

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the following passage carefully



Cheetahs are different from other wild cats, with their small heads, and long legs for sprinting. Their stare makes them look frightening, but these proud predators are actually quite timid.

At one time cheetahs used to live throughout Africa and as far east as India. Today, their numbers have decreased to the extent that they are mainly found in national parks in Eastern and Southern Africa, having almost disappeared from Northern and Western Africa. The few that remain in Asia are primarily found in Iran. The declining numbers of cheetahs could be the result of the high demand for their spotted coats.

Cheetahs are not as aggressive as other wild cats: they are afraid of humans and will run away from leopards and lions. In fact, they hunt during the late morning or early afternoon to avoid their enemies.

Cheetahs are well known for their agility and the high speed at which they pursue their prey. However, they can only run at top speed for a few seconds because their bodies become quickly overheated.

## Vocabulary

Match the underlined words from the passage to their correct definition.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ to follow or chase after something or someone to catch them.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ an animal that obtains food by catching and eating other animals.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ to keep away from a person or thing.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ scared or shy.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ an animal that is hunted and killed by another animal for food.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ to make or become smaller.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ for the most part.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ state of being sought after by many.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ showing a readiness to attack.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ to look hard and long often with wide-open eyes.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ one that tries to hurt or overthrow another person or thing.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ the ability to move quickly and easily.

The following questions are about the passage that you have just read. Complete the answers in the spaces provided. Use full sentences, spelling and grammar.

1. Give ONE way in which the cheetah is different from other wildcats.
2. Give another word for "timid" in line 3.
3. In which continent are the majority of cheetahs found today?
4. Give one word from the passage that means the same as 'fierce'.
5. Give one reason why the cheetah is NOT considered as fierce as other wildcats?
6. Why do you think the cheetah is now MAINLY found in national parks?
7. Why, according to the passage, are many cheetahs killed?
8. At what time of day do you think that animals like lions and leopards hunt?
9. How can the cheetah's high speed be considered a disadvantage?