

Amazing ANIMAL FACTS



Which is the fastest land animal? Which is the fastest animal in the ocean? Which is the fastest animal in the air? And which is the fastest animal of all?

Most people know that on land the cheetah is the fastest animal, as well as one of the most beautiful. It can run at 112 kilometers an hour, but only for a few hundred meters. In the ocean, the sailfish is the fastest fish—it can swim at 110 kilometers an hour. That's only two kilometers an hour slower than the cheetah.



In the air, the falcon is the fastest bird, with a speed of 100 kilometers an hour in level flight. But when it dives down, it flies at an amazing 389 kilometers an hour. So the cheetah is a little faster than the sailfish, but the fastest of all is the falcon.

And which is the most dangerous animal in the world?

We're all scared of sharks, but they don't kill many people. And hippos kill more people than lions. In India and Sri Lanka, the most dangerous animal is a snake—the Indian cobra. This snake kills over 50,000 people a year. But the most dangerous animal in the world is an insect—the mosquito. Mosquito bites can give you malaria. The World Health Organization says that about 250 million people a year get malaria. One million people, mostly children in hot countries, die of the disease. Scientists say that malaria killed half the people who ever lived.

3**AFTER READING**

Complete.

- 1 The _____ land animal can run at 112 km/h.
- 2 The fastest _____ can swim at 110 km/h.
- 3 When it dives, the _____ is the _____ of all.
- 4 The Indian cobra isn't the _____ dangerous animal in the world.
- 5 Mosquitoes are _____ because their bites can give you malaria.
- 6 That's why mosquitoes are the _____ _____ animals in the world.