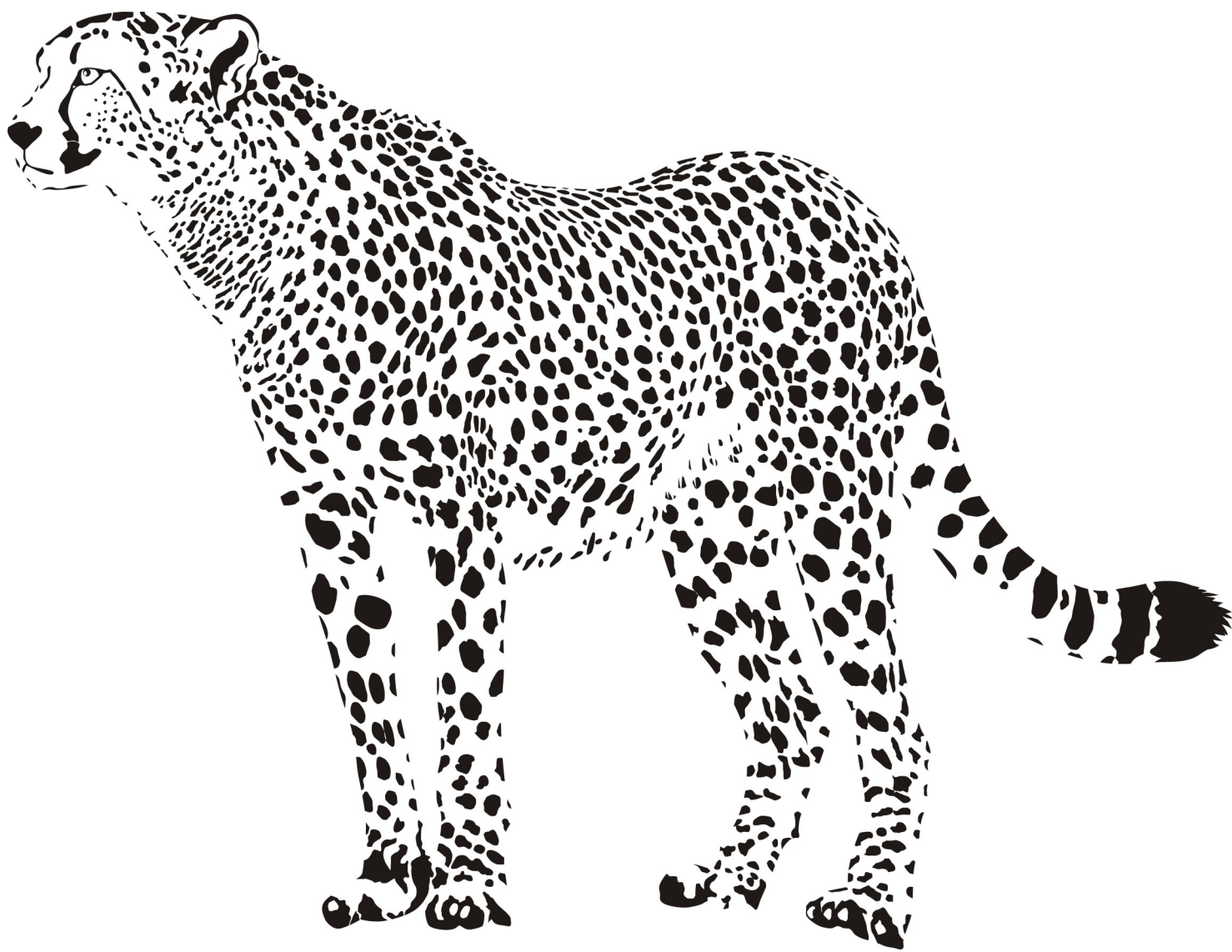


# CHEETAH



# LAPBOOK

# Cheetahs Lapbook

research by Deb Palmer

mini books by Ami Brainerd

## Vocabulary Words

Diurnal-active during the day

Accelerate-to speed up

Inhale- breathe in

Exhale-breathe out

Vocalizations-sounds an animal makes to communicate

Solitary-doesn't seek the company of others

Sociable- wanting to spend time with others

Sibling- brother or sister

Vulnerable species- likely to become endangered if action isn't taken to protect them.

Mutation- a change in the way a normal cheetah looks

Pelt-fur

Cheetah-comes from an Indian word "chita" meaning "spotted one"

*Lapbook Components:*

*New Words Mini-book*

*What's in a Name? Matchbook*

## Characteristics

The cheetah's chest is deep and it has a narrow waist. Its fur is tan with black spots. Black tear marks run from the corner of its eyes down the sides of its nose.

This aids in keeping sunlight out of its eyes. It has only semi-retractable claws which help it gain traction as it runs. The cheetah also has enlarged heart and lungs that aid in circulating oxygen through its system quickly while it is running.

*Lapbook Component: Spotting a Cheetah Flap Book*

## King Cheetahs

King Cheetahs are not another species of cheetah, but rather a color mutation of a normal cheetah. They have a different fur (or pelt) pattern. They are the rarest big cat in the world. This rare form of cheetah has only been seen in the wild six times. However, king cheetahs are bred in captivity which has increased their numbers.

The difference in their fur pattern is caused by a recessive gene that the cat inherits from each parent.

*Lapbook Component: King Cheetah Pop-up*

### **Classification**

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata (having a backbone)

Class: Mammalia (mammal-live birth, nurses babies, have hair)

Order: Carnivora (eats meat)

Family: Felidae (cat family)

Genus: Acinonyx (means “no- move claw” because the cheetah’s claw is not fully retractable)

Species: jubatus (means “maned” in reference to the mane found on cheetah cubs)

*Lapbook Component: Classification Strips & Pocket*

### **Behavior (Locomotion, Vocalization)**

Cheetahs are unique among cats in that they have incredible speed, but lack the ability to climb. They can reach speeds of 70 miles per hour in short bursts (1,500 ft.). They have the ability to accelerate from 0 to 70 miles per hour in three seconds which is faster than some high speed cars.

Unlike most big cats, cheetahs purr when they inhale. Most big cats purr when they exhale. Cheetahs are unable to roar, but have several types of vocalizations. Here is a list of them:

Chirping- This is like high pitched barking. It is used when a cheetah needs to find another cheetah.

Growling- This is done when a cheetah is annoyed or facing danger.

Yowling- This is a higher form of growling that occurs when the danger increases.

Purring- This happens when the cheetah is content.

*Lapbook Components:*

*Cheetah Speak Accordion Flap Book*

*0 to 70 Simple Fold Mini-book*

## **Diet and Hunting**

Cheetah staples include gazelles, wildebeest calves, impalas, Thomson's Gazelle, Grant's gazelle, springbok, young zebras, hares, and guinea fowl. Cheetahs are diurnal hunters, meaning they hunt during the day. Since they hunt by sight instead of smell, they need some light. They tend to hunt in the early morning or evening. Cheetahs average a success rate of 50% with each chase. Cheetahs kill by biting the throat of their prey.

*Lapbook Component: On the Hunt Layer Book*

## **Family Life**

Females give birth to 3 to 5 cubs after about 90 days of pregnancy. The cubs are born with their spots and a mane that is eventually lost as they grow. Cubs leave their mother between a year to two years after birth. Their life span is about 10-12 years in the wild, but longer in captivity.

Females are solitary. Females live alone except when they are raising their young.

Males are sociable. They form a group that will last a lifetime, usually with the brothers from their litter.

When cubs leave their mothers they form a sibling group for about six months. Then the females will leave the group, but the young males will stay together for life.

*Lapbook Component: Family Life Tri-fold*

## **Range**

Cheetahs were found throughout Africa and Asia from South Africa to India. Nowadays, cheetahs live only in the eastern and southwestern parts of Africa. There are also about 60 cheetahs living in the country of Iran. Cheetahs thrive in huge areas of land where there is lots of prey.

*Lapbook Component: Map Matchbook*

## **Legal Status/Protection**

Cheetahs are considered a vulnerable species. There are approximately 12,400 cheetahs in the wild in Africa and 60 in Iran.

*Lapbook Component: Status File Folder*

### **Cheetahs as Pets**

Ancient Egyptians kept cheetahs as pets and trained them to help them in hunting. This tradition was passed onto the Persians and then brought to India. Genghis Khan (Emperor of Mongolia) and Charlemagne (King of France) also kept cheetahs as pets on their palace grounds.

*Lapbook Component: Pets Compressed Triangle*

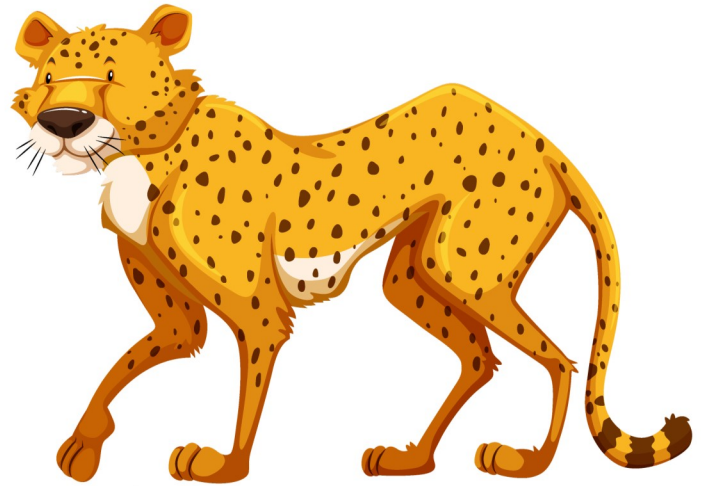
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**Directions:** Cut out each book as one piece. Fold matchbook style.



**What's in a Name?**



**Finding Cheetahs**

**Directions:** Use this map with the Finding Cheetahs book on the previous page.



Cheetah


# Conservation Status

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A rectangular card with rounded corners and a decorative notch at the top. The word "Cheetah" is written in a simple font at the top. Below it, the words "Conservation Status" are written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. A horizontal dashed line runs across the middle of the card, indicating where to fold it in half.

**Directions:** Cut out as one piece. Fold in half. Write the status of the cheetah inside the book.

**Directions:** Cut on the solid lines. Write in definitions. Stack pages together with cover on top and staple on the left side.


<p>My Book of <b>Cheetah</b> Words</p> 	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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**Directions:** Cut on the solid lines. Write in definitions. Stack pages together with cover on top and staple on the left side.

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Cut out book as one piece. Fold left side under. Fold right side under (it is the cover). Unfold book. Cut on the two lines between the names to form three flaps.

<b>Fur</b>		
<b>Claws</b>		
<b>Black Tear Marks</b>		 <b>Spotting a Cheetah</b>

Cut out rectangles. Stack together (smallest to largest) with cover on top and staple.

# On the Hunt

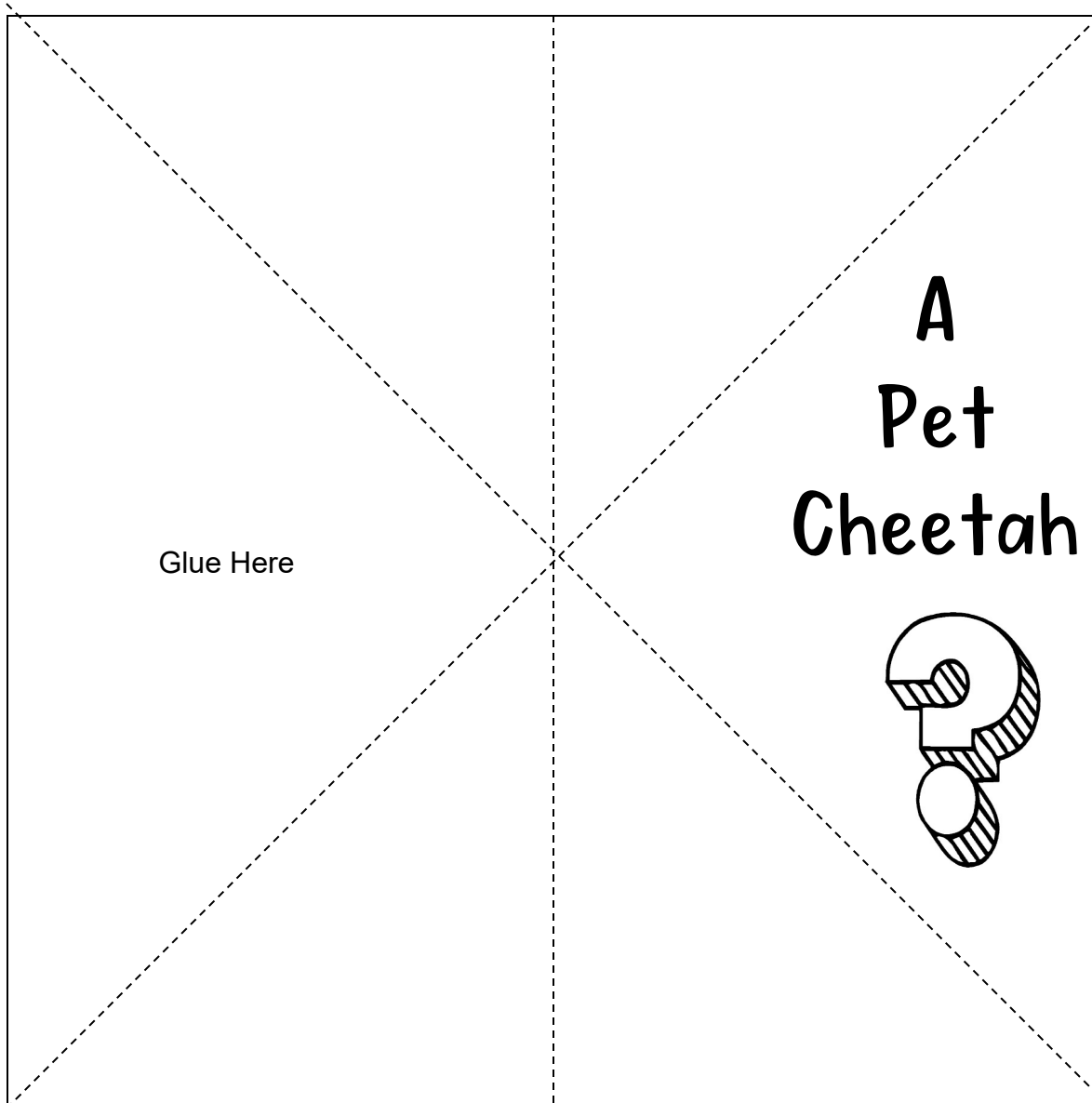


How successful is  
a cheetah hunt?


What do they hunt?

When do they hunt?

**Directions:** Cut on solid lines. Mountain fold diagonally on dotted line with text to the outside and then unfold. Mountain fold diagonally on the other dotted line with text to the outside and then unfold. On side without print, write information about Egyptians and their pet cheetahs. Collapse whole unit into triangle so title is on the cover. Glue back to your lapbook.



Cheetah  
Facts



A worksheet for creating a cheetah facts book. It features six identical chevron-shaped pages arranged vertically. The bottom-most page is pre-filled with the text "Cheetah Facts" and a cartoon illustration of a cheetah sitting. Each page has a small circle on its left-pointing tip, indicating where to punch a hole for a binder. The top five pages are blank for writing facts.

**Print on cardstock.** Cut pieces apart and write a fact on each one.  
Stack together with cover on top and secure with a brad.

# Family Life



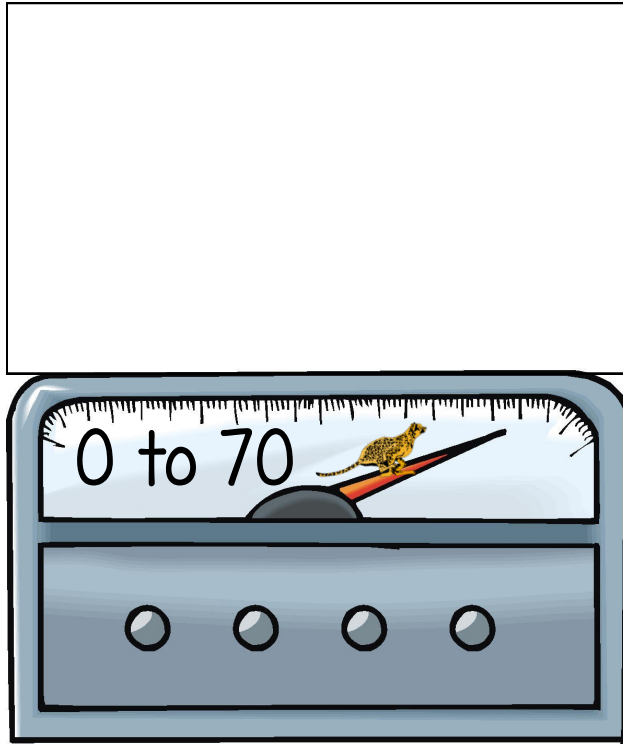
How long is a female pregnant?

How many cubs does she have at one time?

What do the cubs look like?

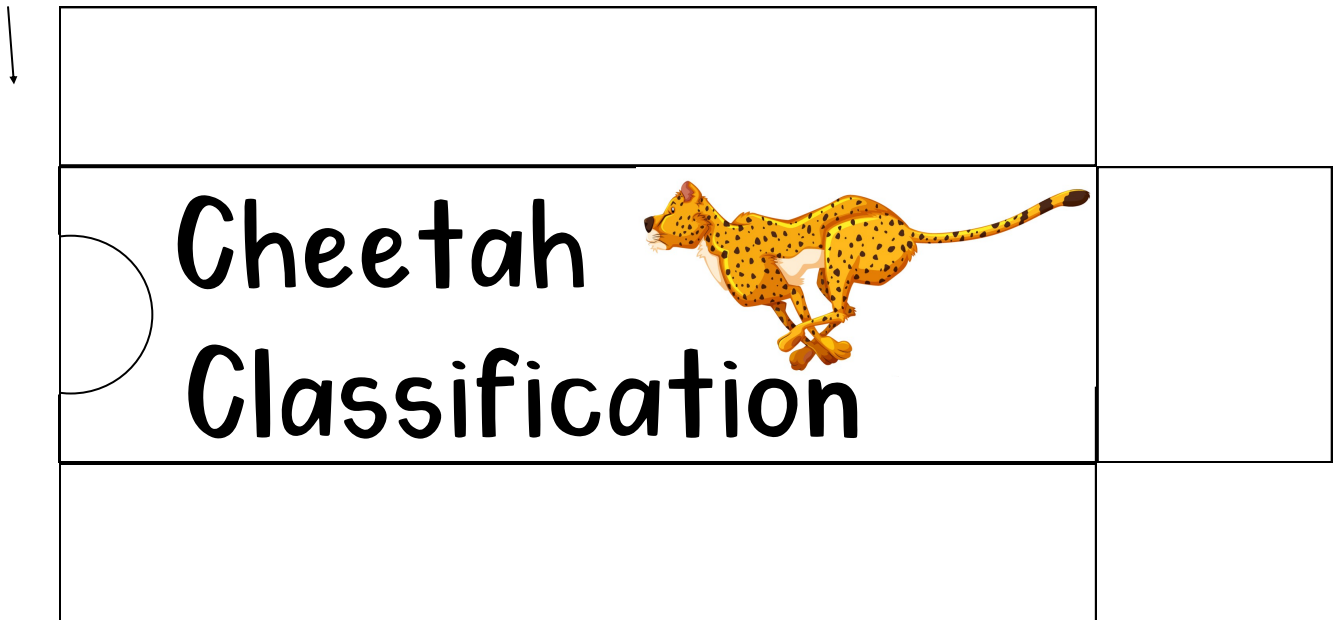
When do cubs leave their mother?

**Directions:** Cut book out as one piece. Fold in thirds. On the inside you will have three sections. Use one section to write about females, one section to write about males, and the last section to write about cubs (life after they leave their mothers).



**Directions:** Cut out book as one piece. Fold in half. Write about how fast a cheetah can go!

**Directions:** Cut out classification strips (next page). Cut out pocket as one piece. Fold flap on right side under. Fold top and bottom flap under. Glue the back of the pocket to your lapbook. Store strips in pocket. Have your student take them out and put them in order.



**Kingdom: Animalia**

**Phylum: Chordata**

**Class: Mammalia**

**Order: Carnivora**

**Family: Felidae**

**Genus: Acinonyx**

**Species: Jubatus**

On the backs of the strips, write information explaining what some of the words mean. For example, write "having a backbone" on the back of chordata.



This happens when the cheetah is content.

This is a higher form of growling that occurs when the danger increases.

This is done when a cheetah is annoyed or facing danger.

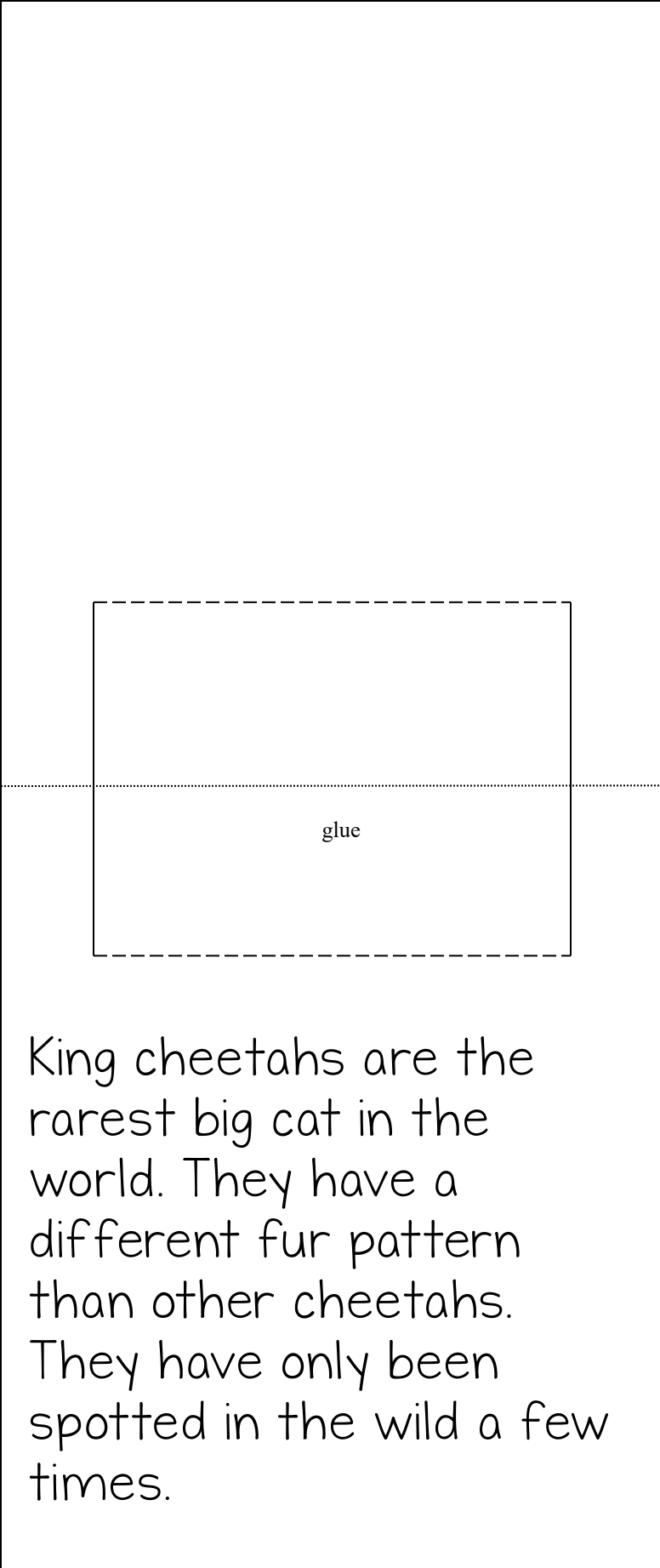
This is like high pitched barking. It is used when a cheetah needs to find another cheetah.

**Directions:** Cut on the solid lines. Fold flaps on the left over to the right. Write names of different kinds of communication on tops of the flaps. Fold book like an accordion. Paste back of last piece to your lapbook.

**Cheetah  
Speak**

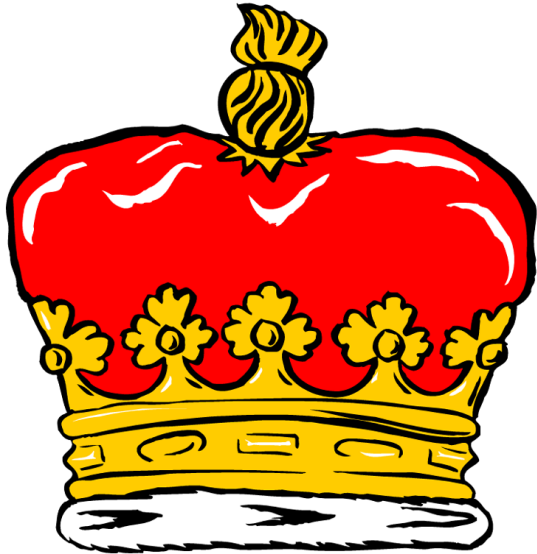


**Directions:** This is a pop-up book. **First, print book on cardstock.** Mountain fold the book in half on the dotted line. Snip the two solid lines. Fold that flap down towards you on the dotted line. Now, valley fold the book in half, on the dotted line, popping the box to the inside of the book. Cut out the small rectangle and paste or draw a picture on it. On the box marked "glue" glue the item you want to pop-up sitting level with the paper. Make sure it lies flat when closing the book.



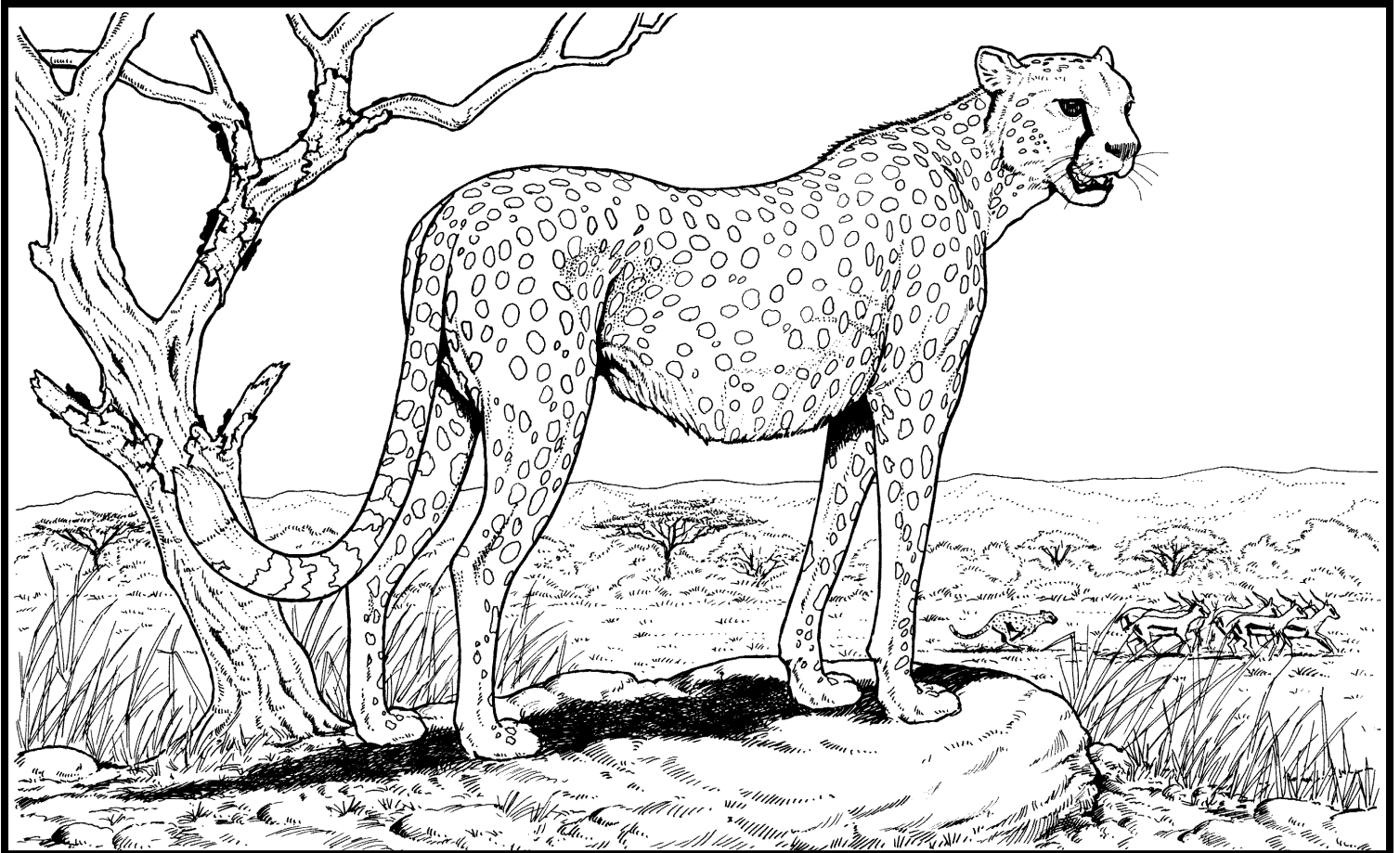
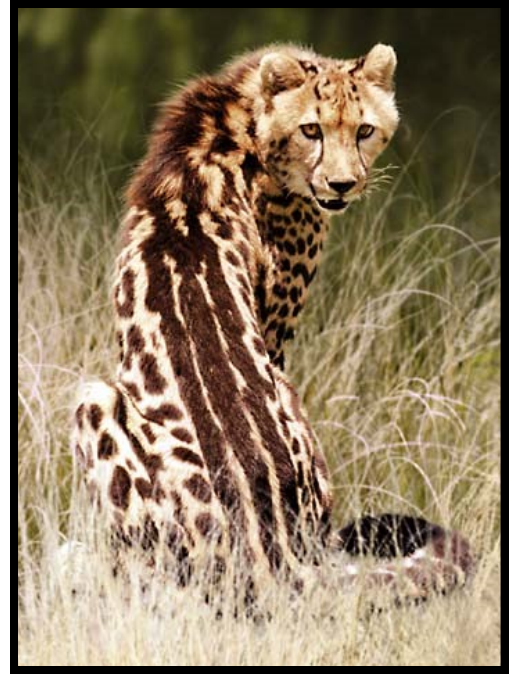
King cheetahs are the rarest big cat in the world. They have a different fur pattern than other cheetahs. They have only been spotted in the wild a few times.

# The King Cheetah



Pop-up Book Cover

This is the pop-up piece.



**Directions:** Cheetah Coloring Image. Color and paste to lapbook, if desired.