O M  
Y V T S J N X W G R C V B L R  
P J R Q D K U T O L T E O R V  
P B D G A H U W B X G X K E H  
A X O F G L I Z G S U Z E M L

Find the names of the cheetah's food circled on page 8.



# Test your CHEETAH I.Q.



Answer the following questions to see how much you have learned about the cheetah from the activity guide. Check your answers on the next page.

1) Why does the cheetah need to run so fast?

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2) What does it mean to be a carnivore?

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3) Why does the cheetah need our help?

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4) What can you do to help the cheetah?

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# A Secret Message

A secret message has been left for you to decode. Go back through the pages of this book and find the hidden cheetahs. Fill in the spaces below with the letters you find written on the cheetahs. Read your secret message!

\_\_ E \_\_ C \_\_ EE \_\_ AH'S F \_\_ I \_\_ ND!

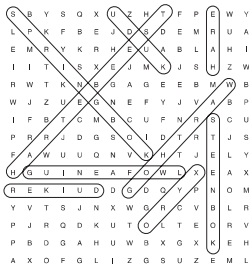
*Share this message with your family and friends. Cheetahs are in trouble and they need people to help them survive. The Cheetah Conservation Fund and the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden are friends of the cheetah. Will you be a cheetah friend too?*

## Answers

Answers to *Feed a Cheetah*, page 8:

You should have circled the kudu, warthog, Guinea fowl, hare, duiker, steenbok, hartebeest, springbok, and oryx.

Answers to *Word Search*, page 9:



Answers to *Test Your Cheetah I.Q.*, page 10:

- 1) Speed helps the cheetah catch its prey.
- 2) A carnivore is an animal that eats other animals.
- 3) The cheetah is in danger of extinction. There are not very many of them left.
- 4) Be a cheetah's friend!

Answers to *A Secret Message*, page 11:

BE A CHEETAH'S FRIEND!

## Glossary

**Camouflage** — blending in with the surroundings

**Carnivore** — an animal that eats mostly other animals

**Extinction** — no longer existing

**Habitat** — the place where an animal lives that provides it with food, shelter, water and space

**Predator** — an animal that hunts and eats mostly other animals

**Prey** — an animal that is hunted or eaten by other animals

**Savannah** — a grassland

**Vulnerable** — facing high risk of extinction in the wild



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[www.cheetah.org](http://www.cheetah.org)

## Overview

Teachers! This guide is designed to supplement Outreach programs led by the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's Cat Ambassador Program and the Cheetah Conservation Fund. Targeted for students in Primary Elementary in the United States and Lower Primary in Namibia, the guide engages students in participatory learning about cheetah conservation. The guide provides a unique and fun way to inspire a sense of wonder, gather knowledge, and sharpen skills in science, reading and language arts, visual arts and geography.

*The activities in the guide relate to the following standards:*

### National Science Education Standards

- K-4 Life Science
  - Characteristics of organisms
  - Organisms and their environment

### Indiana Academic Standards of Science (K-2)

- The Living Environment
  - Diversity of life
    - K.4.1, K.4.2, 2.4.1
  - Interdependence of life
    - 1.4.3, 1.4.4, 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.4.4
- The Physical Setting
  - The earth and the process that shape it
    - 2.3.4

### Ohio Science Proficiencies (4th grade test)

- Earth and space science
  - Identify and/or describe the relationship between human activity and the environment.
- Life Science
  - Demonstrate an understanding of the basic needs of living things.
  - Identify ways in which organisms react to changing environments.

### Ministry of Basic Education and Culture (Republic of Namibia) Syllabus Learning Objectives (1-4)

- Environmental Studies
  - Grade 1 3.4.7 My Environment – Animals
  - 3.4.8 My Environment - Conservation
  - Grade 2 3.11.1 Conservation – Care and respect
  - Grade 3 3.10.1 Animals on land – domestic and wild
    - 3.13.1 My Environment - Sustainable use of environment (conservation)
    - 3.13.2 My Environment – Tourism
- Natural Science and Health Education
  - Grade 4 1.1 The needs of living things

## Credits, 2003

### Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

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- Education Director.....David Jenike
- Project Director.....Shasta Back
- Project Development Team.....Shasta Back, Jennifer Good, Cathryn Hilker, David Jenike, Elissa Knights
- Layout and Design .....Greg Hanson
- Illustrations .....Marcus Jackson, Randy Slamowitz

### Cheetah Conservation Fund

- Executive Director.....Laurie Marker
- Project Development Team.....Gebhardt Nikor, Fanuel Ekondo, Bruce Brewer, Bonnie Schumann, Mandy Schumann, Matti Nghikembua, Siegfriedt Bandu !Aebeb, Heike Dedig