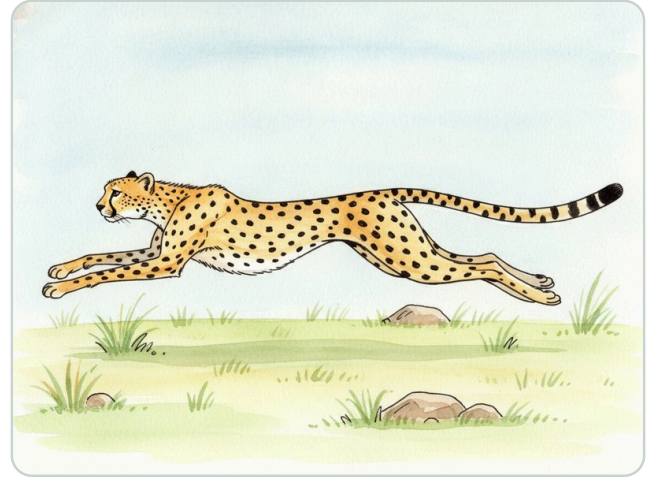


Cheetahs

Read the text. Then answer the questions on the next page.

- 1 The cheetah is the fastest animal on land. It lives on the grassy plains of Africa. A cheetah is a **predator**. It hunts other animals, such as gazelles and hares, for its food.
- 2 A cheetah is built for speed. Its body is **slender**. It is thin and light, with long legs and a small head. Its backbone is **flexible**. It bends easily, like a spring, so the cheetah can take very long steps.
- 3 No other land animal can **accelerate** like a cheetah. It can speed up from standing still to sixty miles an hour in about three seconds. That is as fast as a car on a highway. Its claws grip the ground like the spikes on running shoes.
- 4 A cheetah cannot run that fast for long. After less than a minute, it is worn out. It must stop, lie down, and catch its breath before it can eat.
- 5 Cheetah cubs are **vulnerable**. They are small and easily hurt, and lions and hyenas sometimes attack them. The mother hides her cubs in tall grass and moves them often to keep them safe.



Cheetahs: Questions

The words near a new word are clues. Underline each clue in the color shown.

1. In paragraph 1, what does predator mean?



- ☐ an animal that hunts other animals
- ☐ an animal that eats only grass
- ☐ a kind of tall grass

2. In paragraph 2, what does slender mean?



- ☐ heavy
- ☐ thin
- ☐ short

3. What does flexible mean? Write the words from the text that helped you.



4. In paragraph 3, what does accelerate mean?



- ☐ slow down
- ☐ jump high
- ☐ speed up

5. In paragraph 5, what does vulnerable mean?



- ☐ easily hurt
- ☐ very brave
- ☐ fully grown

6. Write your own sentence with the word flexible.

Cheetahs: Answer Key

Answers are in green. The proof is where to find each answer in the text.

1. In paragraph 1, what does predator mean?

red

- ☒ an animal that hunts other animals
☐ an animal that eats only grass
☐ a kind of tall grass

Proof Paragraph 1: “It hunts other animals, such as gazelles and hares, for its food.”

2. In paragraph 2, what does slender mean?

orange

- ☐ heavy
☒ thin
☐ short

Proof Paragraph 2: “It is thin and light, with long legs and a small head.”

3. What does flexible mean? Write the words from the text that helped you.

yellow

Flexible means able to bend easily. Clue: “It bends easily, like a spring”

4. In paragraph 3, what does accelerate mean?

green

- ☐ slow down
☐ jump high
☒ speed up

Proof Paragraph 3: “It can speed up from standing still to sixty miles an hour in about three seconds.”

5. In paragraph 5, what does vulnerable mean?

blue

- ☒ easily hurt
☐ very brave
☐ fully grown

Proof Paragraph 5: “They are small and easily hurt”

6. Write your own sentence with the word flexible.

Answers will vary. Example: A flexible straw bends without breaking.