

For Creative Minds

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Animal Movement

Match each animal to the way it moves. How do *you* move?

Hop

Run (four legs)

Swim

Fly

Run (two legs)

Slither

bat



lion



ostrich



snake



sea turtle



rabbit



Answers: hop: rabbit. fly: bat. run (four legs): lion. run (two legs): ostrich. swim: sea turtle. slither: snake.

Different Animals Have Different Strengths

Just like all people are different, all animals are different. A lion and a polar bear are both fast, but if you ask them both to swim a hundred miles through icy water, one of them is sure to win *that* race. If you put a marlin on the savannah to race against a cheetah, that wouldn't be very fair. The marlin would be a fish out of water!

King Lion wanted to know who is the fastest, so he created a race: running across the savannah. That is a race a lion would do well in! But as each of the animals came forward and told him about their different strengths, he realized there are more ways to race than sprinting across the savannah. How was King Lion able to compromise? Do you think his solution was fair?

All of the animals wanted a race where they could best show their talents. Maybe not every animal in the world can be the fastest animal, but they can all find a race where they can truly show their stuff.

Many of the fastest animals are predators. Why do you think that is?

What skills or strategies do slower animals use to avoid these fast hunters?

Which do you think is more important to an animal, speed or strength? Why?

Did any of the animals in this book surprise you? Which ones?

Do you think it's more important for an animal to be really fast over short distances or kind of fast over longer distances? Why?

Which kind of animal speed do *you* think is most important? Why?



Animal Body Parts

Animals' bodies help them succeed in their environment. Some body parts help animals be better hunters, or help them hide from predators. Some body parts help animals stay warm in icy water, or stay cool in hot, humid habitats.

Match the animals below with their body parts . . . and the fun-fact that tells what that body part is used for!

1



2



3



4



5



cheetah

falcon

husky

marlin

mantis shrimp

A

I can pack quite a punch. My **claws** go from completely still to 50 mph in less than 3 milliseconds.

B

If I swim through a school of fish, my **bill** is sure to hit a few. Then it's easy to eat the injured prey.

C

When it's time for a snack, I swoop down from the sky and grab my prey with my **talons**.

D

My fur keeps me warm, but there's no fur on my nose. So I tuck my nose into my **tail** to stay warm.

E

I can run fast, but not far. My **spots** help me hide in the tall grass until my prey is near.

Answers: cheetah-2E. falcon-1C. husky-3D. marlin-5B. mantis shrimp-4A

Speed Sequencing

Some animals are fastest in water. Some are fastest on land. Some animals are fastest over long distances and others can only hold their speed for a short burst (sprint). The animals in this story all have different ways that *they* are the fastest. But what if you look at a group of animals that are all fast in a similar way?

Each of the animals in the list below is at its fastest when it runs on land for a short distance. If you had a race between these animals, what do you think the results would be?

Animal	Speed (mph)	Speed (km/h)
African wild dog	45	72
blue wildebeest	50	80
cheetah	75	120
coyote	43	69
elk	45	72
lion	50	80
pronghorn antelope	55	88
quarterhorse	55	88
springbok	56	90
Thompson's gazelle	40	75

Many of the animals on this list live on flat, grassy land in warm climates. But not all! Elk live in forests in cool climates where it often snows.

What if the elk held a race where all of the animals on this list sprinted through a snowy forest? They would still race on land for a short distance, but do you think the results would be the same?

