

Amazing nature

Unit aims

- Read and interpret a fact file and an encyclopedia entry.
- Recognize and use words related to wild animals and geographical features.
- Learn and practice the superlative form of adjectives.
- Listen to an extract from a news report.
- Play a board game.
- Write a fact file.



Siberian tiger



Lake Baikal



Box jellyfish

Starting out

- 1 The animals and the lake in the pictures hold world records. Do you know which ones?
- 2 Do you know if there are any wild animals in the region where you live? Which ones?

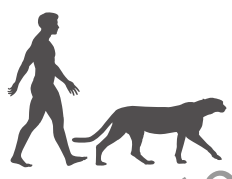


Reading

■ Pre-reading

- 1 Look at the text in Activity 2 and pay attention to its elements and organization. Then check (✓) the correct alternative.
☐ The text is a fact file which presents basic information about a specific animal.
☐ The text is a fact file that tells a fable about a specific animal.
- 2 Now read the text and confirm your answer in Activity 1.

CHEETAH



Body Length:
1.1–1.5 m

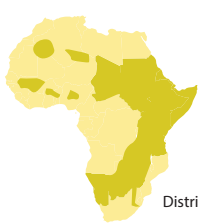
Weight:
21–72 kg

Gestation:
93 days

Number of young:
3–4

Conservation Status

Extinct in the Wild
Critically Endangered
Endangered
Vulnerable
Near-Threatened
Least Concern
Data Deficient



Distribution

Description

The Cheetah has a yellowish coat with small black spots and a ringed tail that is 60–80 cm long. Its coat pattern is used for camouflage. The cheetah has a relatively small head and sleek body.

Diet

The Cheetah is a **carnivore** and eats medium-sized herbivores such as gazelles, antelopes and smaller animals like hares.

In the wild

Cubs leave their mother at 13–20 months but the siblings may stay together for longer.

Threats

The Cheetah was once widespread across Asia and Africa. Now there are only approximately 60 Asian Cheetahs surviving in reserves in Iran. Only scattered populations survive in suitable habitat in Africa, mainly in the African Savannah. Cheetahs are hunted by humans for their fur and because they are a threat to livestock. They are also threatened by habitat loss and human encroachment.

Did you know?

The Cheetah is the world's fastest land animal and can run short distances at over 110 kph for 10–20 seconds.

Distribution: Eastern and southern Africa
Habitat: Savannah and open forests

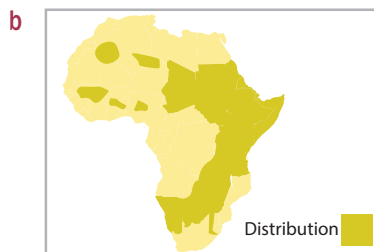
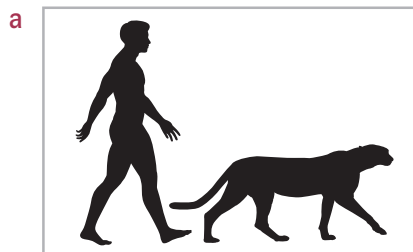
Looking at the Text

A **fact file** or **fact sheet** provides factual information about a person, animal, event or object in a concise manner. It is based on real facts and doesn't show the writer's opinion on the issue. The text is usually organized into items that can be numbered or divided into bullet points.

■ While reading

- 3 Read questions a–e. Then read the fact file again to answer them.
 - a What is the cheetah's scientific name? _____
 - b How long is its body? _____
 - c What color is its fur? _____
 - d Is the cheetah a herbivore? _____
 - e What is its main habitat? _____

- 4 Look at these excerpts from the fact file. Then match them with the information they represent.



- ☐ The areas of the African continent where cheetahs can be found.
- ☐ The size of a cheetah relative to a human being.

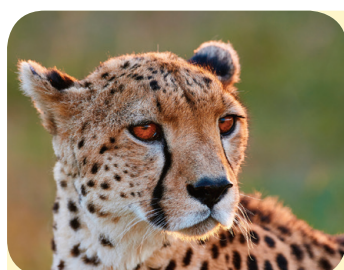
- 5 Read an extract from an encyclopedia entry about cheetahs. Then label the highlighted sections of the text with the categories from the box.

- a Body length and weight d Physical description
b Diet e Scientific name
c Habitat

Reading Tip

Nonverbal features

Since fact files are concise, they usually make use of nonverbal features, such as maps and illustrations, in order to give information in a clear and objective way. Analyzing and understanding these elements can be very important to understanding the text as a whole.



cheetah

The cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) is one of the world's most recognizable cats, known especially for its speed. Nearly all the cheetahs remaining in the wild live in Africa.

Cheetahs live in a wide variety of habitats, including the dry, open country and grasslands where they are most often seen, as well as in areas of denser vegetation and rocky uplands.

Cheetahs are covered almost entirely with small black spots on a background of pale yellow and have a white underbelly. Their faces have prominent black lines that curve from the inner corner of each eye to the outer corners of the mouth. Cheetahs have a slender body measuring 4 feet (1.2 meter) long, with a 2–3-foot (65–85-centimeter) tail that is used for balance. The animals weigh from 75 to 119 pounds (34 to 54 kilograms), and males are slightly larger than females.

Unlike most carnivores (meat eaters), cheetahs are active mainly during the day; they prefer to hunt in the early morning and late afternoon. A cheetah eats a variety of small animals, including game birds, rabbits, young warthogs and all types of antelope.

- 6 Compare the characteristics of the fact file (FF) and the encyclopedia entry (EE) you have read. Check (✓) the appropriate column.

	FF	EE	BOTH
a Concise information, organized into items.			
b In-depth information, organized into paragraphs.			
c Use of nonverbal features to provide information.			
d Factual information, based on reliable data.			

Post-reading

- 7 Can you name any endangered animals in your country?



Vocabulary

Adjectives to describe wild animals, geographical features

- 1 Look at the pictures of two wild animals and their names. Then use the names to complete their descriptions.



- a Almost a meter tall, the _____ is the largest canid in South America. With a golden-red coat, long muzzle, and large ears, it looks like the red fox. However, its extremely long, thin legs make it immediately recognizable.
- b This small monkey has long, gold-orange hair that surrounds its face. Its body and tail are also reddish while its face is dark and hairless. The _____ is an omnivore, which means it eats both plants and meat.

- 2 Look at the pictures in Activity 1 again. Use the words from the box below to label the different body parts in the pictures.

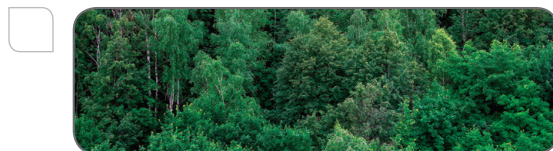
1 arm 2 eye 3 foot 4 hand 5 head 6 jaw
7 leg 8 neck 9 muzzle 10 tail 11 tongue

- 3 Underline the appropriate words to complete the sentences.

- a The maned wolf and the golden lion tamarin are **endangered/not vulnerable** species.
- b Gorillas are **small/large** apes.
- c Crocodiles have **strong/weak** jaws.
- d The giraffe is famous for its **long/short** neck.
- e Flamingos have **stout/thin** legs.
- f The gazelle is lean and **agile/slow**.

- 4 Match the definitions with the pictures.

- a Beach: an area of sand or small rocks next to an ocean or lake.
- b Forest: an area of land covered by trees and other plants growing close together.
- c Island: a tract of land surrounded by water and smaller than a continent.
- d Lake: a body of fresh or salt water of considerable size surrounded by land.
- e Waterfall: a steep fall of water in a watercourse; cascade.

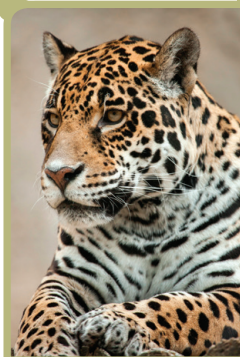


Aa

Grammar

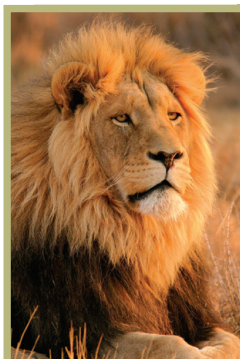
Superlatives

- 1 Read the texts and decide if the sentences are T (true) or F (false).



Jaguar

Jaguars are the third largest cats in the world. Did you know you can also call a jaguar a panther and still be correct? That's because "panther" comes from the scientific name *Panthera* – the family classification of big cats including the jaguar and the leopard. Jaguars live in many parts of the American continent, especially in areas with rainforests.



Lion

Most people believe the biggest wild cat is the lion but they are incorrect. However, lions are probably the most famous wild cats, mainly thanks to Hollywood movies. They are also the tallest big cats and can weigh up to 190 kg. Today, lions live in different parts of Africa, in the savannah or grassland. They are the only cats that live in groups called "prides".



Siberian Tiger

The biggest, largest and heaviest cat is definitely the tiger, especially the Siberian tiger. This type of tiger can weigh up to 320 kg. These giants mainly live in the mountainous regions of Far East Russia where there is more room to roam freely and there are less human threats. All tigers have their own, unique set of stripes, just like humans and their fingerprints.

- a Jaguars are smaller than lions. ☐
- b Siberian tigers are smaller than lions. ☐
- c Lions are taller than Siberian tigers. ☐

Understanding Language

Check (✓) the correct alternatives according to the text in Activity 1.

- a What sentence indicates the Siberian tiger is the number 1 cat in size?
- ☐ "The biggest, largest and heaviest cat is definitely the tiger..."
- ☐ "All tigers have their own, unique set of stripes..."
- b The words "the biggest, largest" and "heaviest" indicate
- ☐ a comparison between the Siberian tiger and the lion.
- ☐ a comparison between the Siberian tiger and all other cats.
- c To indicate the superlative in "the biggest, largest" we use
- ☐ adjectives *big* and *large* with the suffix *-est*, preceded by *the*.
- ☐ adjectives *big* and *large* with the suffix *-er*, followed by *than*.
- d To indicate a superlative form as in "the most famous" we use
- ☐ the adjective *famous*, preceded by *the most*.
- ☐ the adjective *famous*, preceded by *more* and followed by *than*.

Check Grammar Reference, page 132

- 2 Underline the correct words to complete the sentences and test your knowledge on records held by wild animals.

- a The Cheetah is the world's fastest/the world's smallest land animal and can sprint at over 110 kph for 10–20 seconds.
- b The jaguar is the biggest/the smallest feline on the American continent and the third-biggest cat in the world (behind the tiger and the lion).
- c Crocodiles' jaws are very strong. They have the most poisonous/the most powerful bite in nature.
- d Although the lion is not the number 1 big cat, it is the shortest/the tallest.

- 3 Fill in the gaps with the superlative form of the adjectives from the box to complete this animal records file.

fast heavy large strong tall venomous



_____ Bird

Peregrine falcons can dive toward the earth at more than 200 miles per hour.



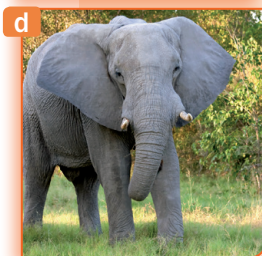
_____ Animal

A single sea wasp has enough venom to kill 60 adult humans.



_____ Animal

The rhinoceros beetle can lift 850 times its own weight.



_____ Animal (land)

African elephants are _____ and the second-tallest land animals. Large bulls (males) weigh more than 13,000 pounds and are 12 feet tall at the shoulder. Giraffes, which grow to a height of 18 feet, are _____ land animals.

Language Corner

1 mile = 1.6 kilometer
1 foot = 30.48 centimeters
1 inch = 2.54 centimeters
1 pound = 453 grams
What's your weight in pounds? And your height in feet and inches?

- 4 Write complete sentences about some geographical world records. Look at the example.

a The Nile / Africa / long / river

The Nile, in Africa, is the longest river in the world.

b Mount Everest / on the border of China and Nepal / high / mountain

c The Atacama Desert / South America / dry / desert

d Greenland / in the North Atlantic Ocean / big / island

e Lake Baikal / Russia / deep / lake

The World of English

The adjectives ending with *-est* most commonly used with the word *animal(s)* are: *largest, biggest, fastest, greatest, cutest, smartest, rarest, deadliest*.

The adjectives preceded by *the most* that are most commonly used before the word *animal(s)* are: *most dangerous, most beautiful, most endangered, most interesting, most abundant, most common, most famous*.



Listening

A news report

1 Answer the questions below.

a How do you define a lake, as a geographical feature?

b Look at the map below. Where is Lake Baikal located?



13 2

Listen to the first part of a news report on Lake Baikal. As you listen, check (✓) the correct alternative to complete the sentences about it.

a Lake Baikal is the _____ and _____ lake in the world.

☐ largest / most dangerous ☐ oldest / deepest

b It is considered one of the seven wonders of _____.

☐ Russia ☐ the world

c It freezes over completely during the _____.

☐ fall ☐ winter

14 3

Now listen to the second part of the report. According to the report, which American movies have used information collected in Lake Baikal?

a ☐ *Alien*, *Titanic* and *Avatar*.

b ☐ *The Amazing Spider-Man*, *Alien* and *X-Men: Days of the Future Past*.

c ☐ *The Avengers*, *Avatar* and *The Hobbit*.

15 4

Listen to the last part of the report. Due to its majesty and beauty, what is Lake Baikal called?



Speaking

Language Corner

Expressions commonly used when playing a board game:

- It's my turn./It's your turn.
- Move your marker (two) squares forward.
- Move your marker (one) square back.
- You're the winner! Congratulations!
- Let's play again!

An animal records game

1 Do you like to play board games? Which ones have you already played?

2 Work with a partner. Follow these steps to play a board game about wild animals.

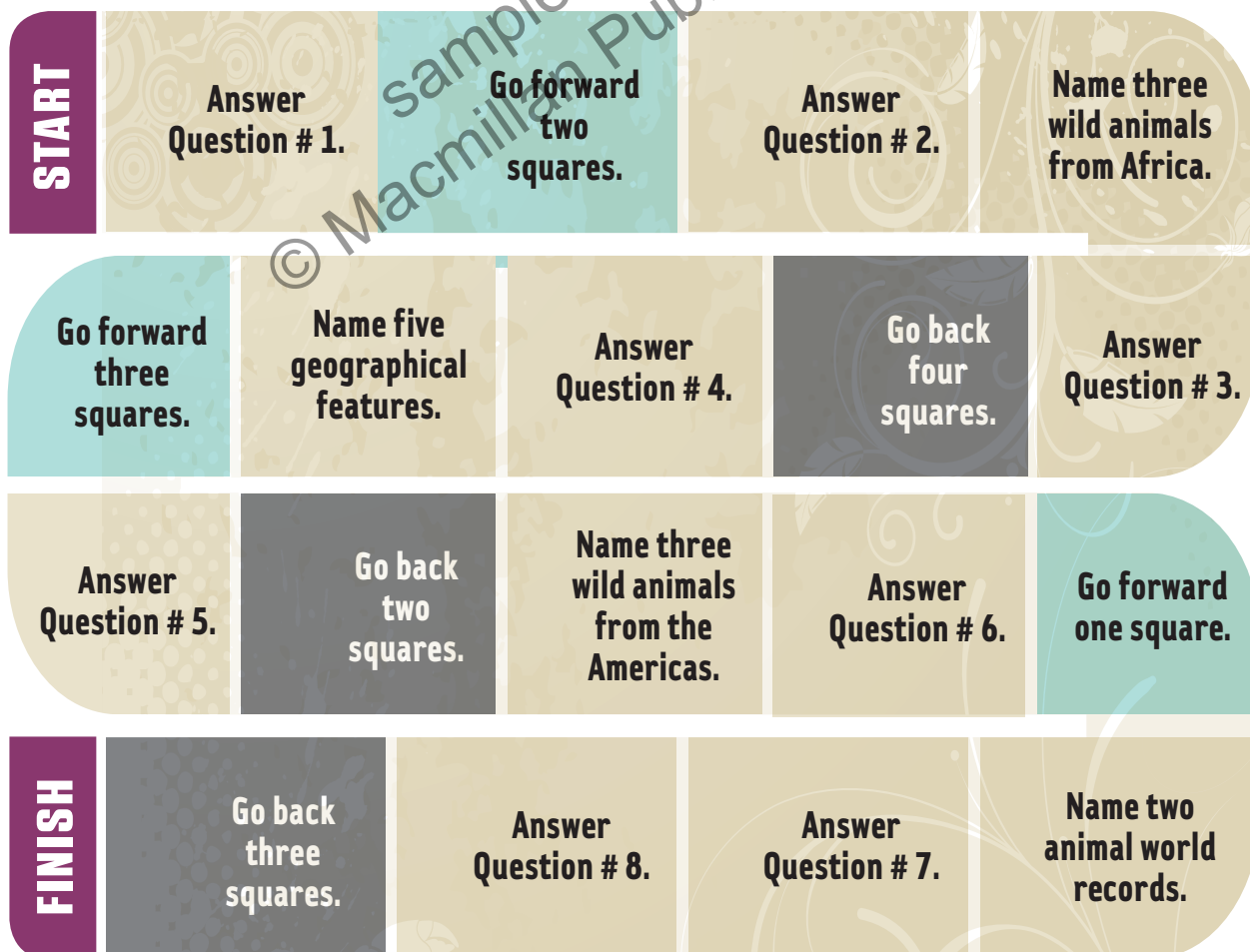
Step 1: Research other records held by animals. Write eight short questions about these records in your notebook, with three alternative answers each.

Step 2: Place your markers on START. Flip a coin in order to move along the board.

Heads: move two squares. Tails: move one square.

Step 3: If you land on a square with the command "Answer Question #...", your partner asks you a question from his/her list. If your answer is incorrect, go back one square.

Step 4: The winner is the first player to reach the FINISH square.





Writing

SELF-AWARENESS



What: a fact file.

Goal: inform the audience about a wild animal.

Audience: classmates and teacher.

Where: notebook and classroom wall.

- 1** Look at the cheetah fact file on page 64. Check (✓) on the list below the types of information you can identify in that fact file.

- | | |
|--|---|
| a <input type="checkbox"/> common name | g <input type="checkbox"/> habitat |
| b <input type="checkbox"/> scientific name | h <input type="checkbox"/> lifespan |
| c <input type="checkbox"/> class | i <input type="checkbox"/> diet |
| d <input type="checkbox"/> conservation status | j <input type="checkbox"/> threats |
| e <input type="checkbox"/> physical description | k <input type="checkbox"/> behavior |
| f <input type="checkbox"/> distribution | l <input type="checkbox"/> interesting facts |

- 2** Now write a fact file for a wild animal.

Writing Guidelines

- 1 Choose an animal to write about.
- 2 Select, from the list in Activity 1, what you want to include in your fact file. Choose at least six items.
- 3 Find relevant information about the animal, according to your choices in Step 2.
- 4 Choose a picture of the animal or draw it to illustrate your fact file.
- 5 Write a draft, using the information you have collected. Pay attention to the typical features of a fact file. Your teacher can help you, if necessary.
- 6 Share your draft with your classmates. Based on their comments, rewrite it, if necessary.
- 7 Prepare a final version of your fact file on a separate sheet of paper, paying special attention to text organization and layout. If possible, include the picture you selected in Step 4.
- 8 Display your fact file on the classroom wall.

- 3** Several wild animals are at risk of extinction. What is the importance of learning and spreading information about them? Discuss with your teacher and classmates.





Self-assessment

Reflect on your learning in this unit. Check (✓) the emoticon that best represents your answer.

Read and interpret a fact file and an encyclopedia entry.			
Recognize and use words related to wild animals and geographical features.			
Learn and practice the superlative form of adjectives.			
Listen to an extract from a news report.			
Play a board game.			
Write a fact file.			



Having Fun!

Work with a classmate and guess: are these interesting facts T (true) or F (false)?




	T	F
a Blue whales are the loudest animals. Their low-frequency pulses can be detected 500 miles away.		
b One of the best places in the world to see a jaguar is the Pantanal, Brazil.		
c A gorilla's lifespan is very short. Unfortunately, they usually live up to 15 years.		
d Although giraffes are very tall, they have the same number of bones in their necks as humans (seven bones).		
e The pattern of black and white stripes on zebras is the same for all the animals.		
f African elephants can't swim.		
g Lions are very active animals that sleep only a few hours a day.		



a) T b) T c) F d) T e) F f) T g) F

UNIT 6

Amazing nature

Grammar Reference

Superlative form

- We use the superlative form to compare one thing in a group with all the other things in that group.
- To form the superlative in general we add **-est** at the end of short adjectives.
- We usually use **the** before the superlative.
- We use the expression **the most** before long adjectives with more than two syllables.

Short adjectives: **the + adjectives + -est**

Long adjectives: **the most + adjectives**

Examples:

Quebec is **the coldest** city I know.

Julia is **the most beautiful** girl in our class.

Special cases		Examples:
Adjectives with one syllable	For adjectives that end in e, we only add -st	Helen is the nicest girl in this group. You're the finest person I know today.
	For adjectives that end in consonant + vowel + consonant, we double the last consonant and add -est	Your house is the biggest in this neighborhood. The North of Argentina is the hottest region.
Adjectives with two syllables that end in -y	We change -y to -i and add -est	This question is the easiest on the test. Tom is the busiest man I know.

- Some adjectives are irregular:

Adjective/adverb	Superlative adjectives
good	the best
bad	the worst
far	the farthest

Word List

Look at the words on the list and classify them. Write **BP** if they refer to animal body parts or **H** if they are habitats.

arm _____
beach _____
eye _____
foot _____
forest _____

hand _____
head _____
island _____
jaw _____
lake _____

leg _____
muzzle _____
neck _____
tail _____
tongue _____

ACTIVITIES

1 Read the descriptions and find (← ↑ ↗ ↘ ↙) the words in the word search.

- a a tract of land surrounded by water and smaller than a continent: island
- b a steep fall of water in a watercourse; cascade: _____
- c an area of sand or small rocks next to an ocean or lake: _____
- d a body of fresh or salt water of considerable size, surrounded by land: _____
- e an area of land covered by trees and other plants growing close together: _____

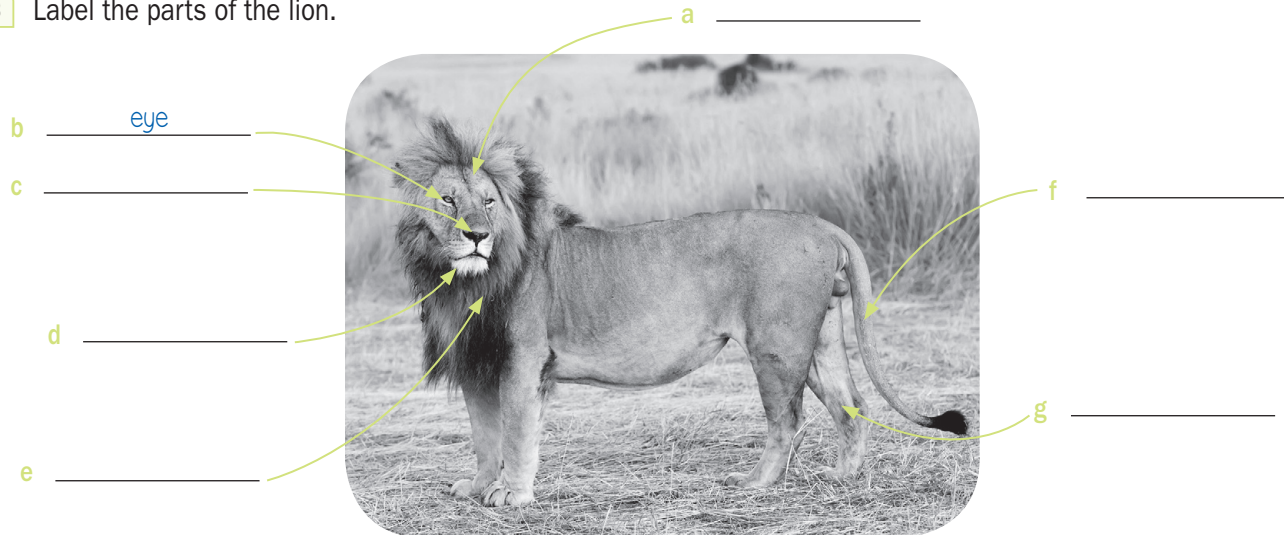
J	T	I	G	M	O	B	N	W	H
V	L	S	S	R	C	W	A	F	C
G	K	W	E	S	T	T	G	P	A
X	B	P	R	R	E	L	M	O	E
L	L	Q	E	R	O	Z	X	L	B
X	O	K	F	J	Q	F	X	D	X
B	A	A	M	E	D	L	O	P	A
L	L	Y	S	N	M	J	N	W	X
L	O	Q	V	D	N	A	L	S	I
Q	Z	P	I	C	S	I	M	U	N

2 Write the words from the box in the correct column of the chart.

~~jaw~~ arm foot muzzle hand
 leg tongue neck tail eye

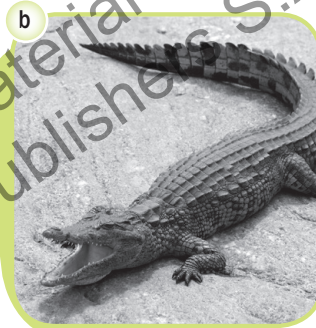
head	body
jaw	

3 Label the parts of the lion.



4 Label the pictures with the words from the box.

giraffe flamingo ~~gorilla~~ gazelle maned wolf crocodile



5 Write the superlative form of the adjectives.

a endangered most endangered

b vulnerable _____

c small _____

d large _____

e strong _____

f weak _____

g long _____

h short _____

i thin _____

j agile _____

k slow _____

6 Read the information in the chart. Then answer the questions.

			
	cheetah	lion	Siberian tiger
body	1.2 meter	1.4 meter	2 meters
tail	65–85 centimeters	67–100 centimeters	1 meter
weight	34–54 kilograms	190 kilograms	320 kilograms

a Which animal has the longest body?

b Which animal has the longest tail?

c Which animal is the heaviest?

7 Circle the word that doesn't belong in each group.

- a smallest bigger biggest
- b short tallest fastest
- c most powerful most famous tallest
- d largest heavier fastest
- e most venomous biggest highest

8 Complete the sentences with the superlative form of the adjectives in parentheses.

- a The biggest cat is the tiger. (big)
- b The cheetah is the _____ animal. (fast)
- c The sea wasp is the _____ animal. (venomous)
- d The giraffe is the _____ animal. (tall)
- e The elephant is one of the _____ animals and the second _____. (heavy / tall)
- f The rhinoceros beetle is the _____ animal. (strong)

9 Write complete sentences using the prompts given and the superlative form of the adjectives.

- a jaguar / big / feline / on the American continent
The jaguar is the biggest feline on the American continent.

- b crocodiles' jaws / powerful / bite in nature

- c cheetah / fast / land animal

- d maned wolf / large / canid in South America

- e giraffe / tall / animal



- 10 Read the article. Then complete the definitions with the words in bold from the text.



Biodiversity refers to the number of species and the number of individuals per species in a given geographic area. It includes all the different fungi, insects, plants, bacteria, mammals, reptiles, etc. living there. When we discuss the biodiversity of a given area (i. e., a rainforest in South America or the Gobi Desert), we refer to all the species that live there and the number of individuals per species that are found there.

Biodiversity permits the recolonization of areas where a species doesn't exist anymore. This means that individuals of the same species from another area can come in and reestablish a population in the area where it was originally extirpated. In addition, a diverse large-scale patchwork of **ecosystems** can act as barriers to natural disease and pest transmission between populations.

Biodiversity also maintains genetic pools or **reservoirs** for species to revitalize from things like diseases, pests and even changes in their environment.

- a A _____ is a large or extra supply; a reserve.
- b _____ is diversity among and within plant and animal species in an environment.
- c _____ is a system or a group of interconnected elements, formed by the interaction of a community of organisms with their environment.