

Cheetah life history game

Rules of the game

The game is played with 2-4 players, you will need the board, a dice and as many pawns as there are players. Every player throws the dice, the player with the highest number of pips starts the game. Each player is allowed to throw the dice once, the number of pips they throw are equivalent to the number of steps they can take on the board. If you end up at a picture you simply follow the instructions as described below. The player who gets to the finish first wins the game. The game ends when there is one player left.

Picture	Step	Cheetah Fact
	These 2 cheetah brothers have just been born, they are still helpless. Follow them as they grow up.	When a female cheetah is two years old she, after a pregnancy of 3 months, gives birth to her first litter. The cubs weigh approximately 460 grams when they get born. A cheetah mother normally gives birth to 3-5 cubs, this mother gave birth to two male cubs. Female cheetahs raise their cubs on their own.
	Now that their eyes have opened they are ready to explore the world: 1 step forward.	Cheetah cubs are born helpless with their eyes closed, after approximately 2 weeks their eyes open. The cheetah cubs are born with their black spots and a Mohawk type mane which they lose when they grow older.
	The cubs are left behind in a lair while they wait for their mother to return from the hunt: skip 1 turn.	During the first 2 months of their life the cheetah mother hides her cubs in thick undergrowth when she goes out to hunt. Cheetahs are the fastest animal on land, when they are chasing prey they can run as fast as 103 km/h.
	By 6 weeks the cubs are ready to follow their mother during the hunt: 2 steps forward.	By 6 weeks of age cheetah cubs are able to follow their mother during the hunt. Cheetah cubs drink mother milk for 2-3 months but begin to eat meat when they are only 3 weeks old.
	Spotted hyenas kill cheetah cubs and steal prey. The cubs have to run to get away: 5 steps back.	Once a cheetah has made a kill it eats quickly and keeps an eye out for scavengers. Especially spotted hyenas and lions often steal the prey from cheetahs but even leopards, jackals and vultures have been reported to chase cheetahs from their kill.
	The brothers play a lot, this makes them stronger and teaches them hunting skills: 2 steps forward.	Like these two little brother, cheetah cubs often play after resting or nursing or when the family is moving. Playing is believed to serve as a practice for hunting and prepares the cubs for stalking, hunting, pouncing and chasing prey.
	The cubs are growing fast but they still have a lot to learn from their mother: 2 steps back.	By 4 months the cheetah cubs are tawny yellow and almost completely spotted, the tail has bands of black and by adulthood a white tip. Every cheetah has a different coat pattern which enables researchers to recognize individuals by their spots.
	Cheetahs don't attack humans, but people are often afraid of them. Avoid the village: 2 steps back.	Cheetahs in the wild have never been reported to attack humans. People kill cheetahs because they are believed to kill livestock. Often the problem can simply be solved by better livestock practices and translocation of the conflict animal.
	Lions kill cheetah cubs and steal prey. The cubs have to run fast to get away: 5 steps back.	Cheetah cubs are regularly killed by lions and spotted hyenas, cub mortality can be as high as 95%. The cheetah mothers are not able to defend their cubs and therefore avoid areas with high densities of lions and hyenas.
	The cheetah mother teaches the cubs how to avoid lions and hyenas: 2 steps forward.	The cubs stay with their mother for more than a year, during this time the mother teaches the cubs how to hunt and avoid other predators.
	The cheetah mother teaches her cubs how to hunt. This takes time: skip 1 turn.	Cheetahs usually prey on small antelopes such as impala. A mother cheetah teaches her cubs how to hunt by finding a baby impala. She then calls her cubs to learn how to kill it.
	The brothers are leaving their mother, they can hunt and avoid lions and hyenas: 1 step forward.	When the cubs are 18-22 months old the mother leaves them behind. The cubs usually stay together for several months after which brothers stay together for life in a male coalition and sisters leave the group to go their separate ways.
	The brothers establishing a territory which they will scent mark and defend: skip 1 turn.	Cheetah males are often social and hold small territories while females are solitary and have large home ranges. The males scent-mark their territory and defend it against intruders whereas females tolerate other cheetahs in their home range.
	The brothers have made their first kill without their mother and are now real adults: 2 steps forward.	These two males have made it to adulthood and will live for approximately 10-12 year. When cheetahs are fully grown they weigh between 35 and 60 kg and have a shoulder height of 66-94 cm and a body length of 110-150 cm.
	The two brothers have made it to adulthood, they can live another 11 years and will be the fathers of many cheetah cubs.	Cheetahs used to be widespread across Africa and Asia. Today they have vanished from over 77 % of their historic range. With fewer than 10,000 adult individuals left in the wild they have been classified as vulnerable which means they are one step away from being endangered. To prevent this from happening we have to take good care of this beautiful spotted cat, for more information see cheetahzimbabwe.org