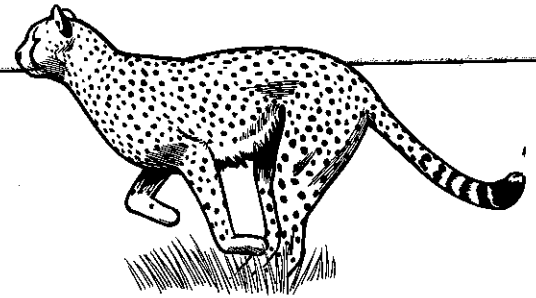


# Finding similarities and differences - 1

To help you understand what you read in text, you sometimes need to think about how things are alike or how they are different and to make comparisons.

Read the description.

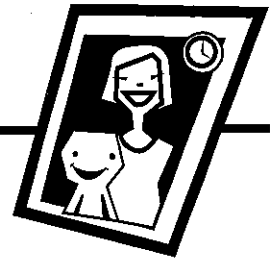
## Leopards and cheetahs



1. Leopards and cheetahs are members of the cat family. Because they both have spotted coats, many people confuse them.
2. Leopards live in Africa and some parts of Asia. The adults are solitary animals. They are found in rainforests, mountains, grasslands and even deserts. Leopards prefer to live in shaded areas with some cover, like rocks or dense foliage, to hide in or behind. Most leopards are a tan colour with flower-shaped spots called 'rosettes'. Like lions, tigers and jaguars, leopards can roar. They also purr when they are content.
3. Like all cats, leopards are meat-eaters. They hunt at night for their prey, which may include baboons, large birds, antelope and even porcupines. They may also hunt for fish because, unlike other cats, they are strong swimmers. Leopards can run quickly (reaching 58 kilometres per hour in short bursts) but they don't chase their prey over long distances, preferring instead to stalk and then pounce, grabbing it with their retractable claws. Leopards are incredibly strong. They can drag the large animals they have killed up trees to eat or store for later. Leopards will often climb trees to rest or keep watch for prey.
4. Unfortunately, leopards are classed as endangered animals. This is largely due to humans killing them for their fur. In some areas, farmers also kill them as pests.
5. Cheetahs are smaller and lighter than leopards. Their legs are also longer in proportion to their bodies. They are a tan colour, with a pattern of black solid spots on their coats. Their heads are smaller in proportion to their bodies than a leopard's, and they have a characteristic black 'tear stain' on their faces, running from the corner of the eye to the mouth. This is thought to be an adaptation that helps deflect the sun's glare from their eyes. Unlike other cats, cheetahs can not retract their claws fully, using them for grip while running. Cheetahs can make a variety of sounds, including purring and a unique bird-like 'chirp'. However, unlike the other big cats, they can not roar.
6. Cheetahs live in Africa. They are endangered, largely due to habitat loss and because humans kill them for their fur. Cheetahs are generally solitary animals, but are sometimes found living in small groups. They live in grasslands and open plains where prey is abundant. They will sometimes climb trees to keep watch for prey.
7. Cheetahs are the fastest land animal on earth and are truly built for speed, having very little fat on their bodies compared to that of a leopard. Cheetahs can reach speeds of over 100 kilometres per hour—but only in short bursts. This means they must stalk their prey, aiming to get as close as possible before having to sprint. Cheetahs hunt during the day, mainly preying on young or small antelope. They are the only cat which can turn in mid-air while running. Cheetahs have larger nasal passages than other cats, an adaptation which helps them to take in more air while they are recovering after catching their prey. They are not strong enough to hide or guard their catch, so they eat the meat quickly before a larger cat, hyena or other scavenger drives them away from their meal. Because of this, cheetahs kill much more often than leopards, who often store a kill.

# Finding similarities and differences

## Practice page



Use similar strategies to those on page 35 to practise finding similarities and differences. (Clues are given to help you.)

1. Refer to the text to complete the chart which will help you to answer this question.

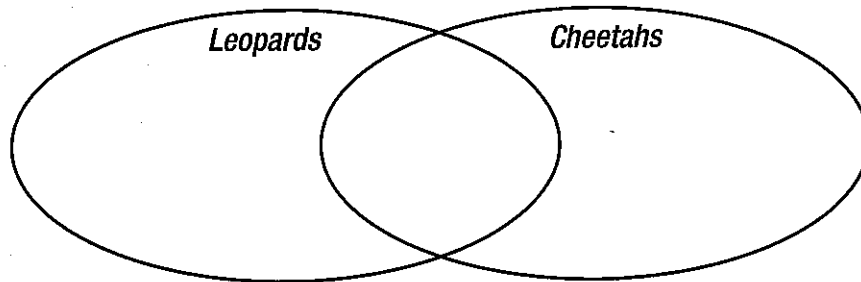
Which two things are only true of leopards?

- (a) They hunt at night and they are the fastest animal on earth.
- (b) They are the fastest land animal on earth and they have a 'tear stained' face.
- (c) They store their kill high in a tree and they hunt at night.
- (d) They have a 'tear stained' face and they store their kill high in a tree.

	Cheetah	Leopard
Hunt at night		
Fastest land animal		
Tear stain		
Store kill in trees		
Eats meat		

The best answer is .

2. (a) Complete the Venn diagram to show the information in the chart above.



**Think!**  
You will not need to refer to the text. The information you need should be on the chart.

(b) What do both animals do? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is similar about the way leopards and cheetahs catch their prey?

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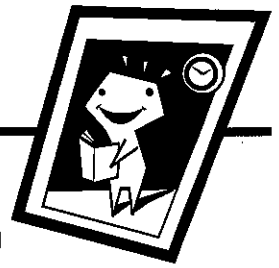
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**Think!**  
Refer to the text. You may not need to use a chart to help you complete Questions 3 and 4.

4. List three ways in which leopards differ in their appearance from cheetahs.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

# Finding similarities and differences



## On your own

Think about the strategies you have been using to work out these answers. You could draw a chart or Venn diagram on a separate sheet of paper if you need to.

1. *What is one difference between leopards and cheetahs?*
  - (a) Cheetahs are always solitary animals.
  - (b) Leopards are not solitary animals.
  - (c) Cheetahs sometimes live in small groups.
  - (d) Leopards sometimes live in small groups.
2. *Which two things do leopards and cheetahs have in common?*
  - (a) They are killed as pests and they eat antelope.
  - (b) They eat antelope and they are endangered.
  - (c) They are endangered and they are strong swimmers.
  - (d) They are strong swimmers and they are killed as pests.

The best answer is .

The best answer is .

3. *Explain the different reasons that cheetahs and leopards climb trees.*

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4. *List four special adaptations cheetahs have that leopards do not.*

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5. *Complete the sentences to show one difference in the way leopards and cheetahs handle their prey.*

A \_\_\_\_\_ must eat its prey \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

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whereas a \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't have to because \_\_\_\_\_

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