

Table of Contents

Correlations for Namibian National Syllabi	
Correlations: Natural Science - Biology Section	4
Correlations: Natural Science - Ecology Section	7
Correlations: Natural Science - Agriculture & Conservation Section	13
Correlations: Agricultural – Ecology Section	15
Correlations: Agricultural – Agriculture & Conservation Section	15
Introduction	17
Biology (pp. 21-68)	
Cat Comparisons	22
African Cat Investigations	27
Adaptations	40
Designed for the Wild	46
How Fast Is a Cheetah?	50
Life Cycles	53
Nutrition & Teeth	57
The Genetic Bottleneck	63
Ecology (pp. 69-142)	
Insects & Spiders-Prey & Predators	70
Habitats	78
Predator Feeding Behaviors	85
Food Chains	92
Namibian Species Research Project	98
Cheetah Hunt	100
Cheetah Computations	103
Camera Trap Wildlife ID	107
Wildlife Sampling	118
Animal Tracks	124
Mapping the Cheetah	134
Agriculture & Conservation (pp. 143-244)	
Farmers & Cheetahs: Can they live together?	144
Human-Wildlife Conflict	151
Resettled Farm Planning	171
Predator Perceptions	178
Cheetah Tracking	185
Whose Hair Is It?	194
Cheetah: An Animal at Risk	224
Cheetahs Throughout History	228
Writing About Cheetahs	232
Ideas for Art Activities	243
Conservation Activities	244

Appendix A - Background Information

(pp. A-1 – A-12)

Introduction to the Cheetah	A-1
Adaptations	A-3
A Cheetah's Life Cycle	A-4
Habitats	A-5
Food Chains	A-6
Cheetah Hunt	A-7
Threats to Survival	A-8
Tools for Ecological Research	A-9
Conservation Solutions	A-12

Appendix B - Reference Pages

(pp. B-1 – B-23)

Cheetah Fact Sheet	B-2
Cheetah Speed	B-4
Hunting Development of Cubs	B-5
Cats of the World	B-6
Cheetah Conservation Fund	B-7
A Place for Predators	B-8
A Race for Survival	B-10
A Singular Species	B-12
Cheetahs & Farmers	B-14
Livestock Guarding Dogs	B-15
Why Do Species Become Endangered?	B-17
Glossary	B-18

Introduction

Many people fear predators, especially big cats such as the lion, cheetah, and leopard. We are often taught to fear predators without understanding their unique behaviours, special adaptations, and essential roles in the maintenance of healthy ecosystems. Our attitudes and misconceptions about these species have led to their endangerment because often people deal with their fear of predators by eliminating them.

Endangered species exist in low population numbers and need intensive long-term management in order to survive. Attitudes toward predators must be changed if we hope to save endangered species such as the cheetah. By learning the reasons why species are endangered, students learn how the consequences of habitat destruction, environmental pollution, and the loss of biodiversity effects the overall health of the ecosystem. Through environmental education, we can all work together to change the attitudes and behaviors that have led to the endangerment of predator species and help save them from extinction. Individuals can make a difference!

To appreciate predators, we must first understand their roles in the ecosystem. Because predators must kill other animals in order to survive, many myths about them have evolved over the centuries in many cultures. The plight of cheetahs symbolize the problems that other predators face throughout the world. Cheetahs are endangered because of:

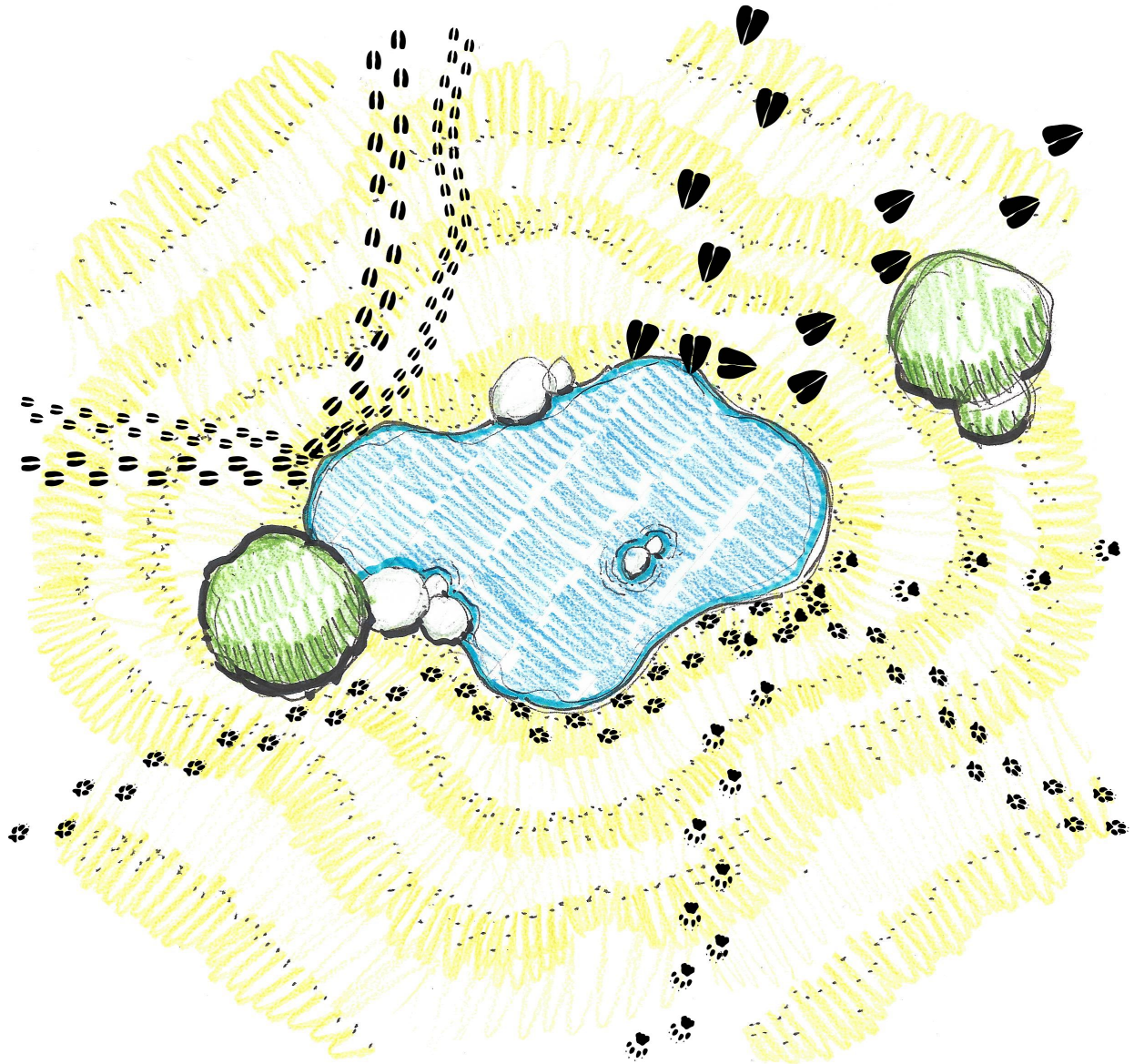
1. Loss of habitat and prey to farming and land development
2. Persecution by farmers as vermin or livestock-killing "problem" animals
3. Poaching
4. The illegal taking of animals for the pet trade

If we are to conserve healthy wildlife populations for the future, people must understand the ecology of animals and recognize their important role in the ecosystem. Wild species maintain healthy ecosystems, provide us with food, shelter, and clothing, benefit us economically, and improve the qualities of our lives by their existence.

Student Page - The Story Tracks Can Tell: Wild Waterhole

Name: _____

Date: _____



Questions:

1. What animal tracks are present at the waterhole?
2. For what reasons, other than drinking water, would animals visit a waterhole?
3. What story do the tracks tell you?