

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## All About Cheetahs

Cheetahs are the fastest land animals in the world. They can run as fast as 70 miles per hour! Cheetahs are big cats with long, lean bodies, and they are built for speed. Their lightweight frame, long legs, and flexible spine help them reach such incredible speeds. Cheetahs can only run at top speed for a short time, usually around 30 seconds, before they need to rest.

Cheetahs have a yellowish-tan coat covered in black spots. These spots help them blend into the tall grasses where they live, making it easier to sneak up on their prey. Cheetahs also have black "tear marks" that run from the corners of their eyes down to their mouths. These marks help keep the sun out of their eyes while they hunt during the day.

Cheetahs mainly live in Africa, especially in grassy plains called savannas. They hunt animals like gazelles and impalas. Cheetahs are carnivores, which means they eat meat. They use their excellent eyesight and speed to catch their prey. Unlike lions, cheetahs do not hunt in groups. They usually hunt alone or with their siblings when they are young.

A mother cheetah takes care of her cubs by teaching them how to hunt. Cubs stay with their mother for about a year and learn important survival skills. Sadly, cheetahs face many dangers. Some are hunted by larger animals like lions and hyenas. Humans also threaten cheetahs by taking away their habitats.

Cheetahs are considered a vulnerable species, which means they could become endangered if their numbers keep shrinking. Many people are working hard to protect cheetahs and keep them safe in the wild.