



# Activity Book: Saving the Cheetah in Somaliland

## Upper Primary



Ministry Of Environment And  
Climate Change  
Republic of Somaliland



**SOS**  
SAVE OUR SPECIES



With the support of IUCN Save Our Species, co-funded by the European Union



**Illustrators:**

Sage Demopoulos

**Reviewers:**

Dr. Laurie Marker

**Adaptation of Resource Material:**

Teacher's Resource Guide produced by Cheetah Conservation Fund  
4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2016.

This book belongs to \_\_\_\_\_

At the school: \_\_\_\_\_

# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	p. 3
<b>Biology</b>	p. 4-7
1.1 What is a Cheetah?	p. 4
1.2 How the Cheetah Got its Spots	p. 5
1.3 Cat Comparisons	p. 6
1.4 How Fast is a Cheetah?	p. 7
<b>Ecology</b>	p. 8-12
2.1 What is a Habitat?	p. 8
2.2 Food Chains	p. 9
2.3 Insects and Spiders	p. 10
2.4 Friendly Dogs	p. 11
2.5 The Story Animal Tracks Tell	p. 12
<b>Agriculture and Conservation</b>	p. 13-15
3.1 What is Extinction?	p. 13
3.2 Cheetah Maps	p. 14
3.3 Human-Wildlife Conflict	p. 15
<b>Conclusion</b>	p.16-18
4.1 Test Your Vocabulary	p. 16
4.2 How Can You Help Save the Cheetah?	p. 17
4.3 Answer Key	p. 18

# Introduction

In order to protect endangered animals like the cheetah, we must change our perceptions about predators. The cheetah is just one of 40 kinds of wild cats that exist in the world. But why should we care if the cheetah disappears forever? It might seem like the absence of just one species won't make a difference to us. However, it's crucial to recognize that all living beings are interconnected. When we lose a single species, it impacts all the other creatures within that ecosystem. Even the loss of one species diminishes our world.

**Remember, you have the power to make a change!**

**Continue reading to discover how you can contribute!**





# Chapter 1: Biology


## 1.1 What Is a Cheetah?


 are a type of cat. They are golden yellow with black rounded .  have black lines (tear marks) that run from their  to their . Most of the  in the wild are found in , where they live in the savannah. Thanks to their long legs,  are the fastest land animal on : . They can reach speeds of up to 110km/h in just a few seconds. That's as fast as a  ! Being very fast helps them chase  and eat .  are in danger of extinction. There are not many of them left on . They need your help!

### Key:


 = Cheetahs


 = Africa


 = Eyes


 = Racecar

 = Earth

 = Spots

 = Warthogs

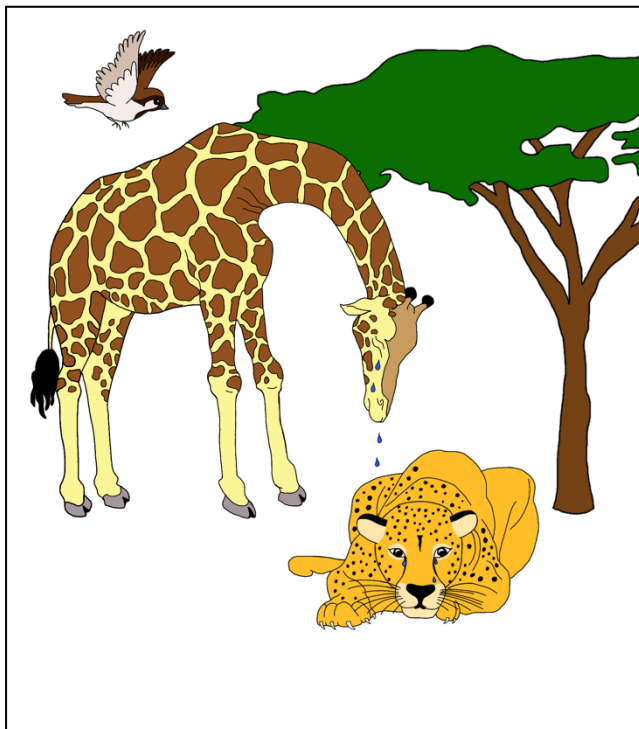
 = Guineafowl

 = Mouths

## 1.2 How the Cheetah Got Its Spots

Once upon a time, when the Earth was first created, a sad cheetah couldn't find any other cheetah friends. The cheetah sat next to a giraffe to tell its story, and the giraffe started crying. The giraffe's tears fell on the cheetah and burnt spots on its coat. A flying bird stopped on a tree next to the animals and chirped to comfort them.

*Activity: Use the image below to connect each animal to what it said:*



"I have been crying for a long time because I am lonely. Look at my beautiful face, the tears have burnt lines on my cheeks."

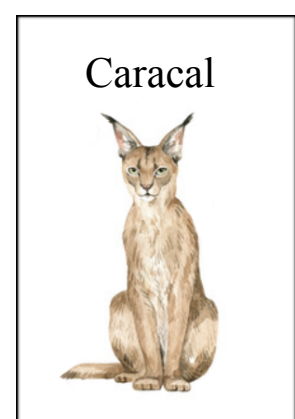
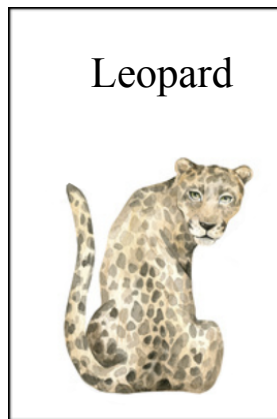
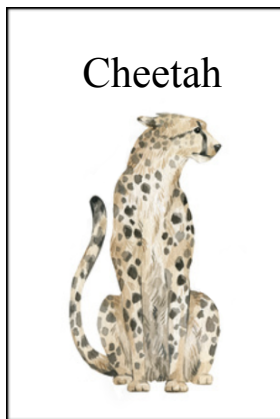
"Chirp, chirp! I have travelled throughout this land and you, cheetah, are the most splendid and unique of all the cats I have seen."

"You are so sad. It is making me sad too. Let's be friends and cry together."










Since that day, the cheetah has had spots on its coat and sounds like a bird. Thanks to its new friends, it is now proud of being different and the most unique of all cats.



## 1.3 Cat Comparisons



*For each box, write down the animal that matches the description. Each row should have: cheetah, leopard, and caracal.*

_____	_____	_____
In Africa and Asia	Only in 20 African countries	Widely found in Africa
_____	_____	_____
		
_____	_____	_____
Black “tear marks” from eyes to mouth	Short tails and pointed ears	Largest cat, very muscular
_____	_____	_____
		
_____	_____	_____
Small range: grasslands and savannahs	Very adaptable, lives in many environments	Wide range: savannah, woodlands, and desert
_____	_____	_____
		
_____	_____	_____
Are a threat to humans when annoyed	Not a threat to humans	Not a threat to humans

## 1.4 How Fast is a Cheetah?

*Ideally this activity should be done with a friend or family member, but it can be done alone.*

Go outside and measure 28 meters on the ground. To do this, mark off a starting line with any object and take 100 steps, counting each step out loud. Mark off where your steps end with an object

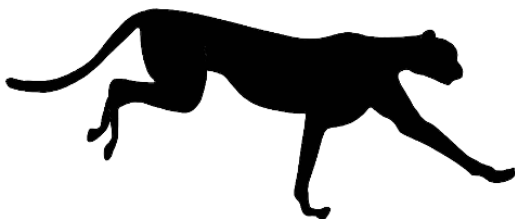
First, run the distance you measured on two legs, and then run the same distance using your arms and legs (4 legs). As you run, have a friend count how long it takes you to travel the entire distance. Write your answer in the space below.

It took me \_\_\_\_\_ seconds to run 28 meters on two legs.

It took me \_\_\_\_\_ seconds to run 28 meters on four legs.



Compare your answers to the speed of a cheetah using the information below.



A cheetah can run 28 meters in **1 second!**



# Chapter 2: Ecology

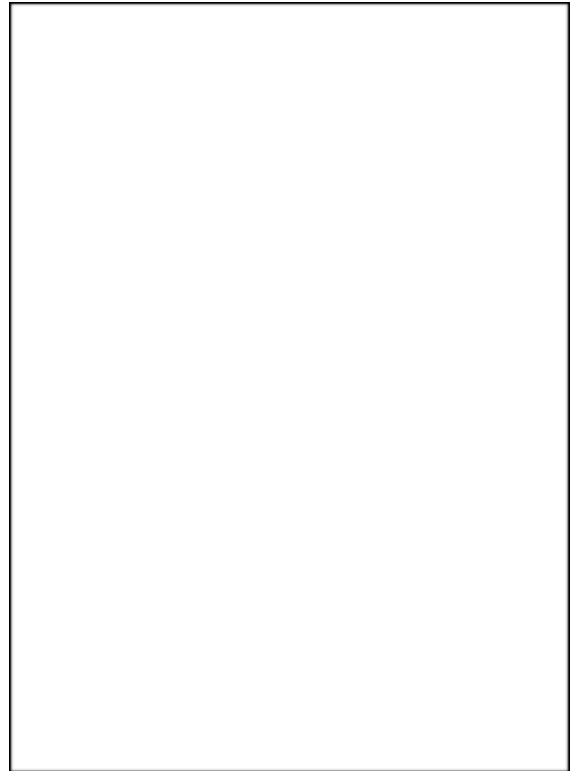
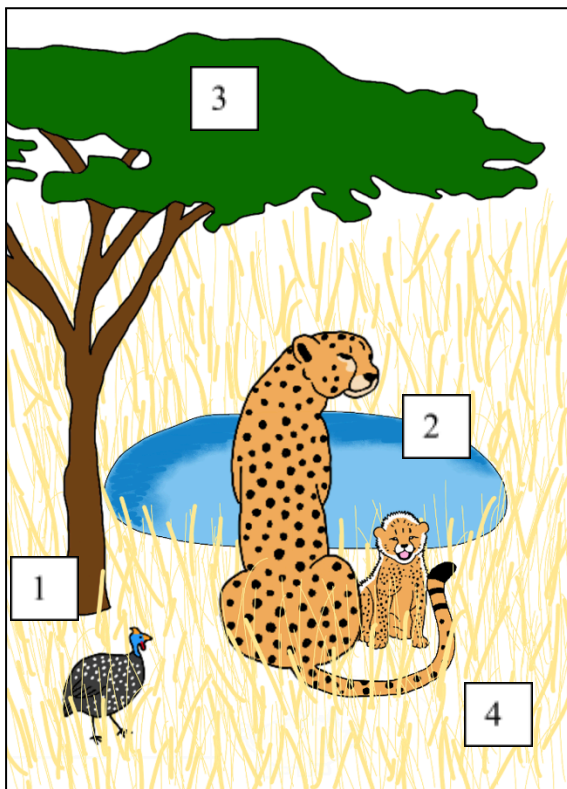
## 2.1 What is a Habitat?

All living things need a home, or *habitat*, where they live. Your habitat is more than just your house. It's everything around you, like your school, the store, and the grazing land. Humans can live in different kinds of habitats, but animals need specific habitats that have the things they need to survive.

A habitat provides 4 basic needs for animals:

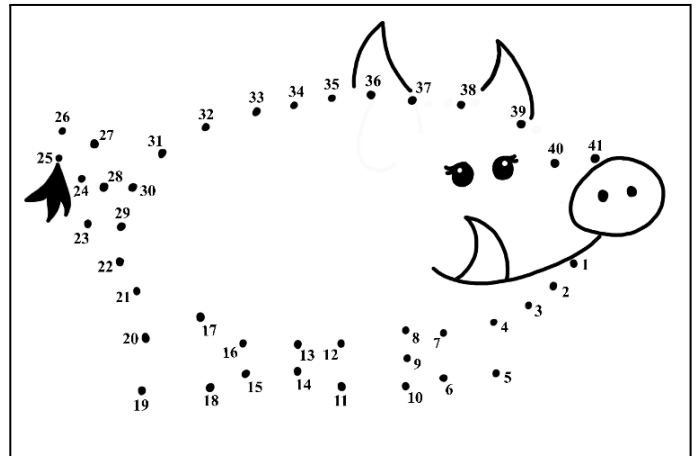
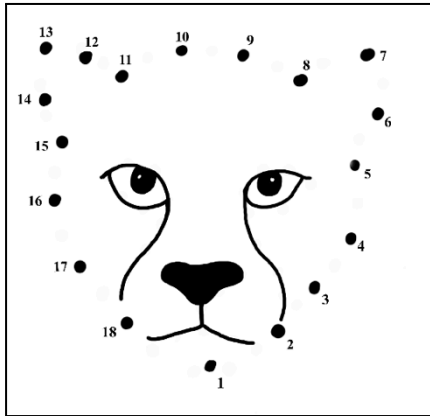
1. **Food:** provides energy
2. **Water:** keeps animals healthy
3. **Shelter:** keeps animals safe
4. **Space:** space to run around and hunt (gives animals exercise)

*Activity: This is a cheetah's habitat. Try drawing your own habitat!*

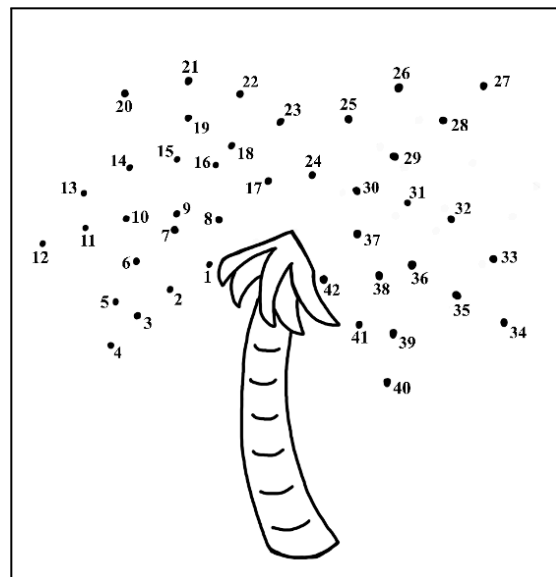
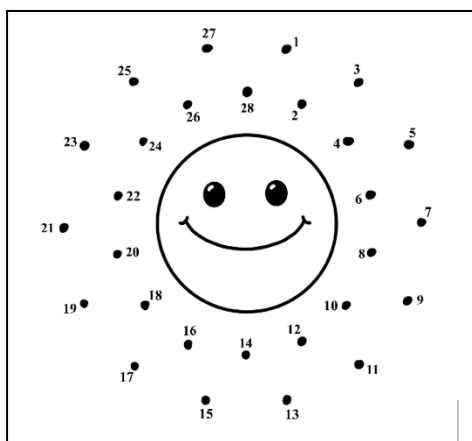
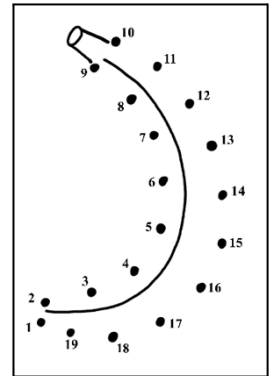


## 2.2 Food Chains

*Activity: Connect the dots below to reveal each organism in the food chain.*



Every animal needs food for energy. A *food chain*, like this one, shows examples of where each animal gets its energy from.



## 2.3 Insects And Spiders

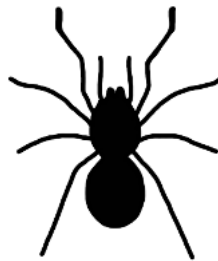
*Use a jar with a lid and collect as many insects and spiders as you can in 3 different habitats: the trees/bushes, the grass, and on the ground. Be careful when handling the insects and spiders, you don't want to accidentally hurt them!*

<u><b>Insect:</b></u>	
6 legs	
2 antenna	
Most have wings	
3 body sections	



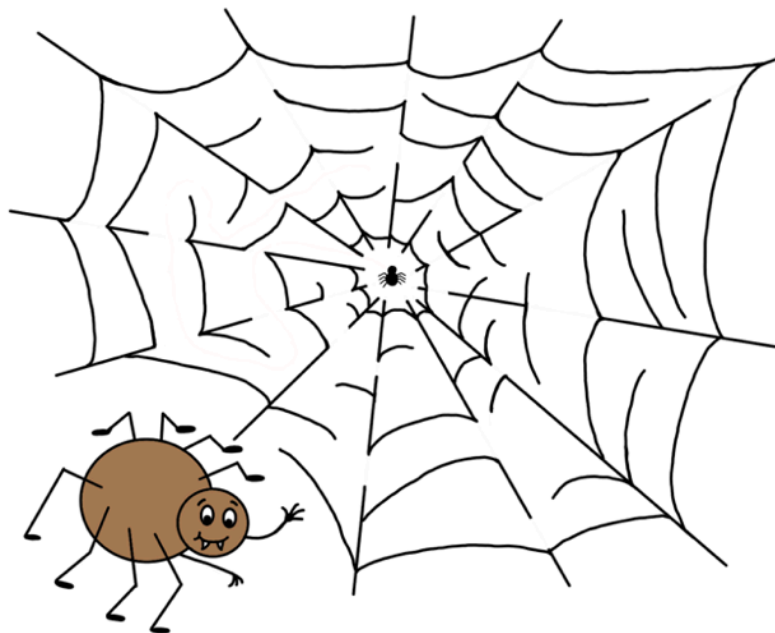
Answer the questions below for each insect/spider you find.

<u><b>Spider</b></u>	
8 legs	
2 body sections	
8 eyes	



Insect or Spider  
Habitat  
Size  
Number of legs  
Antennae present?  
Number of eyes  
Wings present?  
Color

*Draw a line through the maze to reunite the mother spider to her baby.*



## 2.4 Friendly Dogs

In many countries, dogs are referred to as “man’s best friend”. If a dog is aggressive and tries to bite, it is often because they are afraid. If you treat them right and don’t harm them, dogs will trust you and behave nicely. Being good to dogs has many benefits: they are very loyal and protect their owners from danger. Also, predators like leopards can smell a dog’s presence and won’t prey on your livestock if a dog is near.

*Calculate the number each dog below represents, then solve the equation:*

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Dog 1} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{Dog 1} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{Dog 1} \end{array} = 3$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Dog 2} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{Dog 2} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{Dog 2} \end{array} = 15$$

















$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Dog 3} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{Dog 3} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{Dog 3} \end{array} = 60$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Dog 1} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{Dog 2} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{Dog 3} \end{array} = ?$$

## 2.5 The Story Animal Tracks Tell

The footprints animals leave in the dirt, sand, or mud are called *tracks*. Tracks can help yo learn which animals are nearby and how many there are.

*Draw a line connecting each animal to its corresponding track.*

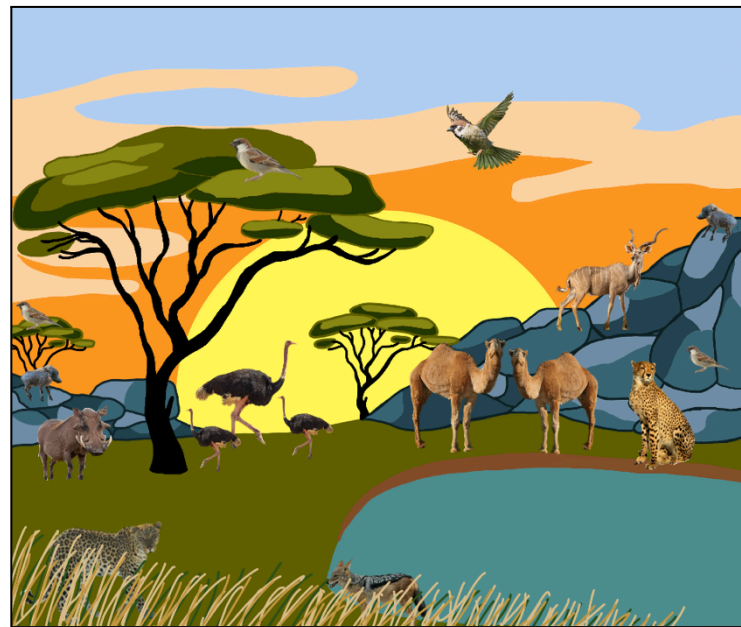
<div data-bbox="225 589 507 907"><p>Camel</p></div>	<div data-bbox="609 566 892 768"><p>Sparrow</p></div>	<div data-bbox="1168 566 1316 707"></div>
<div data-bbox="233 929 515 1211"><p>Warthog</p></div>	<div data-bbox="585 790 916 1072"><p>Greater Kudu</p></div>	<div data-bbox="1165 721 1323 893"></div>
<div data-bbox="197 1238 560 1534"><p>Leopard</p></div>	<div data-bbox="609 1099 868 1420"><p>Cheetah</p></div>	<div data-bbox="1181 907 1303 1028"></div>
<div data-bbox="204 1556 549 1854"><p>Black Backed Jackal</p></div>	<div data-bbox="585 1458 903 1778"><p>Ostrich</p></div>	<div data-bbox="1193 1041 1291 1155"></div>
		<div data-bbox="1171 1167 1316 1339"></div>
		<div data-bbox="1171 1352 1319 1516"></div>
		<div data-bbox="1197 1527 1299 1646"></div>
		<div data-bbox="1173 1659 1329 1814"></div>

# Chapter 3: Agriculture and Conservation

## 3.1 What is Extinction?

Species are *endangered* when there are few individuals left. Endangered species, like the cheetah, are at risk of extinction if they aren't protected. *Extinction* is the complete disappearance of a species from Earth.

*Find the 15 differences between these two drawings:*



Did you notice that the drawing on the right has less cheetahs?

It's because the cheetahs are endangered. Reasons why cheetahs are endangered are habitat loss, decreases in prey species, and conflicts with livestock farming. Understanding why species become endangered can help us humans change our actions and prevent their extingtion.

### 3.2 Cheetah Maps

## Map of Africa



## Map of Somaliland



Using the map above, answer the following questions.

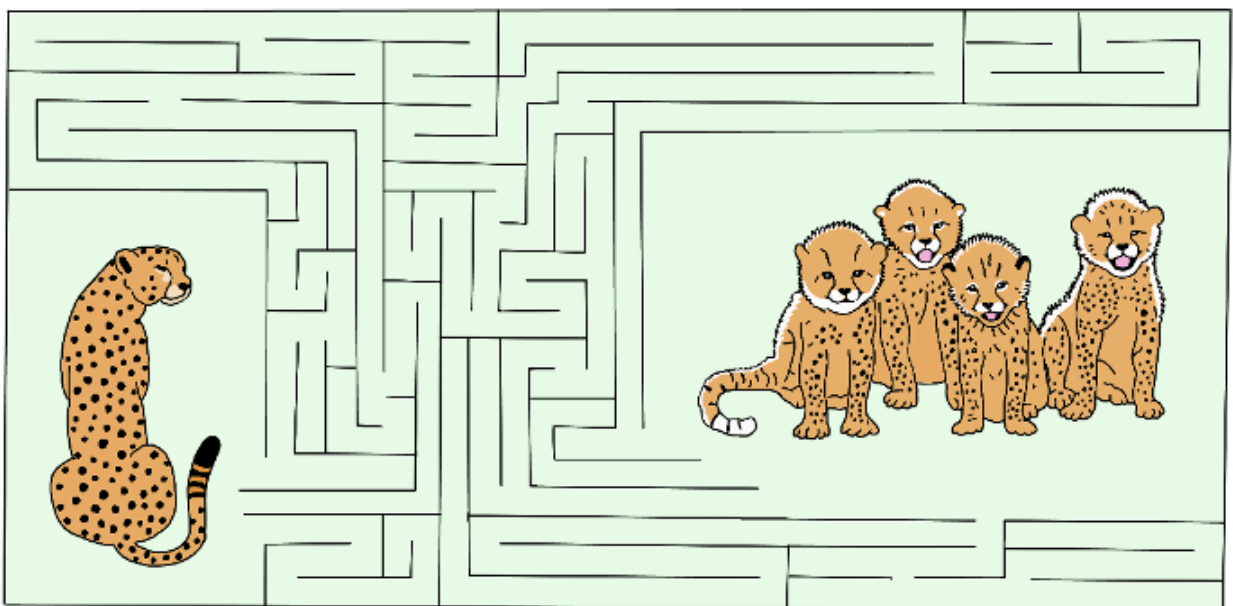
1. How many countries in Africa still have a significant number of cheetahs? Wild cheetahs used to live throughout Africa, but now only reside in these few countries.
2. Cheetah numbers are decreasing each year. What are some reasons for this decline?
3. Mark where you live on the map of Somaliland!



### 3.3 Human-Wildlife Conflict

Humans and wildlife share an environment, and it is therefore important that we find ways to live together peacefully. For example, cheetahs are sometimes captured from the wild and sold as pets, even though it is illegal. This is very problematic because taking away cheetah cubs disrupts the natural balance of the ecosystem. Cheetahs are meant to roam free in the wild, so keeping them as **p**ets causes them to suffer physically and mentally. Once taken from the wild, cubs cannot learn how to hunt, so when they get older and larger, they are more likely to eat livestock and cause problems for farmers. This is why it is very important to help conserve cheetahs and discourage having wild animals as pets.

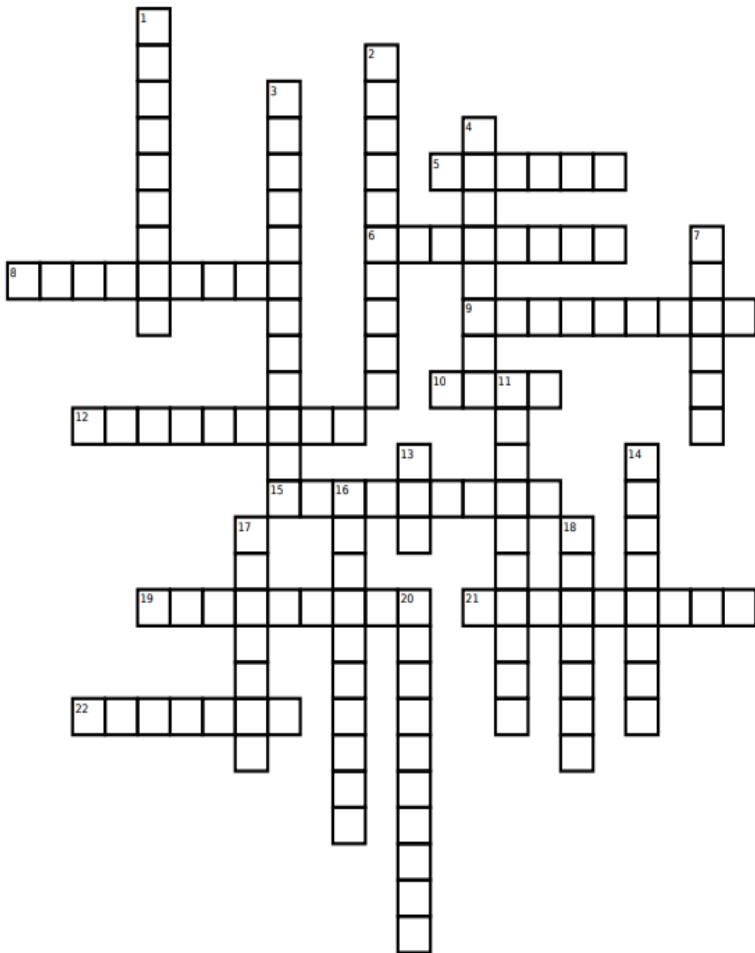
*Complete the maze below to help the mother cheetah find her cubs.*



# Chapter 4: Conclusion

## 4.1 Test Your Vocabulary

Complete the crossword puzzle below. Use the vocabulary you have learned to fill in the blanks for each definition.



Down:	Across:
1. The community of living and non-living things working together in one area.	5. the footprints animals leave behind in the dirt, sand, or mud.
2. An organism, like insects, fungi, and bacteria, that recycle dead organisms and turn them back into nutrients and soil to feed plants.	6. an animal that hunts and kills other animals for food.
3. Protecting wild animals and plants in their natural habitats for future generations.	8. an animal that feeds on dead animals.
4. A living thing, like a plant, that makes its own food by using soil, water, air, and sunlight.	9. an animal that eats meat.
7. A large continent where many animals and people live.	10. an animal that is hunted for food
11. When an animal is at risk of extinction because there are not many left.	12. a group of male cheetahs that live together.
13. The name given to a baby cheetah, leopard, or hyena.	15. animals that are active and hunt during the night.
14. An animal that eats meat and plants.	19. a small body of water used by animals for drinking, socializing, hunting, and other activities.
16. When animals blend into their surroundings so they are not seen by other animals.	21. an animal that eats plants.
17. A large, spotted cat found in parts of Africa. It is the fastest animal on land.	22. animals that are active and hunt during the day.
18. The environment of a living thing that gives it food, water, shelter, and space.	
20. When an animal dies out and can no longer be found.	

## 4.2 How Can You Help Save the Cheetah?

*Search through all the previous pages in the book and look for any bolded letters (not including the glossary). Write the letters below in the order you find them to uncover a secret message!*

-----

Here are some things you can do to help save the cheetahs:

Learn more about cheetahs and  
other predators.

Start your own conservation  
club at school.

Teach your friends and family  
about cheetahs.

Protect cheetah habitats and  
conserve their prey species.

Learn about the laws that  
protect cheetahs.

Express how you feel about  
cheetahs in art and writing.

Encourage not to trap or kill  
cheetahs.

Support wild animals living in  
the wild, not as pets.

You can make a difference! What is your plan to help save the cheetahs?

---

---

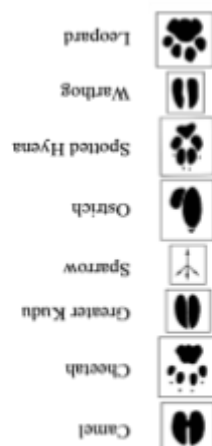
---

---

## Answer Key

*Turn the page up-side-down to uncover the answers.*

**The Story Animal**  
**Tracks Tell (p. 12)**



## How Can You Help Save The Cheetah?

Secret message:  
Cheetahs need our help

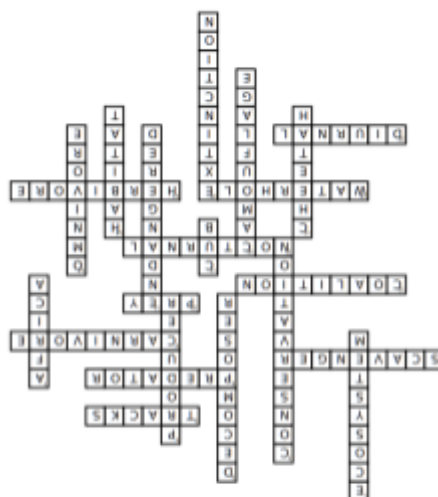
Cheetah Maps (p. 14)

2. Cheetah numbers are declining due to habitat loss, poaching, drought, illegal pet trade, and many other factors that limit their ability to survive in the wild.

### How the Cheetah Got its Spots (p. 5)

Cheetah: "I have been crying for  
 a long time because I am lonely.  
 Look at my beautiful face, the tears  
 have burnt lines on my cheeks."  
Giraffe: "You are so sad. It is  
 making me sad too. Let's be friends  
 and cry together."  
Bird: "Chirp, chirp! I have  
 travelled throughout this land and  
 you, cheetah, are the most splendid  
 and unique of all the cats I have  
 seen."

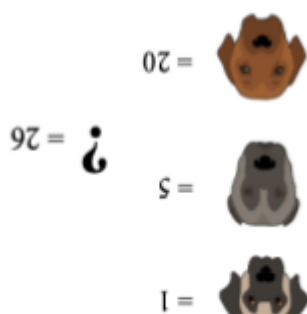
**Test Your Vocabulary (p.16)**



**What is Extinction? (p. 13)**



### Friendly Dogs (p. 11)



### Cat Comparisons (p. 6)

[illegible]