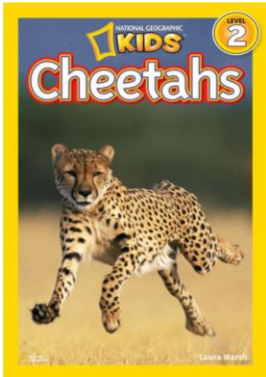


# NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS: CHEETAHS



AUTHOR: LAURA MARSH

**\*\* REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! \*\***

## OVERVIEW

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Adorably cute and amazingly fast, the cheetah is a perennial favorite among kids. This National Geographic Reader will delight kids with beautiful photographs and mind-boggling facts about this majestic and mysterious cat. Did you know a cheetah can go from 0 to 60 mph in less than 3 seconds? True to the National Geographic Kids' style and trusted reputation, snack size bites of information provide easily digestible learning that fulfills both the reader's curiosity and sense of achievement.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Laura Marsh has worked in children's publishing for 20 years as an editor and currently as an author. She has written numerous books in the National Geographic Kids Readers series, including Sea Otters, Turtles, and Red Pandas. Marsh has also authored titles in the Mama Mirabelle series and the Toot & Puddle series.

## THE READ ALOUD

### BEFORE READING

*Before distributing the books, ask the following questions on page 4:*

- Before distributing books, ask the following questions on page 4:
- What runs so fast it races by in a flash?
- What looks like it cries, but has no tears in its eyes?
- What is covered in spots and lives where it is hot?
- Introduce author.

### DURING THE STORY

*Use these while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content.*

- I wonder why there was no name of a particular photographer listed?
- Point out that there are riddles or jokes throughout the book
- (p.9) I wonder why cheetahs are so fast.
- (p.14) I notice that a "very small number" of cheetahs may still live in Iran. I wonder why this may be?

## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS: CHEETAHS

### TOPICS & THEMES:

- Non-fiction elements
- Cheetah facts
- Animal extinction
- Glossary

### *Tips for every book!*

### POWER PHRASES:

***I WONDER...***

***I NOTICE...***

***TELL ME MORE...***

### DIGGING DEEPER:

*"Tell me more, why do you think that?"*

*"How do you know that?"*

*"Why do you think they feel like that?"*

*"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"*

- (p.16) Did anyone notice the collective noun on the page? (A collective noun describes a group of individuals, in this case - coalition).

## AFTER READING

---

*Use these after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.*

- Why do you think it is important to learn about cheetahs?

## BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

---

- Have you ever seen a cheetah?
- Do any of you have pets that have a characteristic or two that a cheetah has?
- Can you name an animal you have that makes a sound a cheetah does?

## COOPERATIVE LEARNING

---

- Cheetah Talk! (p.27) Turn to a partner, and as I say the sound, repeat it.

## SMALL GROUP

---

### **Discussion Activity:**

- Have each child find their favorite facts to share.
- I wonder why cheetahs don't live wild around San Diego?
- Can you compare the cheetah to another animal we've read about this year?
- Why is it important that the cheetah does not become extinct?
- Read the words in the glossary and find the pages where you find their pronunciation.

### **Suggested Optional Activity:**

- Depending on interest of children, reread the book, either with children volunteering or have them read silently to themselves.
- Make a cheetah face that can be made into a mask with eyes cut out.

### **Writing Activity:**

- Write an acrostic poem using the letters of CHEETAH. An acrostic poem is a type of poetry where the first letters of each line, read downward, spell out a word or phrase.

### **Extension Activity:**

- Visit the library and find a book about another animal. Write three questions that describe the animal. Use these questions on a poster with the picture of the animal.