

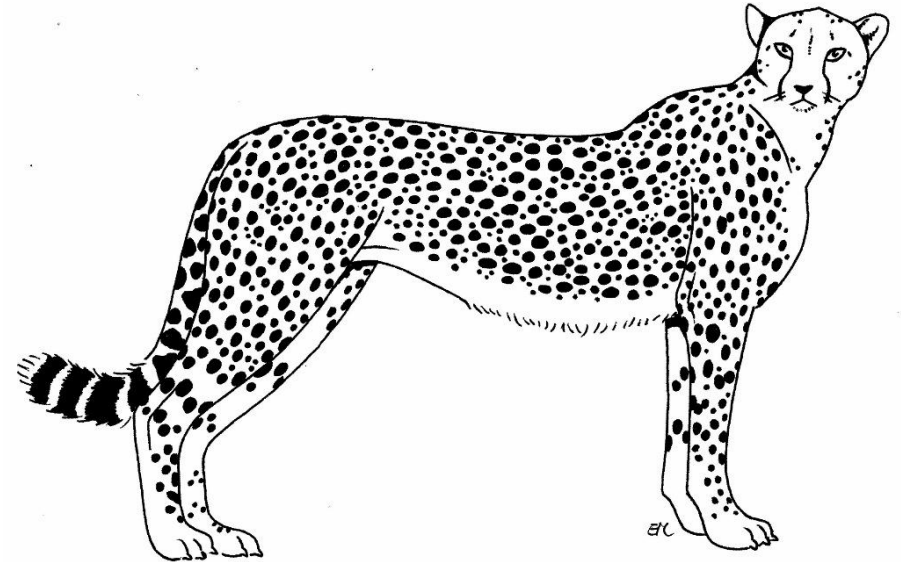


This booklet was developed by
Cheetah Conservation Project Zimbabwe

© Esther van der Meer

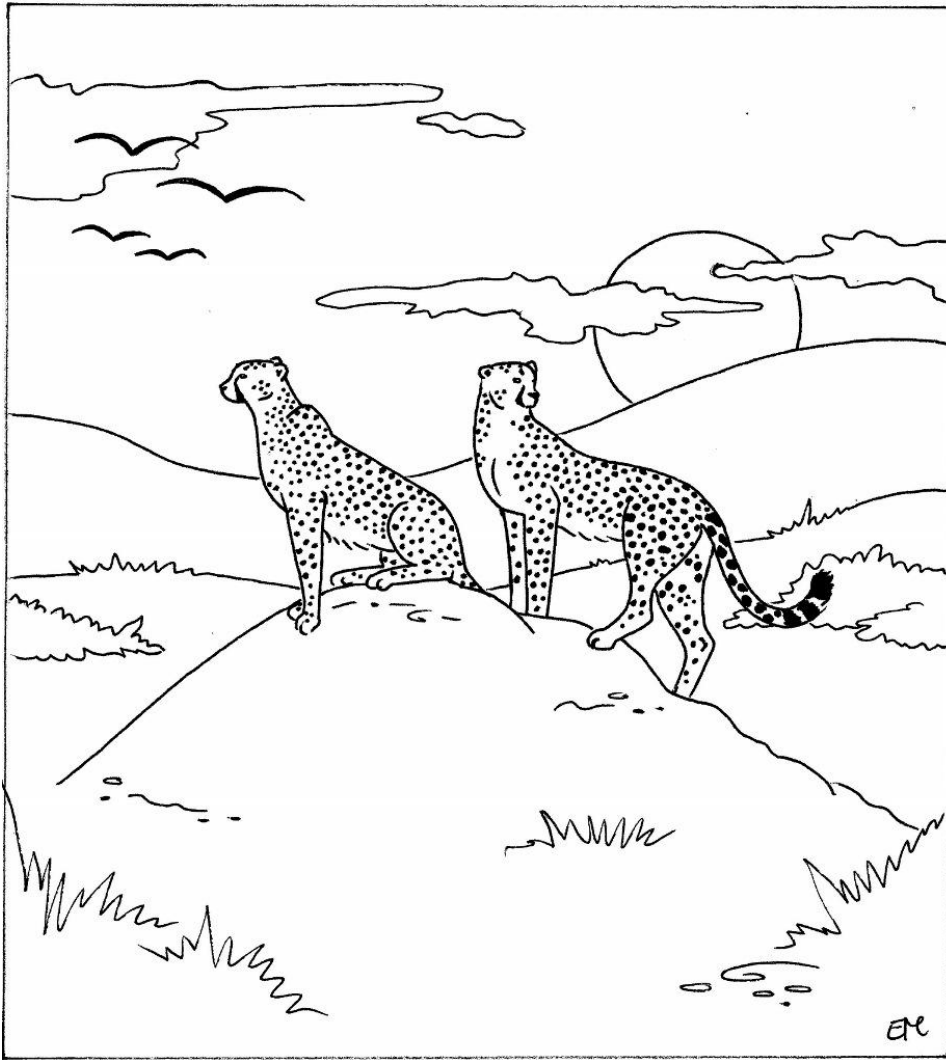
Downloadable from cheetahzimbabwe.org

I'm a cheetah

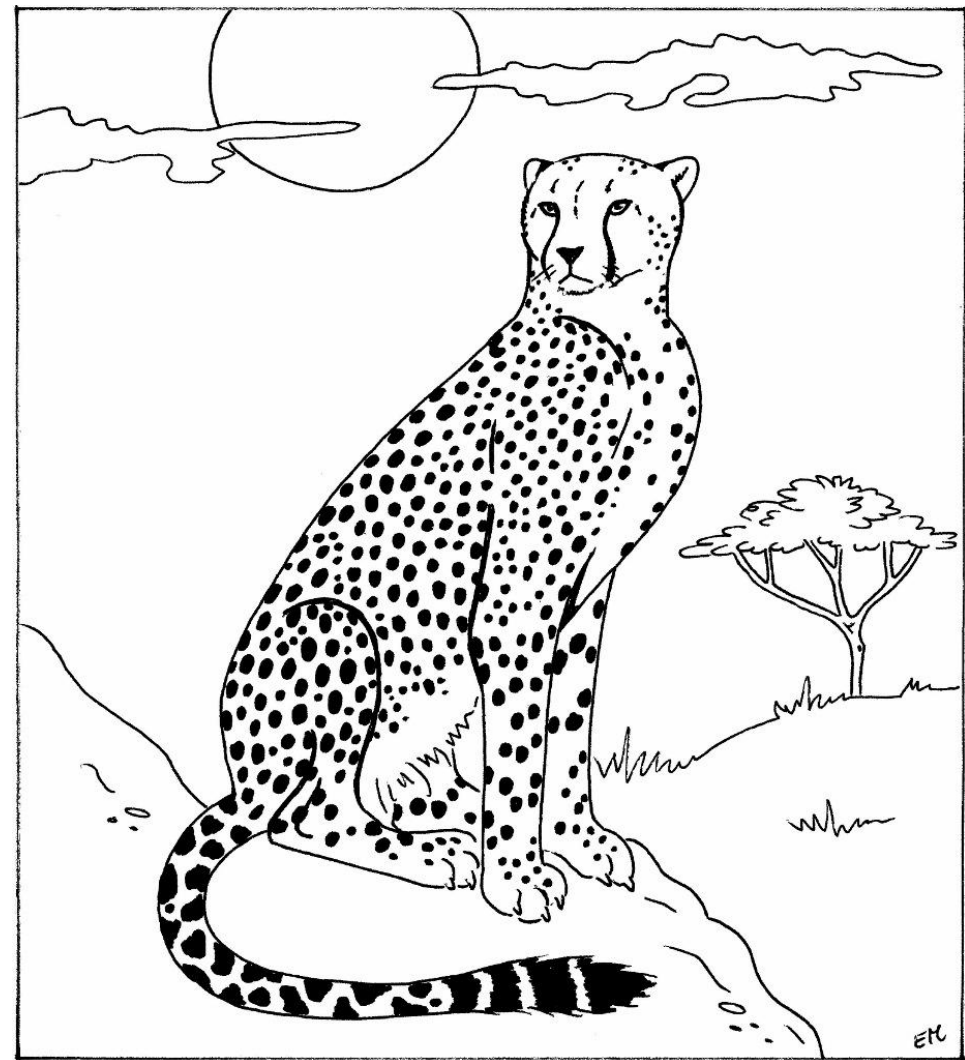


Cheetah colouring and story booklet

This booklet belongs to _____



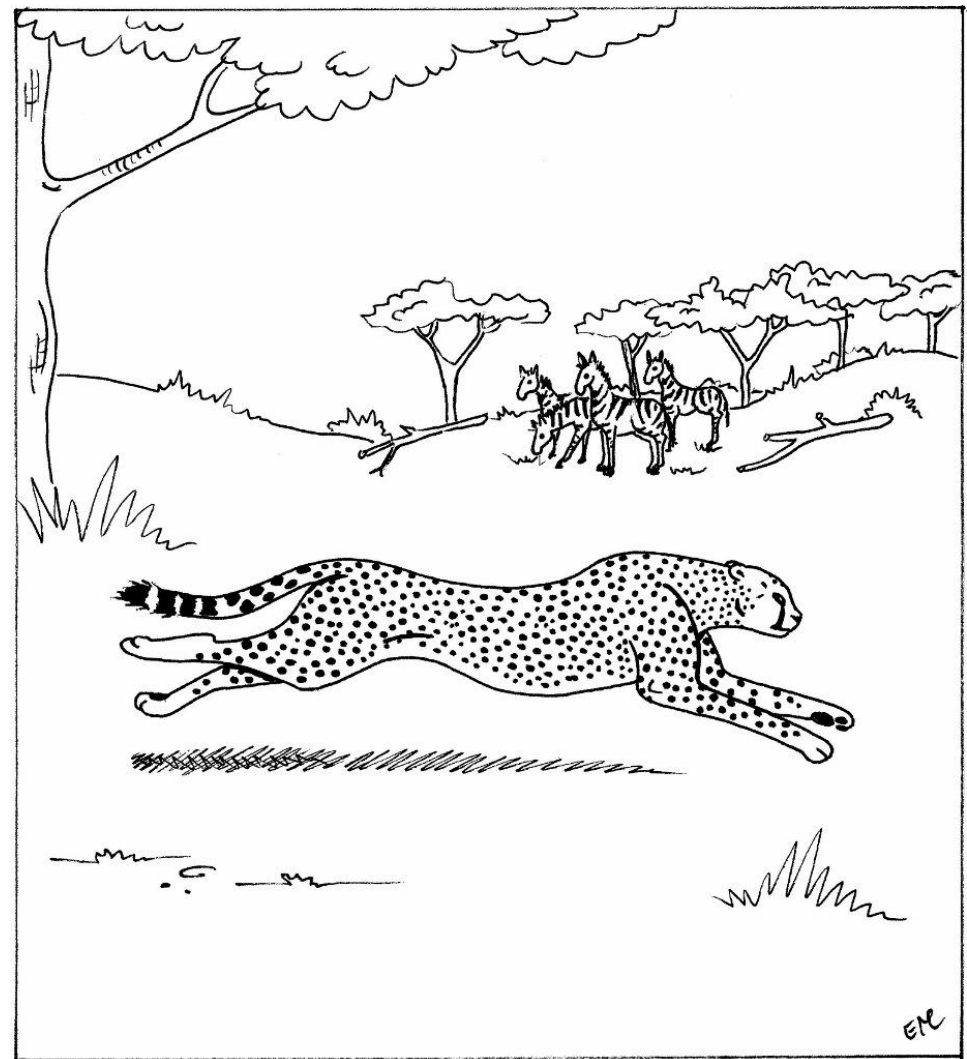
Our numbers are going down and we have disappeared from many of the countries in which we used to live. Because people need more land we have less space to live. People also kill us, but we are not dangerous and if people take care of their livestock and leave enough wild prey for us to eat we won't kill livestock.



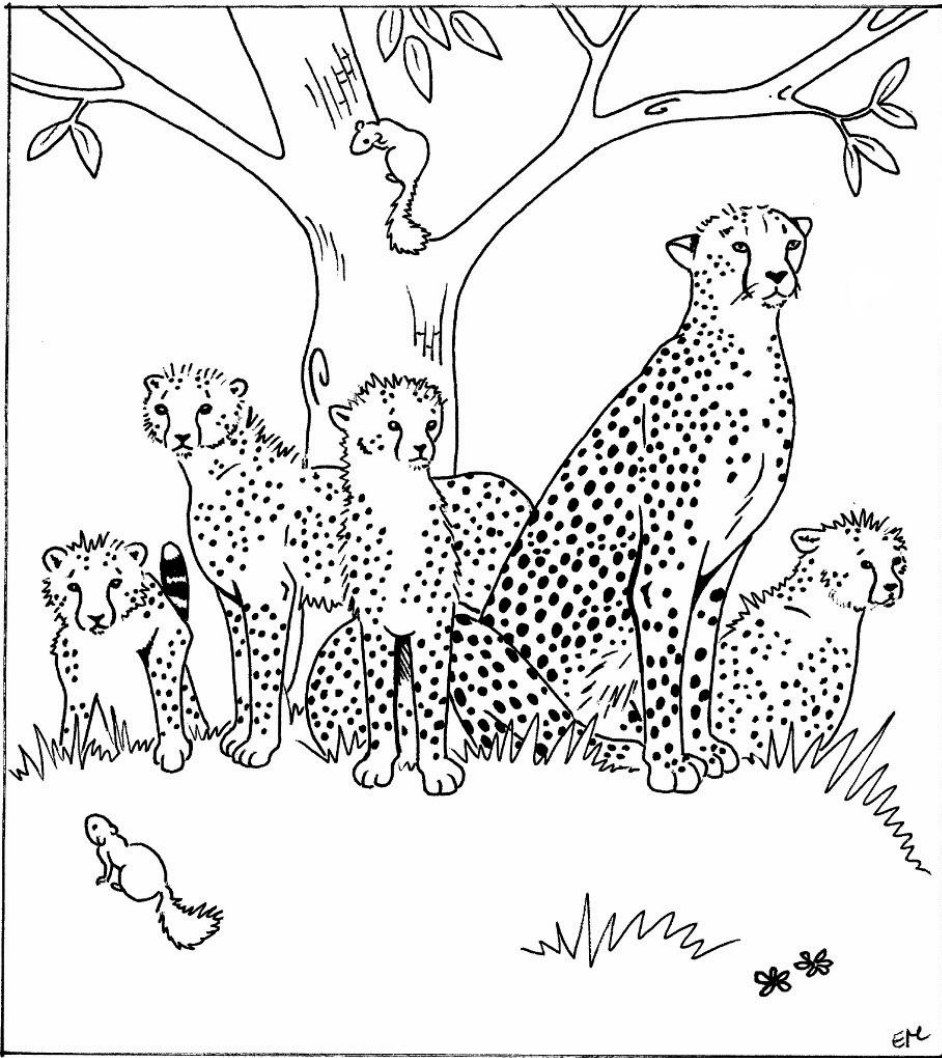
Hello, I'm a cheetah. Most of you know me because I'm the fastest animal on land. I'm like a race car, I can accelerate from a standstill to 80 km/h in 3 seconds, and run as fast as 100 km/h. Only for short periods of time though, after about a minute I have to catch my breath and cool down otherwise I would overheat.



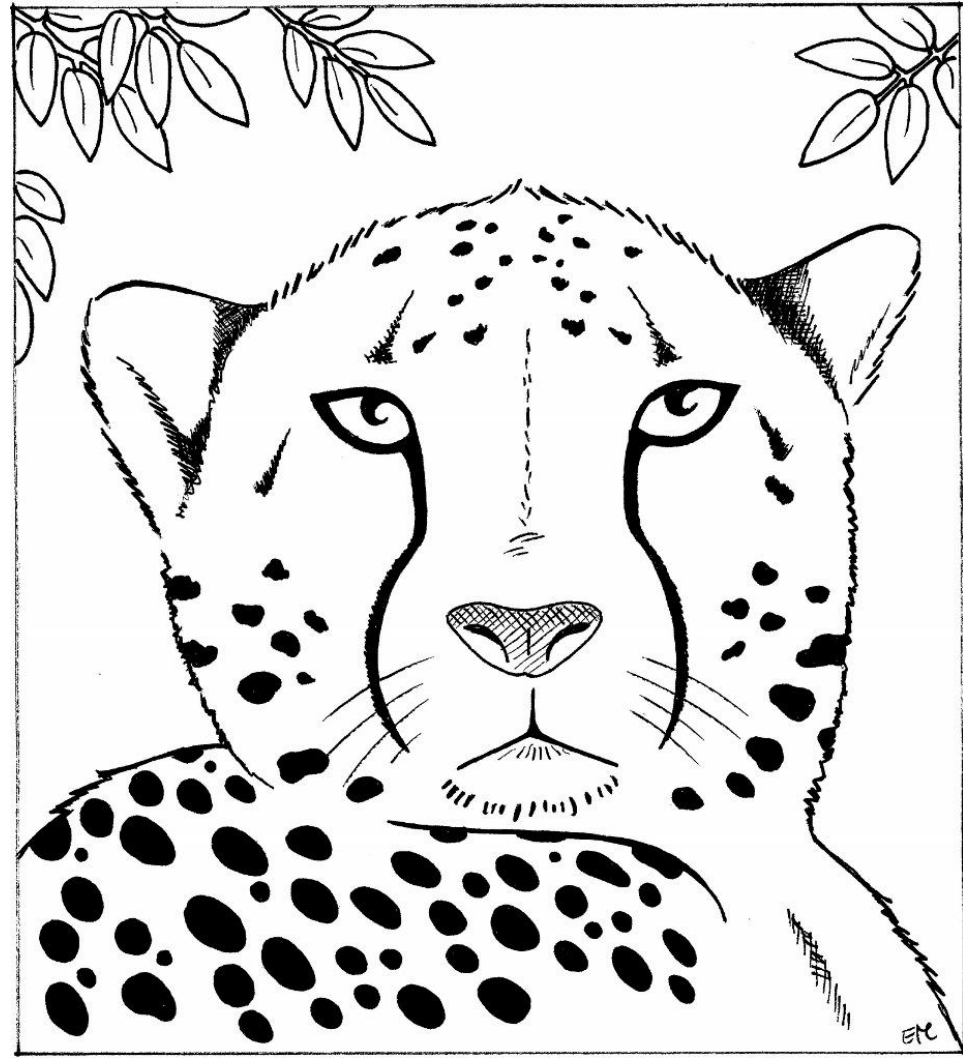
I'm now almost three years old and have given birth to my own cubs. After being pregnant for about three months, cheetahs give birth to three to five cubs. I had three cubs, they were born with their eyes closed and for the first months I had to hide them in the bush when I went out to hunt.



My body is long and slender with a flexible spine. This flexible spine helps me to stretch my legs to the fullest and fly through the air. I have a small head with small ears and a long strong tail. My tail is like a rudder, it helps me to keep my balance when I'm turning sharp corners while I'm chasing my prey.



When I was born my mother gave birth to me, my sister and my two brothers. We stayed with my mother for one and a half years. During this time she taught us how to hunt and how to stay away from our natural enemies, the lions, leopards and spotted hyenas, which either kill us or steal our prey.



My coat is covered with more than 2000 solid black spots. You can recognize me by the spot pattern on my coat, every cheetah is different, no two cheetahs have the same pattern. Because I'm active during the day I have tear-marks, these black stripes down my face act like sunglasses, they keep the sun out of my eyes.

Find-a-word

Cross the words.

Then find the hidden word by circling the letters that have not been crossed

A C C U B S Z I H L O S I I
S C C L N D I N D I N G W E
T H P E A T M F O A E S O N
A E Z Y S W B U S T A C N Y
L E A E X C A R N I V O R E
K T R R E L B I X E L F J P
I A U B M A W P D E A R S R
N H S H Y A E A E P R E Y E
G T E E T H R W E S A H C D
D I U R N A L K P U R R T A
A T U S T O P S S P I N E T
Y N O I T A V R E S N O C O
V U L N E R A B L E R U N R
S H F A S T H C R A E S E R

Carnivore	Dindingwe*	Nose	Speed
Cats	Diurnal	Paw	Spine
CCPZ	Ears	Predator	Spots
Chase	Eye	Prey	Stalking
Cheetah	Fast	Purr	Tail
Claw	Flexible	Research	Tearmarks
Conservation	Fur	Rest	Teeth
Cubs	Hunt	Run	Vulnerable
Day	Ihlosi*	Shy	Zimbabwe

*Local names for cheetah in Zimbabwe

Scrambler

Unscramble the letters to form a word.

The boxed letters will form the mystery word that will finish the sentence below.

1) Protect for future generations

nsecoevr

2) The markings on a cheetahs coat

opsts

3) Fastest land mammal

atehhce

4) Run behind prey

heasc

5) A cheetah hunts during the ...

yad

A cheetah can run at very high

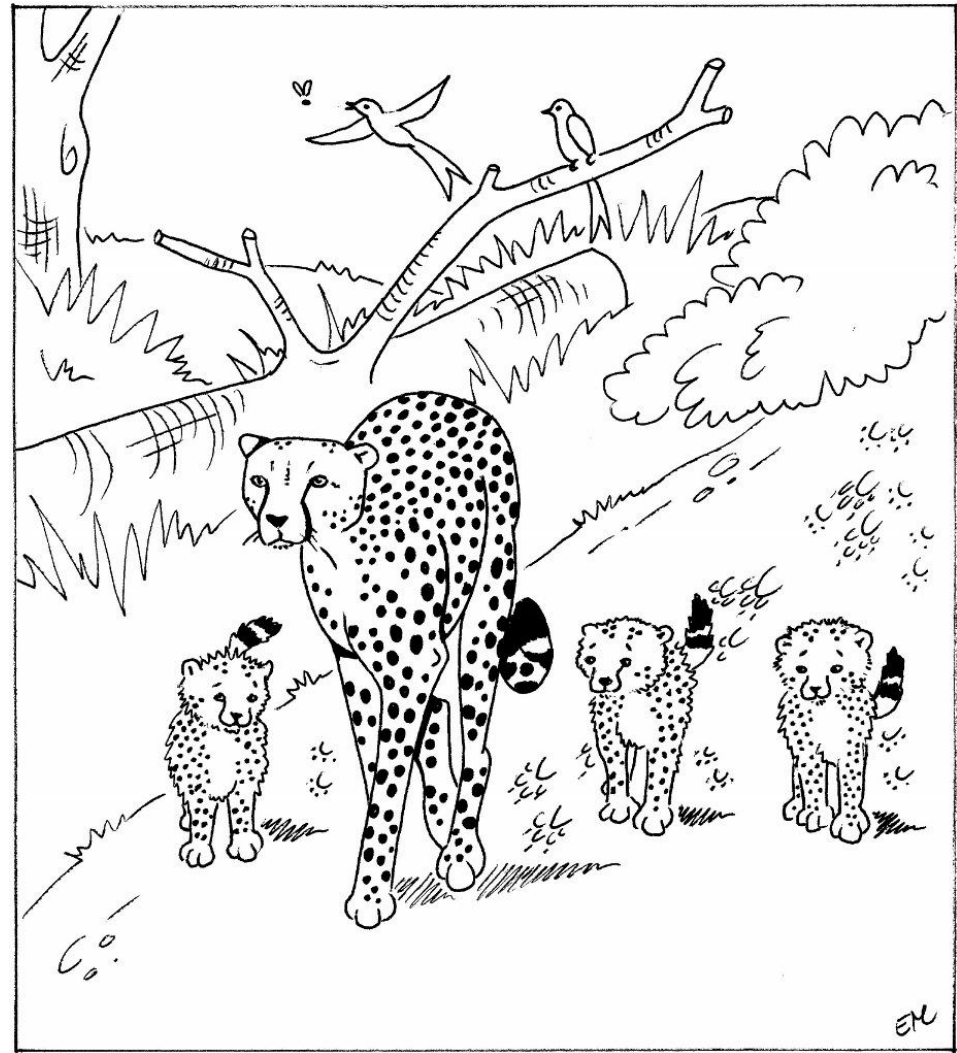
1 2 3 4 5

Solution: speed

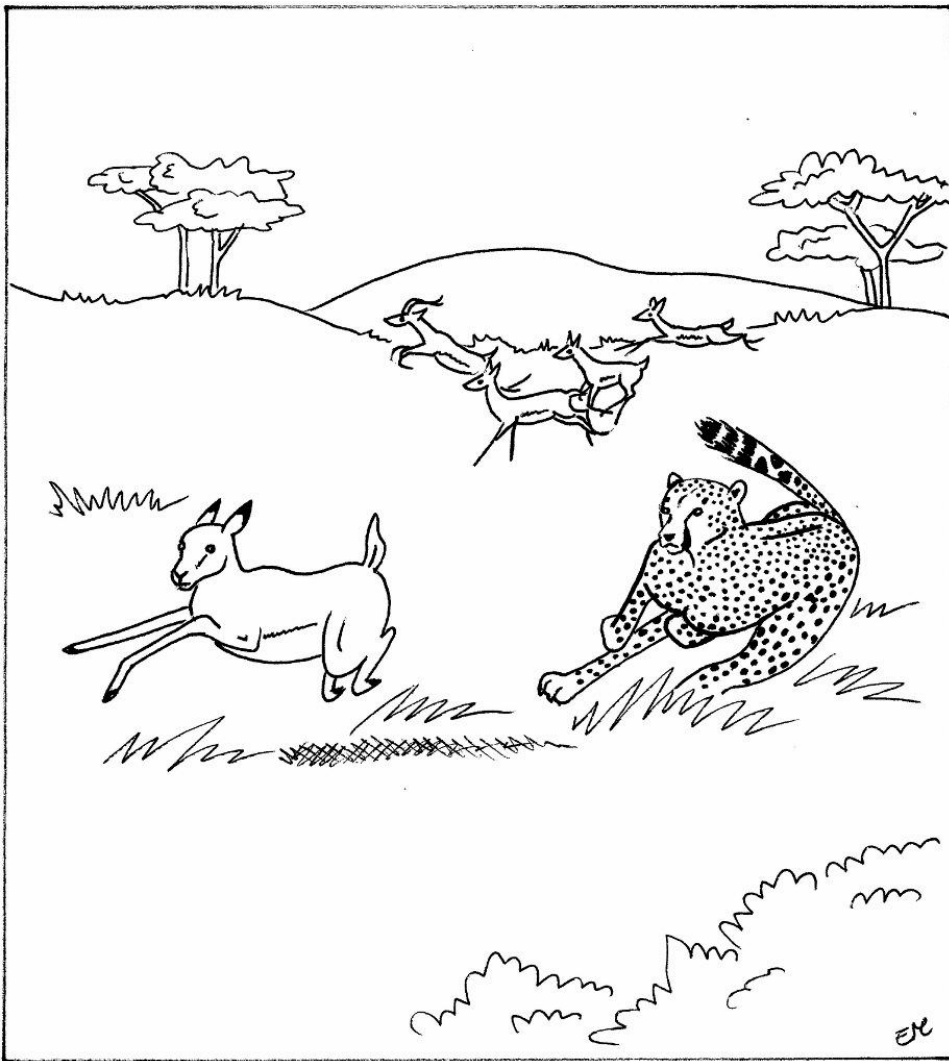
Solution: Acinonyx jubatus (the scientific name for cheetah)



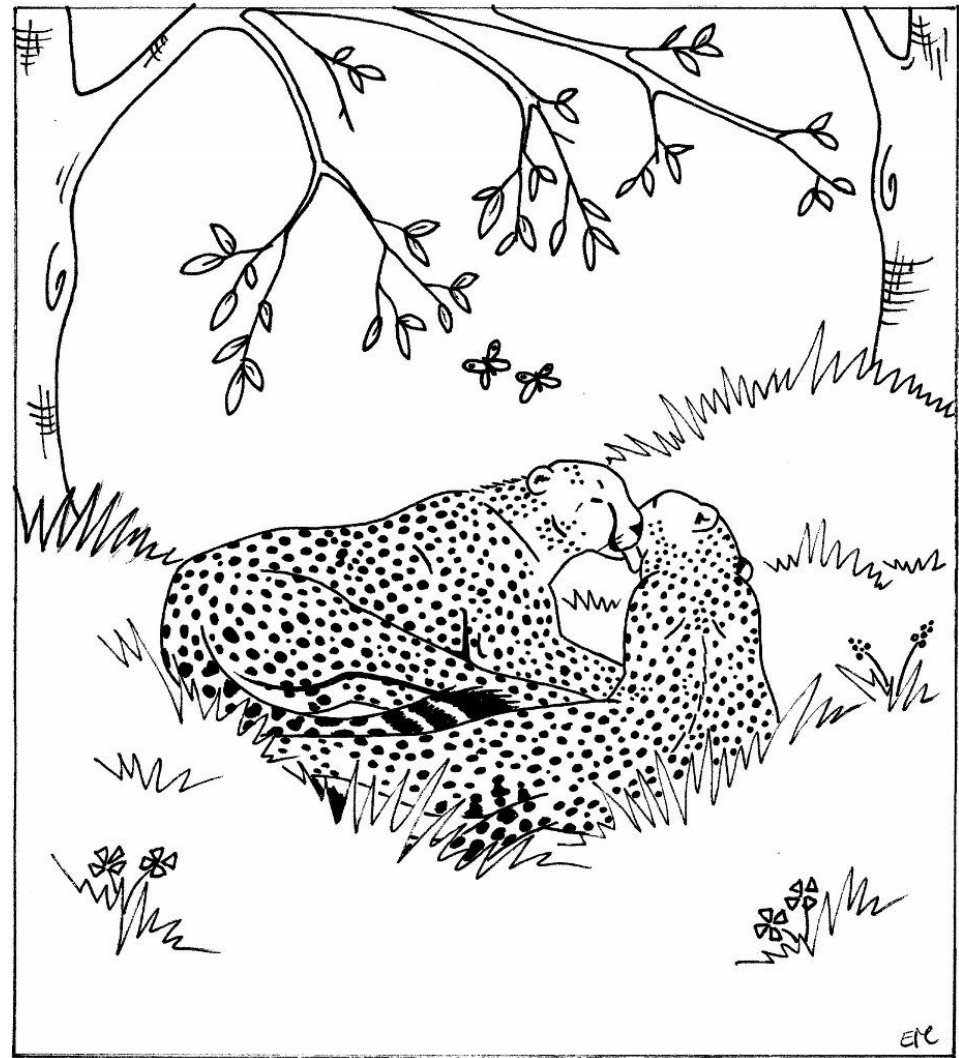
My body is adapted to reaching high speeds very quickly. My claws are like the spikes on football shoes, they cannot be fully drawn back into my paw, which helps me to have a good grip on the ground while running. They call my claws semi-retractable claws. When you see my spoor on the road, you will see the imprint of my nails in it.



Now that my cubs are about two months old they are able to follow me. They come with me when I go out to hunt so I can teach them how to hunt and how to avoid lions, leopards and spotted hyenas. Avoiding these enemies is important, because cheetahs are not strong enough to defend themselves.



I hunt for small to medium sized antelopes like impala. Sometimes I also hunt for smaller animals like birds and hares. I'm not dangerous to people, no wild cheetah has ever attacked a person. So when you see me you don't have to be afraid, when you come too close I will simply run away from you.



After one and a half years my mother left us all by ourselves. We first stayed together but after a few months I left my brothers and sister and went my own way. My sister also went her own way but my brothers stayed together. That's what cheetahs do, females live on their own while males can live together in a male coalition.

Join the dots

- 1-72
- + 1-3
- # 1-9
- § 1-11
- × 1-11
- △ 1-15
- 1-8
- ⊞ 1-13
- ≠ 1-7
- ◇ 1-9

