

MEET THE CHEETAH

ABOUT ME

I have about **2000 spots**, this is how I am identified in the wild. My spots cover most of my body, this helps me hide when I am hunting for prey in the wild. I actually have my own unique spots and ring pattern around my tail, much like your fingerprints.

Have you got any special spots on your body that makes you, you?

MY FAMILY

Mommy Cheetahs can have up to 8 cubs at a time, unfortunately we don't all survive. Baby cheetahs have a dusty-grey colouring with long hair running down our backs with is called a mantle. We are big and strong enough to hunt at 6 months old.

How old were you when you could eat all by yourself?

WHY WE ARE IMPORTANT?

As predators, we control the number of prey species in our ecosystem. Our main prey are herbivores. Without us, these populations grow. This can cause problems such as "over grazing": when animals eat all the vegetation.

OUR BIGGEST THREAT

I am facing extinction pressure from climate change, hunting by humans, and habitat destruction, which is reducing the size of our populations. There are less than 7,000 if us left in Africa!

DID YOU KNOW

I am the World's Fastest Land Mammal. I can run up to **75 mph**.

I usually only get up to these speeds in short sprints when I attack my prey, my average speed being around **40 mph**.

I have the ability to go from **0 to 60 mph** in only 3 seconds!

How fast can you run?

DID YOU KNOW

I don't roar.

The bones of my voice box are structured the same as that of "small" cats, which means I actually meow!

I can make a few different sounds. I growl and hiss when I feel threatened and I usually let out a loud yelp when I want to signal a warning.

What sounds can you make?

WE AREN'T CRYING

I have an excellent sense of vision, which enables me to spot and chase prey from 3 miles away. I also have black tear marks called **malar stripes** that run from my eyes down the sides of my face. This attracts the sun away from my eyes and stops the glaring sun from obstructing my view.

How do you protect your eyes from the sun?

MY NAMES

My name, 'cheetah', comes from the Hindi word '**CHITA**' which means 'spotted one'.

How many names do you have?

WHAT WE LIKE TO EAT

I am a **CARNIVORE**.

I eat at small antelope, springbok, steenbok, duikers, impala and gazelles, as well as the young of larger animals, such as warthogs, kudu, hartebeest, oryx, roan and sable.

An adult cheetah eats about **2.8kg** of meat per day. I don't drink much water and can survive up to 10 days without it.

How much water do you drink everyday?

