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?