

This edition of Shortcuts is sponsored by Catherine Cheetah-Jones.

About a hundred years ago, there were approximately 100,000 cheetahs in the wild. Today, scientists believe there are fewer than 10,000 cheetahs remaining in the wild. Hopefully, this trend can be reversed before the fastest animal on earth loses its race for survival.

LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

Cheetahs once roamed throughout India, the Middle East and many parts of Asia. Today, wild cheetahs are found only in eastern, central and southern Africa.

Cheetahs are not as aggressive as other predators and often lose their prey to lions or hyenas.

WORD SEARCH

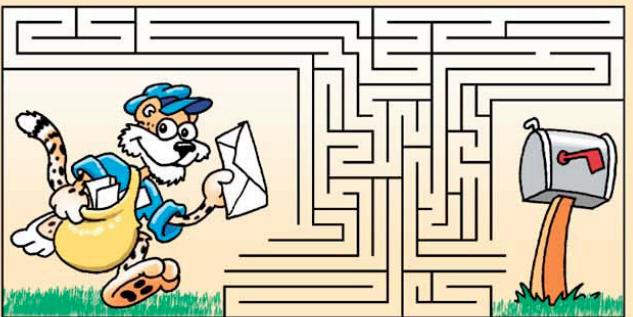
Can you find the hidden words? Search carefully because some words are backward or diagonal.

PREDATOR CLAW PREY
CHEETAH HUNT TAIL
STREAK LONG BOB
STRIDE TEAR CAT
SPOTS FAST CUB
QUICK FLEX RUN

ANIMATION DRAW
ALLUNAEXSORAG
CLOUDCBATPLNO
ASHFLCUARCONC
CREAMHDBILUTE
ACASAETADFKIS
POSTSTRAKECLIP
AREPITILIRBEE
DUETAALUAONYX
ANDYAHQUBONES

BAD NEWS TRAVELS FAST

Can you help this cheetah deliver the mail?



Shortcuts
by jeff harris

A QUICK LOOK AT CHEETAHS

Cheetahs prefer to hunt in the daytime.

ON THE SPOT

A cheetah's heart and lungs are larger than those of most other cats. These organs pump high levels of oxygen through the cheetah's body, providing the energy for running.

A cheetah's long tail is about half the length of its body.

Cheetahs are the only cats that do not have fully retractable claws.

The cheetah is the fastest mammal on earth. A cheetah can run as fast as 110 km/h (68 mph) over short periods of time.

The backbone of a cheetah flexes like a spring to help it run at high speeds.

Cheetahs have a set of distinctive black stripes called "tear streaks" that run from their eyes to their mouth.

A running cheetah may travel more than 7 m (23 ft.) between each stride.

What do you get when you cross a cheetah with a deer?
A fast buck.

Cheetahs tire very quickly and will give up a chase if they do not catch their prey within a few hundred meters.

