

Year 6 Literacy Homework

Due in Thursday 6th December 2018

Read the following non-chronological report about cheetahs and answer the questions below in your homework books. Please write full sentence answers and pay attention to spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Cheetahs

Cheetahs are members of the cat family and are the world's fastest land animals. They inhabit open grasslands and scrub in Africa, southern Asia and the Middle East.

Cheetahs are often mistaken for leopards and have many similar features. Their distinguishing marks are the long, teardrop-shaped lines on each side of the nose from the corner of the eyes to the mouth.

The animals have muscular and powerful bodies which are aerodynamically perfect for short, fast runs. Their bendy backs keep the body flexible as they sprint. They can accelerate from standing to 40 mph in three strides and to a full speed of 70 mph within seconds. Cheetahs' feet are like running shoes and have grips and spikes to dig into the ground. The grips are special ridges on the animals' footpads and the claws act as spikes. These claws stay out all the time. This is different from other cats, whose claws tuck away in special sheaths in their paws.

Cheetahs are carnivores and eat gazelle and small antelope. A long tail helps the cheetah keep its balance as it swerves after its prey, using large eyes that point forward to judge distances accurately. Once the cheetah has pounced, the victim is gripped by the throat to stop it breathing. However, the cheetah has weak jaws and small teeth and cannot always protect its kills or its young, especially if tired out after a run.

Female cheetahs give birth to an average of three young that they rear by themselves. Once fully grown, the animals usually live alone, though males sometimes form small groups. Most cheetahs live about twelve years. Cheetahs are now an endangered species and many conservationists are trying to help protect the habitats of these interesting creatures.

1. What animal family does the cheetah belong to?
2. Where do cheetahs live?
3. How fast can cheetahs run?
4. How does a cheetah's tail help it to hunt?
5. How long do most cheetahs live for?
6. Why must cheetahs hunt for their food?
7. Why might a cheetah struggle to kill its prey after capturing it?
8. Can you think of a country where I might be able to see a cheetah?
9. Can you find three features of a cheetah which make it a good hunter?
10. "Conservationists shouldn't interfere with nature by trying to stop cheetahs from dying out." Do you agree? Why/why not?