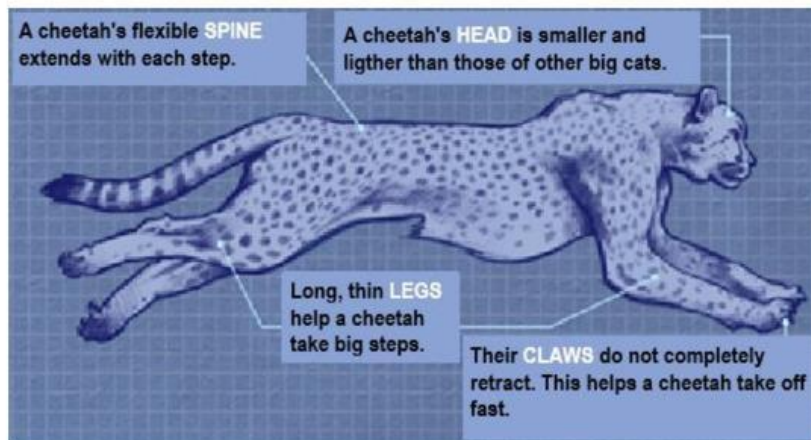


Reading 2 - Cheetahs



Nearly all wild cheetahs can be found in sub-Saharan Africa, where they live in the savannah plains and open forests. A small population lives in Iran, although only a few dozen remain here.

These big cats' bodies grow to between 1.1 and 1.4 meters long, plus a tail measuring 65 cm to 80 cm. Their weight ranges from 34 kg to 54 kg, males can be a bit heavier. Cheetahs have a pale-yellow coat with black dots on the upper parts, and are white on the belly.

The fastest land animal in the world, a cheetah can reach 112 km/h in just three seconds – that is faster than a sports car accelerates! Its body is prepared for speed, with long legs, a long spine, adapted claws to stick to the ground and a long tail for balance.

Cheetahs are carnivores and live off other animals they find on Africa's plains, including rabbits, gazelles and birds. These strong felines hunt during the day to avoid competition from other meat-eaters such as lions, hyenas and leopards. First, they use their exceptional eyesight to look carefully at their habitat before choosing their prey. Then, when the time is right, they sprint, knock down their victim and kill it with a bite to the throat. As sprinting at such mega speeds uses a lot of energy, it lasts less than a minute.

Cheetahs are usually found in groups, consisting of a mother and her young cubs (who stay together for around six months after leaving the mother) or a group of males who live and hunt together. Adult females, however, tend to be solitary. Females usually give birth to between two to eight cubs at a time. She takes care of them until they are 16 to 24 months old and able to look after themselves. Sadly, this beautiful animal is in danger of extinction by loss of habitat, lack of prey¹, as well as conflict with humans. Today, only an estimated 9,000-12,000 are living in Africa.

¹ PREY: an animal that is hunted and killed for food by another animal

20. This text can appear in...

- A. a book of history.
- B. a newspaper.
- C. a science magazine.
- D. a travel magazine.

21. Only TWO of these statements about Cheetahs are true. Underline them:

- A. All their body is pale yellow.
- B. Females are as heavy as males.
- C. Most of them live in sub-Saharan Africa.
- D. Their head is heavier than those of other big cats.
- E. Their tails measure less than 60 centimetres.
- F. They can weigh more than 50 kilos.

22. Cheetahs...

- A. are built for speed.
- B. are faster than any other bird, fish or mammal.
- C. can reach 130 km/h.
- D. use their claws for balance.

23. When they hunt, cheetahs...

- A. choose their preys during the night.
- B. kill their preys with their claws.
- C. look out and surprise their victims.
- D. run after their victims for a long time.

- 24.** According to the text, which of the following sentences are true and which ones are false?

	True	False
A. Cheetahs only eat small mammals.		
B. Adult males and females are both quite solitary.		
C. Females can have as many as eight cubs.		
D. Cheetah babies are looked after by their mother only for 6 months.		

- 25.** In which paragraph do we learn about their family system?

- A. Paragraph 1.
- B. Paragraph 2.
- C. Paragraph 3.
- D. Paragraph 4.
- E. Paragraph 5.

- 26.** Complete the sentence:

Cheetahs are in danger of extinction because of the loss of territory, the lack of food and _____.

- 27.** One title for this article could be...

- A. CHEETAHS, the most beautiful mammal.
- B. CHEETAHS, a fast, fierce and ferocious animal.
- C. CHEETAHS, the last feline of Asia.
- D. CHEETAHS, the last feline of the Savannah.