Student's Worksheet

A. Read those text carefully!

Text 1

The Allure of Speed on the Savannah

The cheetah (Acinonyx jubatus) is one of the most captivating creatures in the African wild. Its sleek and elegant physique is a testament to its mastery as the fastest land animal on Earth. Its coat, a beautiful golden-tan hue, is adorned with characteristic dense black spots that serve as perfect camouflage among the dry, rocky savannah grass. Its eyes, which often appear sharp and vigilant, are accentuated by dramatic black tear marks extending from the corner of the eye to the mouth, helping to reduce glare when hunting under the intense sun.

When a cheetah begins to run, it transforms into a blur of velocity. Every muscle in its body tenses and works in synchrony to achieve an extraordinary speed, sometimes exceeding 70 mph (112 km/h. Its aerodynamic body, long legs, and a very long, flattened tail act as a stabilizing rudder when it makes sharp turns to pursue prey. Its movement is graceful and mesmerizing, appearing almost as if it is floating above the ground, showcasing an unparalleled command over the element of speed.

The cheetah is a tangible symbol of vulnerable natural beauty. Its charming presence on the grasslands adds a sense of the wild and free. It is not just a predator but an evolutionary masterpiece engineered for speed. However, their numbers continue to decline, making every sighting precious and special, reminding us of the responsibility we bear to preserve this treasure of the world.

Text 2

Classification and Adaptation of the Cheetah

The cheetah, scientifically known as Acinonyx jubatus, belongs to the Felidae family (cats) and is the sole living member of the *Acinonyx* genus. Its primary habitat encompasses most of sub-Saharan Africa as well as a few small, isolated populations in Iran. The cheetah is classified as a carnivore and is physically identified by its slender body, deep chest, and small, rounded head.

The cheetah is the fastest land animal in the world, capable of reaching recorded top speeds of up to 112 km/h for short bursts. This speed is enabled by a unique set of physical adaptations. Their bodies feature long legs and a highly flexible spine that acts like a spring, allowing for extremely long strides. Their semi-retractable claws (claws that cannot be fully withdrawn) provide the traction similar to running shoe spikes. A long, muscular tail is used as a counterbalance and rudder during high-speed chases.

Cheetahs are predators that hunt primarily during the daytime (diurnal), unlike many other large carnivores. Their main prey consists of small to medium-sized ungulates, such as gazelles, impalas, and young wildebeest. After a successful catch, they must feed quickly due to a lack of strength to defend their kill from larger predators like lions or hyenas. The gestation period typically lasts about 90 to 98 days, resulting in an average of three to five cubs per litter. Cubs stay with their mother for 18 to 24 months to learn hunting and survival skills.

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Currently, the cheetah is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List (International Union for Conservation of Nature). Major threats to their survival include habitat loss due to human expansion and fragmentation (breaking up) of habitat. Additionally, conflict with livestock farmers, illegal poaching, and predation on cubs by larger carnivores are also significant factors. Conservation efforts focus on habitat protection and captive breeding programs.

B. Please find out the differences of those thext above !

Content	Text 1	Text 2
What Kind of text		
Purpose		
Content Focus		
Language features		
Structure text		

C. Vocabullaries (Find the red words in the text which mean)

1. Capable of attracting and holding interest; charming :
2. Something that serves as a sign or evidence of a specified fact, event, or quality :
3. Keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties :
4. Having a shape that reduces the drag from air moving past it :
5. Capturing the complete attention of (someone); fascinating :
6. Active or occurring during the day, rather than at night :
7. The process of carrying or being carried in the womb between conception and birth. :

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8. The natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism :
9. Gracefully thin; having a small circumference in relation to height or length :
10. An animal that feeds on other animals; a meat-eater :

D. Open Question !

1. Why are the cheetah's semi-retractable claws an important adaptation, and how does their function compare to the fully retractable claws of other large cats (like lions or tigers)?

2. Besides reducing glare, what is another ecological function that the dramatic black 'tear marks' extending from the cheetah's eyes might have?

3. What are the main ethical and practical challenges in captive breeding programs for species like the cheetah, and how effective are these programs in ensuring the long-term survival of the wild population?

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