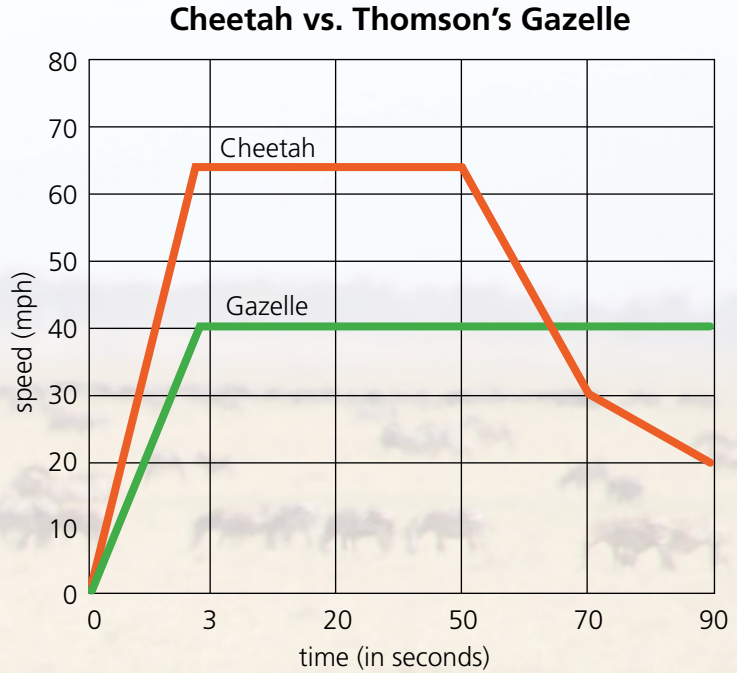


ACTIVITY 2 BUILT FOR SPEED

In the film *Wild Cats 3D*, you learned that the cheetah is the fastest land animal. A cheetah can reach 64 miles per hour in just three seconds. That’s faster than most cars!

The cheetah is built for speed from its nose to its tail. The cheetah has large nostrils that help it get more air as it is running. It has large lungs and a large heart to provide bursts of power. The cheetah’s legs are long and muscular, and its claws are always exposed to give it extra grip. The cheetah also has a long tail that helps it keep its balance on sharp turns during high-speed chases.

Cheetahs cannot run at top speed for more than one minute, so they must catch their prey quickly. This graph shows why. It compares the speed of a cheetah with the speed of a Thomson’s gazelle as the cheetah chases the gazelle. Use the graph to answer the questions below.



x-axis: time in seconds 0-90
y-axis: speed in mph

GRAPH OBSERVATIONS:

1. What do you notice about the two lines?
2. What happens to the cheetah’s speed over time?
3. What happens to the gazelle’s speed over time?
4. What happens when the lines cross?
5. What does this mean in the wild?

What else do you know about cheetahs after seeing *Wild Cats 3D*? Use the space to the right to write your own field notes about what you learned.

FIELD NOTES:
