

MONARTO  
ZOO



## CHEETAH & RHINO ACTIVITIES SECONDARY



**Government of South Australia**

Department for Education and  
Child Development

## Acknowledgements

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Updated Oct 2011

This Education program for schools is a partnership between the Monarto Zoo and the Department for Education and Child Development, South Australia.

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# For the Teacher

## General Information

Welcome to Monarto Zoo!

Monarto Zoo is a fantastic educational resource. It is a 1450 hectare open range zoo located on former farming land. Large tracts of remnant mallee scrub exist in the areas between animal enclosures, and this natural scrub is being extended annually through an on-going revegetation program which involves many community and school groups. A huge variety of native fauna roams freely in the scrub areas.

Monarto Zoo is involved in many animal conservation programs and these include both native and exotic species, with a heavy focus on threatened species from desert and arid habitats.

Experiencing Monarto Zoo and learning about animals, ecosystems and conservation can be undertaken via

- Observing and handling the huge range of prepared skins, bones and other animal biofacts at the Visitor Centre.
- A safari bus tour of animal enclosures with a commentary provided by a trained host (for groups of 22 or more students in your own bus),
- Walking through the mallee scrub on signposted tracks,
- Taking as much time as you want to observe animals from viewing platforms around the Visitor Centre and at “Bus Stops”.

Activities and tasks in this resource relate only to the Cheetah and Rhino lookout areas and immediate surrounds. Classes can get to these two lookouts by stopping during the Safari Bus Tour or by walking there eg. From the Visitors’ Centre or from the Waterhole area. For Senior Secondary students, the Boma Track Activities online resource provides more in depth activities on the walking track which leads to the Cheetah and Rhino lookouts.

In planning this excursion, please consider your schedule and how you would like to arrange the class’ activities on the day. Discuss this with the Education Officer at the time of booking your visit.

**Estimated time to complete the Cheetah and Rhino Activities: 20- 30 minutes**

**Key:**



Observe carefully



Discuss and share ideas with your group



Write down your thoughts



Did you know?

# MONARTO ZOO



J10	Addax		M11	Giraffe	
R4	African Lion		K13	Indian Antelope	
R2	African Painted Dog		E11	Meerkat	
K11	Barbary Sheep		J14	Mesopotamian Fallow Deer	
D17	Bison		G11	Ostrich	
H14	Black Rhinoceros		E13	Przewalski's Horse	
K13	Bongo		H11	Scimitar-horned Oryx	
L5	Cheetah		Q3	Spotted Hyaena	
G12	Chimpanzee		M6	White Rhinoceros	
J13	Chital Deer		F12	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby	
N9	Eland		I14	Zebra	

### Legend

	Lookout
	Bus Stop
	Car Park
	Toilets
	First Aid
	Cafe
	Zu-loop route
	Walking Tracks
	Creek

Monarto Zoo is smoke free.

## ACTIVITIES AT THE CHEETAH LOOKOUT



Cheetah are the world's fastest land animal. In the wild, they are the most successful hunter of all the big cats. However, they are classified as a "threatened species", with less than 10,000 living today; about one tenth the number a century ago. Threats include habitat destruction (causing loss of prey), hunting by humans, predation by larger predators and diseases, to which the cheetah are particularly susceptible.



Observe the male cheetahs in the enclosure.

Identify 2 structural adaptations which assist cheetah in being able to run for short bursts at over 100km per hour.



1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

The fastest humans in the world aim to run 100m in about 10 seconds.

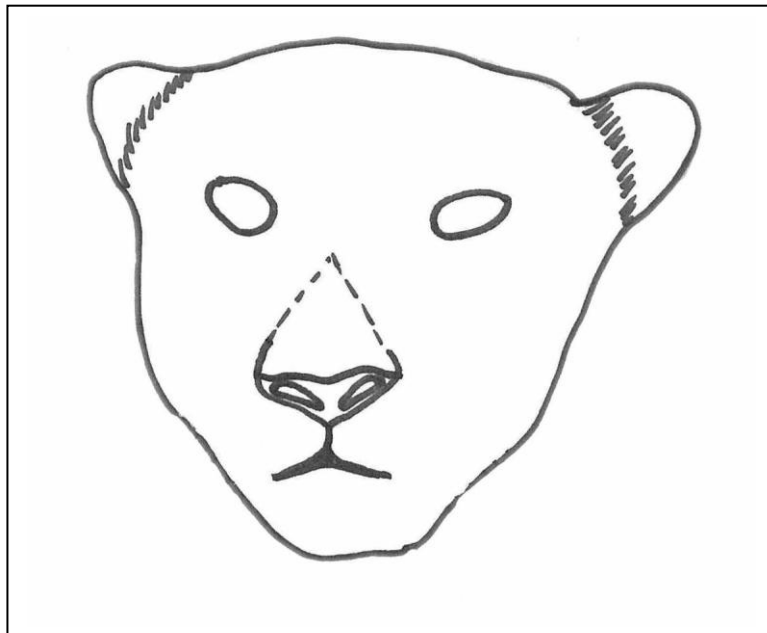
Imagine this speed could be maintained for one hour and calculate



- a) The distance travelled in 60 seconds \_\_\_\_\_ m
- b) The distance travelled in one hour \_\_\_\_\_ m
- c) The fastest human running speed in km/hour \_\_\_\_\_ km/hr

The face of a cheetah has a distinctive marking, sometimes called a "tear-stain." Other "spotty" big cats do not have these markings.


After carefully observing the face of one of the cheetah, draw in the tear-stain and any other markings you can see onto the outline below.




Can you see the cheetahs' claws? \_\_\_\_\_


Cheetahs' claws are NOT retractable – unlike all other members of the cat family.

One **dewclaw** is found, higher up than the other claws, on each leg of a cheetah. It does not touch the ground when the cheetah moves, so it is much sharper than the other claws.


 Which claws would give the cheetah extra grip for running? \_\_\_\_\_

Which claws would be used to hook and trip up the prey animals? \_\_\_\_\_

 The cheetah is a species which suffers from low genetic diversity in the total world population. It is probable that during the last ice age, cheetah numbers were reduced to very low levels. Although the numbers have grown since then, the lack of genetic variation leads to problems in reproduction and susceptibility to many diseases which do not affect other members of the cat family.


 In the zoo situation, what are some of the precautions that may need to be taken to ensure that cheetah are not exposed to any “germs” carried by other cat species at the zoo?


\_\_\_\_\_


 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

 Observe the enclosures for the cheetahs .

 What are some features of the enclosures which have a role in security? \_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_


\_\_\_\_\_

behaviour & environment enrichment?

 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

 What are some **words** that you would use to describe cheetahs?



# ACTIVITIES AT THE CADDICK VIEWING AREA



The Southern White Rhinoceros is a “Threatened Species”. Its survival is dependent on conservation breeding programs operating around the world. Its main threat is from poachers who hunt rhinoceros species for their horns, which are used in traditional Asian medicines. Of the 5 rhinoceros species in the world today, this species is the largest with adults weighing well over 2 tonnes. It is also the most numerous with over 15,000 found in the world today.

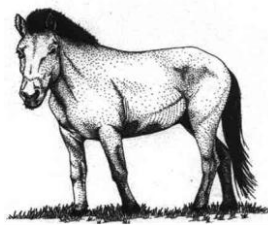


Observe the feet of the Southern white rhinoceros.

Draw one here, showing the number of toes carefully.



Rhinos are classed as “odd - toed ungulates”. Circle other species of Monarto Zoo ungulate animals below which would also be in this animal group.




Rhinoceros’ horns are composed of compressed keratin fibres – the same material that is found in hair, fingernails and scales.

What do you think the functions of the horns are? \_\_\_\_\_




Draw the shape of this rhinoceros’ horns.




 Describe any evidence you have that the rhinoceros shapes its main horn.

 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

 Watch the rhinoceros' ears for at least 2 minutes. Describe what you see.


 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rhinoceros have poor eyesight and their excellent hearing is vital to tell them what is going on.

 Rhinoceros keepers at Monarto are encouraged to make a lot of noise when they are working around the rhinoceros enclosures.


Why do you think this is done?


 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_


 Can you see a muddy pool in the enclosure? Rhinoceros love to wallow in the mud, coating their skin with it. How could this behaviour be an adaptation?


 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_


What are 3 structural adaptations that you can notice when observing the rhinoceros?


 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

 Look at the information in the transport crate about importing Rhinoceros to Monarto.

 Why are quarantine procedures so strict when importing animals from Africa to Australian Zoos?

 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

 There is considerable cooperation between Zoos and Wildlife Parks around the world, but especially in Australia and New Zealand. Why is it important that breeding of threatened species is undertaken on a regional basis, rather than just within individual zoos?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_