

Categorizing

Cheetahs are mammals who belong to the **big cat family**. Their scientific name is **Acinonyx jubatus** and they are located in Africa. They are one of the most streamlined of all land animals and whilst most people appreciate Cheetah's for their speed and agility, **they are amazing animals in many other ways**.

Technical Language

Topic sentence about habitat

Cheetahs can accelerate faster than most cars reaching ninety kilometers per hour in less than three seconds. Their stride length is 7 meters which is equal to the length of an elephant. They use their amazing speed to chase down prey such as gazelles, wildebeests, calves and impalas. Cheetah's cannot retract their claws as this causes them to lose grip when running. Their **sandy coloured fur** makes them blend in with their surroundings so they can get close to their prey.

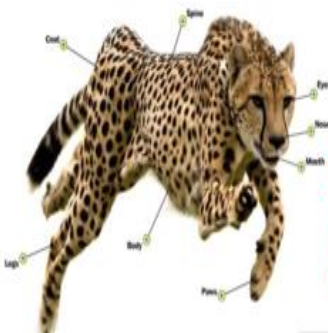
Use of adjectives

Comparative language

Cheetah's also rely on the black marks under their eyes to reduce the glare from the sun because they hunt during the daytime unlike most other cats. Their **muscular tail acts like a rudder** when sprinting at high speed. Cheetahs are the only big cats that can't roar. They either purr like a house cat or chirp, which can be heard from over a kilometre away. Every cheetah **has** a unique chirp.

Present Tense

Labelled relevant diagram



The cheetah's habitat varies from forest to desert and grasslands. Adult cheetahs may be found alone or in a pack called **a coalition** usually made up of two or three litters who defend their territory. Whilst Cheetahs are not as deadly as tigers or lions, they are still considered highly dangerous.

The cheetah is a carnivore that hunts small to medium-sized prey that weigh between twenty to sixty kilograms and mainly consists of small antelopes. They use their sharp teeth, claws, speed and agility to give them a clear advantage over most animals of a similar size.

Unfortunately, the population of cheetahs in Africa is decreasing. In the early 1900's there were approximately 100,000 but in 2010 there were only 7,000. Their lifespan is usually 10 to 12 years. As mammals they give birth to live babies and usually produce three to five kittens in a litter which is raised alone by the mother.

Use of facts to raise awareness

Brief closing comment

Cheetah's are certainly an interesting member of the big cat family **who have much more to them than simply being very fast.**