

Trend Task: Cheetahs

Approach: One to one
 Focus: Identify physical features that assist survival
 Resources: Video recording on laptop computer

Year: 4 & 8



[Discovery Channel (1997). *Discovery Channel – The Ultimate Guide: Big Cats* [video]. United States: ILC Entertainment]

DESCRIPTION:

No soundtrack; video of cheetah at rest then pursuing and catching its prey. Some sequences in slow motion; telescoped closeups of various body parts with graphic enhancements to highlight movement and function.

Questions / instructions:

This activity uses the computer.

You are going to watch a video of a cheetah. The video shows how different parts of the cheetah help it to hunt.

Click the *Cheetahs* button. No sound on video. When the video has finished, give student the picture.

Look carefully at the picture and think about the video. Tell me the parts of the body that help it to hunt. As you tell me the different parts of its body, I'll write them down.

Now I'll read out the things you have said, and if you want to change any of them you can tell me.

Make any changes offered by the student.

Now tell me how each of these parts of its body helps the cheetah to hunt.



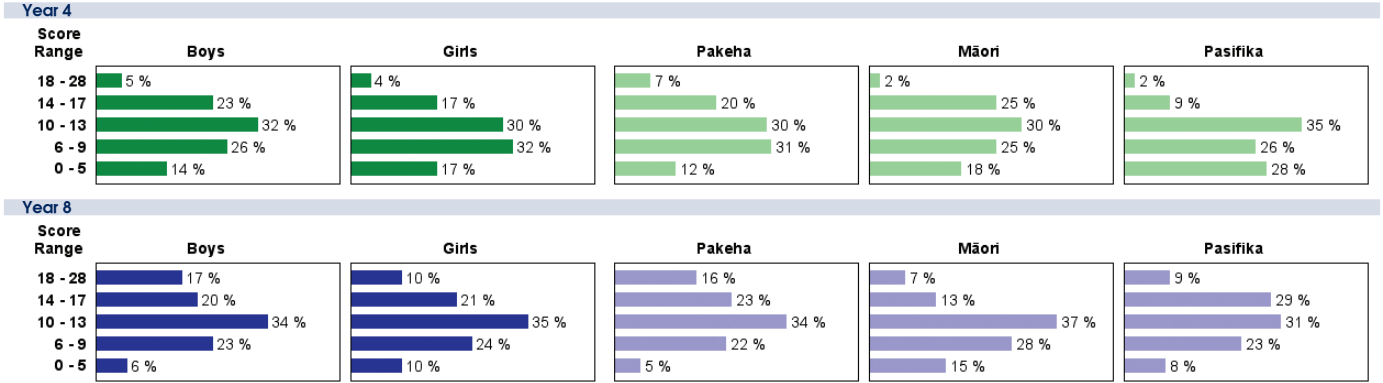
[Grosnick, M.W. (photo.), Theodorou, R., (2001); *Animals in Danger: Cheetah*; Oxford: Heinemann Library]

	% response 2007 ('03)			% response 2007 ('03)	
	year 4	year 8		year 4	year 8
Eyes: body part mentioned and value for hunting adequately explained	38 (36)	40 (49)	Muscles: body part mentioned and value for hunting adequately explained	2 (7)	7 (9)
body part mentioned but value for hunting <u>not</u> adequately explained	23 (30)	15 (32)	body part mentioned but value for hunting <u>not</u> adequately explained	1 (2)	3 (3)
body part not mentioned	39 (34)	45 (19)	body part not mentioned	97 (91)	90 (88)
Ears: body part mentioned and value for hunting adequately explained	34 (42)	34 (44)	Legs: body part mentioned and value for hunting adequately explained	47 (52)	54 (52)
body part mentioned but value for hunting <u>not</u> adequately explained	17 (22)	11 (25)	body part mentioned but value for hunting <u>not</u> adequately explained	29 (30)	20 (30)
body part not mentioned	49 (36)	55 (31)	body part not mentioned	24 (18)	26 (18)
Nose: body part mentioned and value for hunting adequately explained	24 (25)	20 (40)	Spine: body part mentioned and value for hunting adequately explained	54 (39)	80 (79)
body part mentioned but value for hunting <u>not</u> adequately explained	13 (19)	8 (15)	body part mentioned but value for hunting <u>not</u> adequately explained	24 (26)	11 (5)
body part not mentioned	63 (56)	72 (45)	body part not mentioned	22 (35)	9 (16)
Brain/nerves: body part mentioned and value for hunting adequately explained	2 (3)	2 (1)	Pads on paws: (<i>traction/grip/cushioning</i>) body part mentioned and value for hunting adequately explained	18 (8)	46 (21)
body part mentioned but value for hunting <u>not</u> adequately explained	1 (3)	1 (1)	body part mentioned but value for hunting <u>not</u> adequately explained	17 (5)	14 (11)
body part not mentioned	97 (94)	97 (98)	body part not mentioned	65 (87)	40 (68)



	% response 2007 ('03)			% response 2007 ('03)	
	year 4	year 8		year 4	year 8
Tail: (for steering/balance)					
body part mentioned and value for hunting adequately explained	8 (9)	18 (27)			
body part mentioned but value for hunting <u>not</u> adequately explained	14 (14)	5 (7)			
body part not mentioned	78 (77)	77 (66)			
Claws: (for gripping/tearing)					
body part mentioned and value for hunting adequately explained	44 (61)	56 (65)			
body part mentioned but value for hunting <u>not</u> adequately explained	14 (13)	11 (12)			
body part not mentioned	42 (26)	33 (23)			
Jaws/teeth:					
body part mentioned and value for hunting adequately explained	33 (51)	48 (56)			
body part mentioned but value for hunting <u>not</u> adequately explained	21 (25)	13 (20)			
body part not mentioned	46 (24)	39 (24)			
Colour/texture: (camouflage)					
body part mentioned and value for hunting adequately explained	17 (25)	28 (39)			
body part mentioned but value for hunting <u>not</u> adequately explained	4 (3)	1 (2)			
body part not mentioned	79 (72)	71 (59)			
			Overall, mentions:		
			detection/tracking/guidance aspects (at least one: eyes, ears, nose, brain)	60 (60)	55 (73)
			locomotion aspects (at least one: legs, muscles, spine)	81 (83)	93 (90)
			weapons aspects (at least one: jaws, teeth, claws)	57 (76)	63 (80)
			camouflage aspects (at least one: colour, texture)	20 (28)	29 (42)
			Total score:		
			18–28	5 (10)	14 (23)
			14–17	20 (24)	21 (35)
			10–13	31 (30)	34 (29)
			6–9	29 (28)	23 (10)
			0–5	15 (8)	8 (3)

Subgroup Analyses:



Commentary:

Year 4 and year 8 students performed quite similarly and, at both year levels, performance dropped markedly between 2003 and 2007. Year 8 boys performed noticeably better than girls. Year 4 Māori students and year 8 Pasifika students performed quite similarly to their Pakeha counterparts.