

CHEETAH ADAPTATIONS FOR SURVIVAL

SPOTS

Cheetah spots are as individually unique as fingerprints.

The fur of a cheetah's black spots is actually longer than the yellow fur, giving their camouflage a three dimensional effect, allowing them to hide better.



SPINE

A more flexible spine for stretching and bunching to achieve longer strides when running.



EARS

Small, rounded ears fold back against the head to improve their aerodynamics.



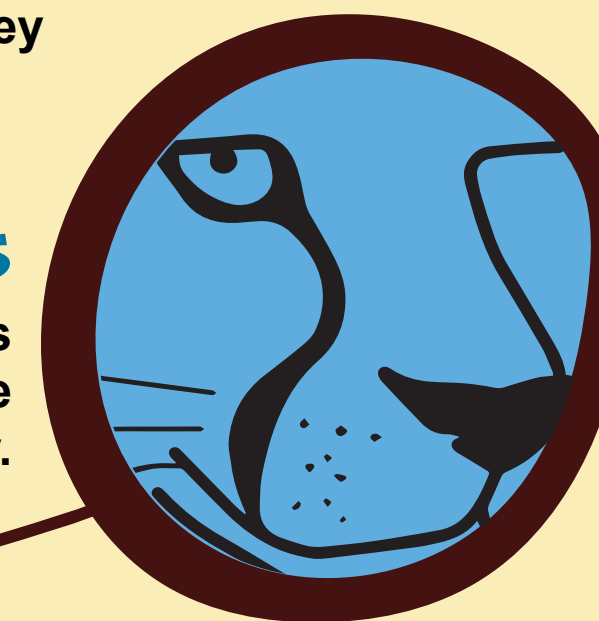
EYES

Large, forward-facing eyes give them some of the best eyesight of all the big cats.

They are able to spot their prey from 5km away.

TEAR MARKS

The black lines down their faces help reduce glare when they are hunting prey in the day.



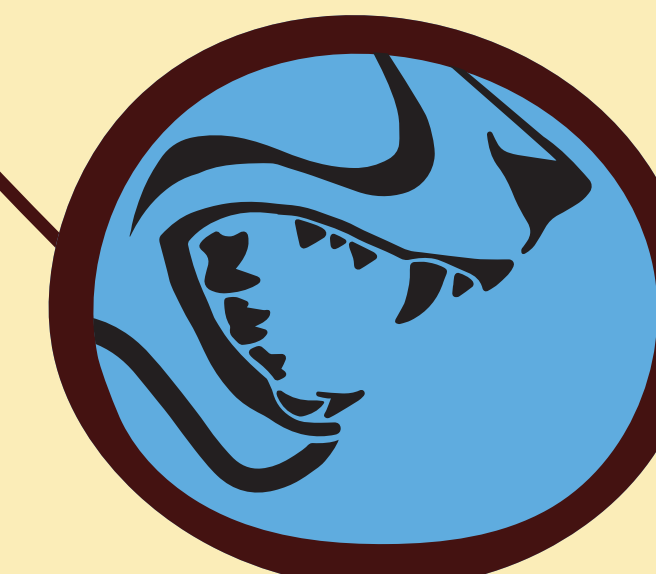
Enlarged nostrils and nasal cavities allow a larger intake of oxygen when they are running fast.

NOSE



JACOBSON'S ORGAN

Cheetahs have a special sensory area behind their top incisors that allows them to taste and smell things better.



TONGUE

Small, teeth-like structures on the tongue serve to strip meat off bones when they are eating.



LUNGS + HEART

Larger lungs and hearts allow them to use more oxygen and produce more energy for running.



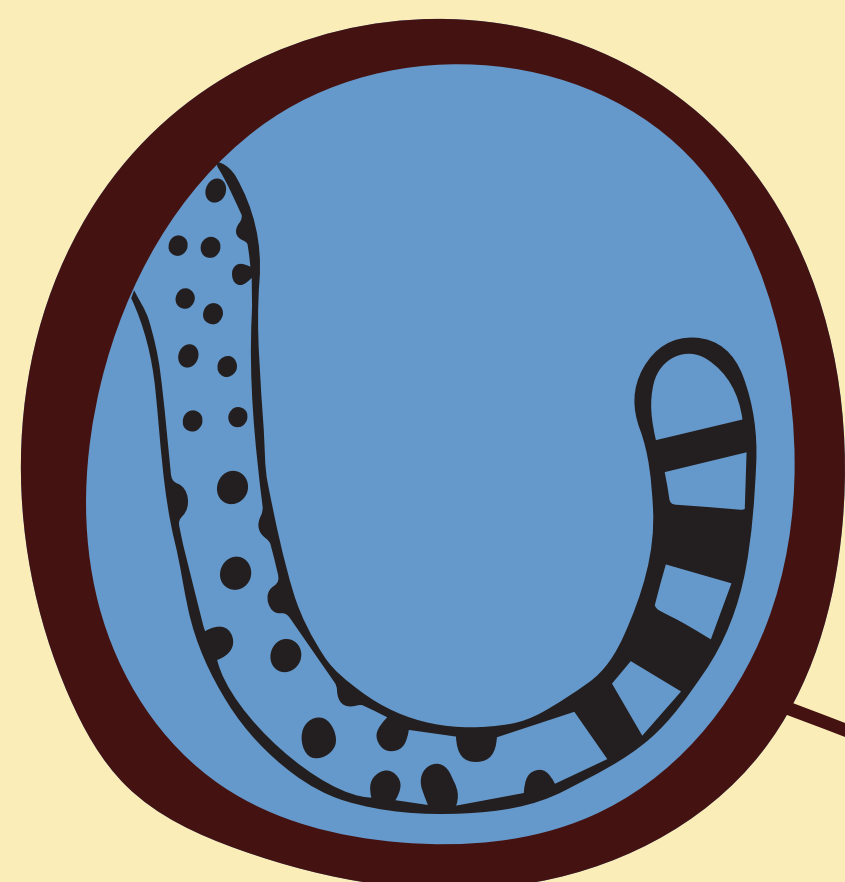
LEGS

Longer legs achieve longer strides.



FEET

Elongated heel bones allow a cheetah's Achilles tendon to achieve a spring-like effect, helping them to jump and run better.



TAIL

A long, heavy and flattened tail helps to balance and aid steering at high speed.

LOW WEIGHT

Cheetahs are very light weight for their size. This helps them to be faster and more agile.



PURRING

Cheetahs are the biggest cat species that purrs. Larger cats's hyoid bones in their throats are not completely ossified, allowing them to roar but not purr.

Purring is thought to aid healing.