**Fast Cats!**

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| **Activity Summary**In this activity, you will learn about cheetahs and how their external structures help them survive in their habitat.Have you ever seen a cheetah? The cheetah is the fastest land animal on Earth. It’s an animal you might see on a safari in Africa!**Discover** |
| Cheetahs have special external structures that help them live in their habitat. External structures are parts of an organism that are outside of the body. Read the **Cheetah** article to learn more about cheetahs and how their external structures help them survive.  |
| **Engage**What did the article teach you about cheetahs? Complete the **Fast Cats: Comprehension Worksheet** to show what you learned. |



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**Explore**

Watch the video in the Video section to learn more about how cheetahs look and behave. Write down your observations on the **Cheetah Observations Chart**.

**Extras**

* Graphic Organizer: **KWL Chart**
* Britannica Book Club: *The Cheetah’s Tale* by Julia Johnson (2004)

**Cheetah Observations Chart**

**Fill in the chart with your observations about cheetahs.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Physical Features** **(what cheetahs look like)** | **Habitat****(where cheetahs live)** | **Life Cycle****(how cheetahs grow)** | **Behaviors** **(how cheetahs act)** |
|  |  |  |  |

**Fast Cats!**

**Complete each sentence with the correct term from the word bank.**

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| Africa cheetahs external structures grasslands habitat |

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are the fastest land animal on the Earth.
2. Cheetahs live in scattered parts of central, eastern, and southern \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. The place an animal lives is called its \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. Most cheetahs live in dry \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. All animals have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that help them survive.

**Complete the chart with information about the external structures of cheetahs.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **External Structure** | **Function/Purpose** |
| Examplelong tails | to give balance when they make quick turns |
|  |  |
|  |  |
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**Think about what you read about cheetahs and humans. Then answer the following question.**

Why are cheetahs in danger, and what can humans do to help protect them?

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| **K**What do you know about the topic? | **W**What do you want to know about the topic? | **L**What did you learn about the topic? |
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