

SIXTH GRADE SCIENCE ARTICLE WRITING RUBRIC

	4	3	2	1
IDEAS	Ideas are original. Topic is clearly identified. Ideas support the topic.	Some ideas are original. Most ideas support the topic.	Few ideas are original. Ideas do not stay on the topic. Some details support the topic.	Ideas are incomplete. Few details support the topic.
ORGANIZATION	Ideas are related and presented in correct order. Strong beginning, middle, and end.	Most ideas are related and presented in correct order. Good beginning, middle, and end.	Some ideas are related and presented in correct order. Weak beginning, middle, and end.	Few ideas are related and presented in correct order. No clear beginning, middle, and end.
Editing	Few or no errors in spelling and/or punctuation. Clearly written and easy to understand.	Some errors in spelling and/or punctuation. Most sentences are clearly written and easy to understand.	Many errors in spelling and/or punctuation. Some run-on or incomplete sentences. Some sentences are unclear.	Serious errors in spelling and/or punctuation. Several run-on or incomplete sentences. Many sentences are unclear.
REVISION	The student made all changes to his/her article that adds detail and clarity for the reader.	The student made almost all changes to his/her article that adds detail and clarity for the reader.	The student made few changes to his/her article that adds detail and clarity for the reader.	The student made no changes to his/her article that adds detail and clarity for the reader.
ON TIME	Published article handed in on time.	Published article handed in two days late.	Published article handed in three days late.	Published article handed in four or more days late.

Big Cats: Cheetahs-The World Fastest Land Mammal

By Carolyn W.

Unique Cheetahs!

Did you know that Cheetahs are the world's fastest land mammal? The Cheetah can run at speeds up to 70 miles (113 kilometers) an hour! Did you also know that Cheetahs do not roar like other Big Cats? Instead, they purr. Cheetahs are unique in many different ways than other Big Cats. Cheetahs may be endangered in certain regions and close to extinction, but they are still the world's fastest land mammal!

Where do they Live?

Cheetahs live in small, isolated populations mostly in sub-Saharan Africa. Cheetahs live mainly on grasslands with medium-length grass, trees, and small hills. A Cheetah's natural diet consists of mammals weighing less than 90 pounds including hares, warthogs, and birds. In the wild, female cheetahs live alone, except when raising cubs. They rarely associate with other cheetahs, except when ready to mate. Males live in small permanent groups called coalitions, which are usually made up of two to four brothers. The area that Cheetahs live in often affects how they act and the animals they eat. But nonetheless, Cheetahs are very unique Big Cats and are very different from other Big Cats.

Cheetahs, Endangered?

Cheetahs are now endangered because they are thought as scary predators and are often killed by hunters. People often dislike Cheetahs because of its predatory lifestyle, but they are just doing what they need to survive. Their habitat is often destroyed by humans, leading to less Cheetah population.

Cheetah Eat Meat? The Cheetah is a carnivore, eating other animals as their daily diet. To avoid lions and leopards, cheetahs usually hunt in the middle of the day. Cheetahs stalk their prey, approaching to within about 50 feet before dashing out from cover and sprinting at the targeted animals. Cheetahs hunt by vision rather than scent. It hunts usually either early in the morning or later in the evening when it is not so hot, but still enough light.