



African Elephant

Loxodonta africana

Class: Mammalia

Habitat: grasslands

Location: Africa, south of the Sahara desert

Size: 19-25 ft (5.5-7.5m) long;
9-13 ft (2.5-4 m) tall; 2,272-3,400 lbs
(1,033-1,545 kg)

Body Covering: thick skin, hair

Diet: grasses

SuperFact!

The African Elephant is one of the few animals that digs holes in the ground to find water.

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African Lion

Panthera leo

Class: Mammalia

Habitat: grasslands

Location: Africa, south of the Sahara desert

Size: 8-10 ft (2.5-3 m) long; 3½ ft
(1 m) tall at the shoulder; 300-500lbs
(136-227 kg)

Body Covering: fur

Diet: antelopes, young elephants, gazelles, giraffes, wildebeest, zebras,

SuperFact!

Lions spend up to 21 hours each day sleeping or resting.

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American Bison

Bison bison

Class: Mammalia

Habitat: grasslands

Location: western United States and Canada

Size: 10-12 ft (3-3.5 m) long;
6 ft.tall; 1,000-2,000lbs
(455-909 kg)

Body Covering: fur

SuperFact!

The American Bison helps rejuvenate the prairie by destroying old trees, walking on seeds with its sharp hooves, and creating "plowed" land for new seeds to grow.

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Black-Tailed Prairie Dog

Cynomys ludovicianus

Class: Mammalia

Habitat: grasslands

Location: western North America

Size: 9-15 in (23-38 m) long;
1-3 lbs (0.5-1.5 kg)

Body Covering: fur

Diet: plants, especially grasses; grasshoppers, other insects

SuperFact!

Prairie Dogs are more like squirrels than dogs, but they got their name because they bark like dogs.

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Cheetah

Acinonyx jubatus

Class: Mammalia

Habitat: grasslands

Location: eastern and southern Africa

Size: 6-7 ft (2 m) long (including tail); 3 ft (90 cm) tall at shoulder; 77-132 lbs (35-60 kg)

Body Covering: fur

Diet: medium-sized mammals

SuperFact!

Cheetahs are the fastest-moving land animals over short distances. They can run at speeds of 50 to 70 miles per hour but can only sustain that speed for several feet.

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Coyote

Canis latrans

Class: Mammalia

Habitat: grasslands, deserts

Location: western North America

Size: 4 ft (120 cm) long (including tail); 2 ft (61 cm) tall; 25-30 lbs (11-14 kg)

Body Covering: fur

Diet: rabbits, gophers, mice,

SuperFact!

Coyotes may be one of the most intelligent and successful mammals in North America. There have been many efforts to get rid of them in the western United States, but they increased and spread their range east!

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East African Thomson's Gazelle

Gazella thomsoni

Class: Mammalia

Habitat: grasslands

Location: central Africa

Size: 2³/₄-5¹/₂ ft (84-170 cm) long; 1¹/₂-3¹/₂ ft (51-109 cm) tall; up to 40 lbs (18 kg)

Body Covering: fur

Diet: grasses

SuperFact!

The Thomson's Gazelle doesn't have to drink. It gets its water from the grasses it eats.

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Eastern Gray Kangaroo

Macropus giganteus

Class: Mammalia

Habitat: grasslands

Location: eastern Australia, Tasmania

Size: up to 8 ft (2.5m) long (including tail); 5 ft (1.5m) tall

Body Covering: fur

Diet: grasses, leaves

SuperFact!

Gray Kangaroos can run up to 35 miles per hour and can jump about 30 feet in one leap.

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Giraffe

Giraffa camelopardalis

Class: Mammalia

Habitat: grasslands

Location: Africa, south of the Sahara

Size: 15-18 ft (4.5-5.5m) tall; 2,600 lbs (1,182 kg)

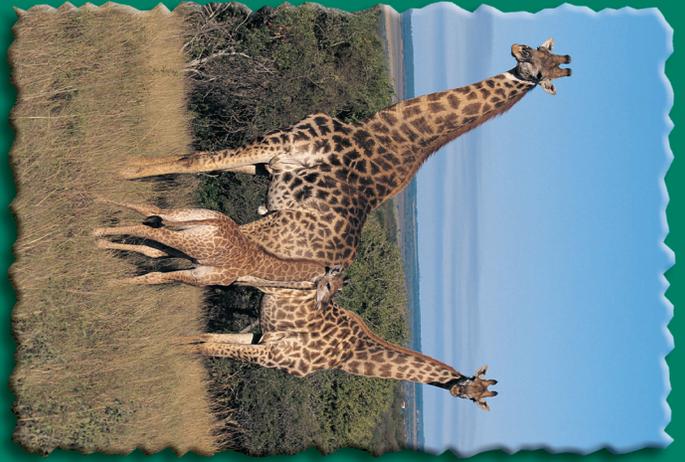
Body Covering: fur

Diet: leaves, twigs, fruits

SuperFact!

Giraffes eat up to 140 pounds of foliage every day.

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Gray Wolf

Canis lupus

Class: Mammalia

Habitat: grasslands

Location: Arctic areas

Size: 5-6½ ft (1.5-2 m) long; 75-120 lbs (34-55 kg)

Body Covering: fur

Diet: caribou, deer, elk, moose

SuperFact!

Gray Wolves have 42 teeth, including 4 fangs that can be up to 2 inches long.

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Hippopotamus

Hippopotamus amphibius

Class: Mammalia

Habitat: grasslands, savannas

Size: 13-14 ft (4-4.5m) long; 5 ft (1.5m) tall

Body Covering: skin

Diet: grasses, leaves, fruit

SuperFact!

The hippopotamus is one of the most dangerous animals in Africa. If it is scared on land, a hippo will charge back to the safety of the water, trampling anything in its way. In the water, females attack to defend their babies, and dominant bulls attack to defend their females.

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Mountain Zebra

Equus zebra

Class: Mammalia

Habitat: grasslands, deserts

Location: southern and eastern Africa

Size: 5 ft (1.5m) tall; 500-800 lbs (227-364 kg)

Body Covering: fur

Diet: grasses, bark, leaves, birds, fruits

SuperFact!

No zebra's stripes are exactly like another's.

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Puma

Puma concolor

Class: Mammalia

Habitat: grasslands, tropical forests, woodlands

Location: all over North and South America

Size: 3¹/₂-5¹/₄ ft (1-1.5m) long

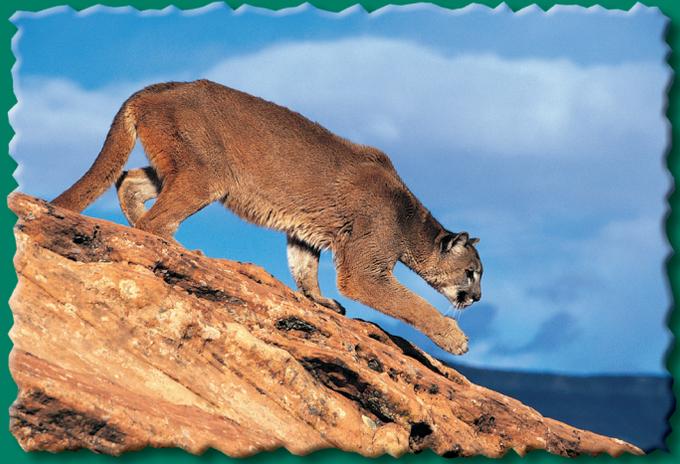
Body Covering: fur

Diet: any animals they find or hunt: mouse, moose, bear, wolves, etc.

SuperFact!

Pumas can leap more than 20 feet in the air from a standstill.

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Red Fox

Vulpes fulva

Class: Mammalia

Habitat: grasslands

Location: Asia, Europe, northern North America

Size: 3-3¹/₂ ft (91-110 cm) long (including tail); 8-11 lbs (3.5-5 kg)

Body Covering: fur

Diet: mice, other rodents, birds, frogs, insects, lizards, rabbits

SuperFact!

The Red Fox has excellent hearing—it can hear a mouse squeak from 100 feet away!

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Virginia White-Tailed Deer

Odocoileus virginianus

Class: Mammalia

Habitat: grasslands

Location: North America and northern South America

Size: 1³/₄-3¹/₂ ft (0.5-1 m) tall; 2³/₄-6³/₄ ft (1-2 m) long; up to 90 lbs (41 kg)

Body Covering: fur

Diet: grasses

SuperFact!

Virginia White-Tailed Deer frequently give birth to twins!

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Warthog

Phacochoerus aethiopicus

Class: Mammalia

Habitat: grasslands

Location: Africa, south of the Sahara

Size: 3-5 ft (1-1.5m) long; 2¹/₂ ft (76 cm) tall; 110-330 lbs (50-150 kg)

Body Covering: hair

Diet: grasses, herbs, leaves, fruits, bulbs

SuperFact!

Because of their short necks and long legs, Warthogs have to lower themselves to their knees in order to eat.

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Yellow Mongoose

Cynictis penicillata

Class: Mammalia

Habitat: grasslands

Location: southern Africa

Size: 1/4 ft (41 cm) long

Body Covering: fur

Diet: locusts, termites, other insects, rats, mice, birds

SuperFact!

Mongoose don't build their own homes. They usually live in dens dug by squirrels and other burrowing animals.

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Bald Eagle

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

Class: Aves

Habitat: grasslands

Location: North America: Canada to Florida and southern California in the United States

Size: 3 ft (90 cm) tall; 7-ft (2-m) wingspan; 8-14 lbs (3.5-6.5 kg)

Body Covering: feathers

Diet: fish, small mammals, birds, remains of dead animals

SuperFact!

Bald Eagles use the same nests year after year, adding more twigs and branches each year. The oldest known nest had been used for 34 years and weighed more than 2 tons!

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Spotted Eagle Owl

Bubo africanus

Class: Aves

Habitat: grasslands

Location: Europe and Asia

Size: 1 3/4-2 1/4 ft (51-71 cm) tall

Body Covering: feathers

Diet: small mammals, earthworms, insects

SuperFact!

The Spotted Eagle Owl carries its prey in its bill and swallows it whole, head first.

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Northwestern Garter Snake

Thamnophis ordinoides

Class: Reptilia

Habitat: grasslands

Location: western United States

Size: 1 1/2-5 ft (48-152 cm) long

Body Covering: scaly skin

Diet: mice, lizards, birds, frogs

SuperFact!

The Garter Snake is the most commonly seen snake in North America.

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Bumblebee

Megabombus pennsylvanicus

Class: Insecta

Habitat: grasslands

Location: everywhere but at the North and South Poles

Size: 1/4-1 in (0.5-2.5 cm) long

Body Covering: exoskeleton (tough bony or leathery covering)

Diet: pollen and nectar from flowers

SuperFact!

Bumblebees are responsible for pollinating many plants (like red clover, alfalfa, cotton, raspberries, and apple and plum blossoms) so these plants can reproduce.

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House Mosquito

Culex pipiens

Class: Insecta

Habitat: grasslands, tropical forests

Location: all over the world

Size: 1/4 in (0.5cm) long

Body Covering: exoskeleton (tough bony or leathery covering)

Diet: water, algae, and other small organisms; adult females eat human blood

SuperFact!

Only female mosquitoes bite.

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Lubber Grasshopper

Romalea guttata

Class: Insecta

Habitat: grasslands

Location: western United States

Size: up to 3 in (8 cm) long

Body Covering: exoskeleton (tough bony or leathery covering)

Diet: plants

SuperFact!

Grasshoppers can leap about 20 times as far as their own length.

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Two-Spotted Lady Beetle

Adalia bipunctata

Class: Insecta

Habitat: grasslands

Location: all over the world

Size: up to 1/4 in (0.5 cm) long

Body Covering: exoskeleton (tough bony or leathery covering)

Diet: aphids, other small insects

SuperFact!

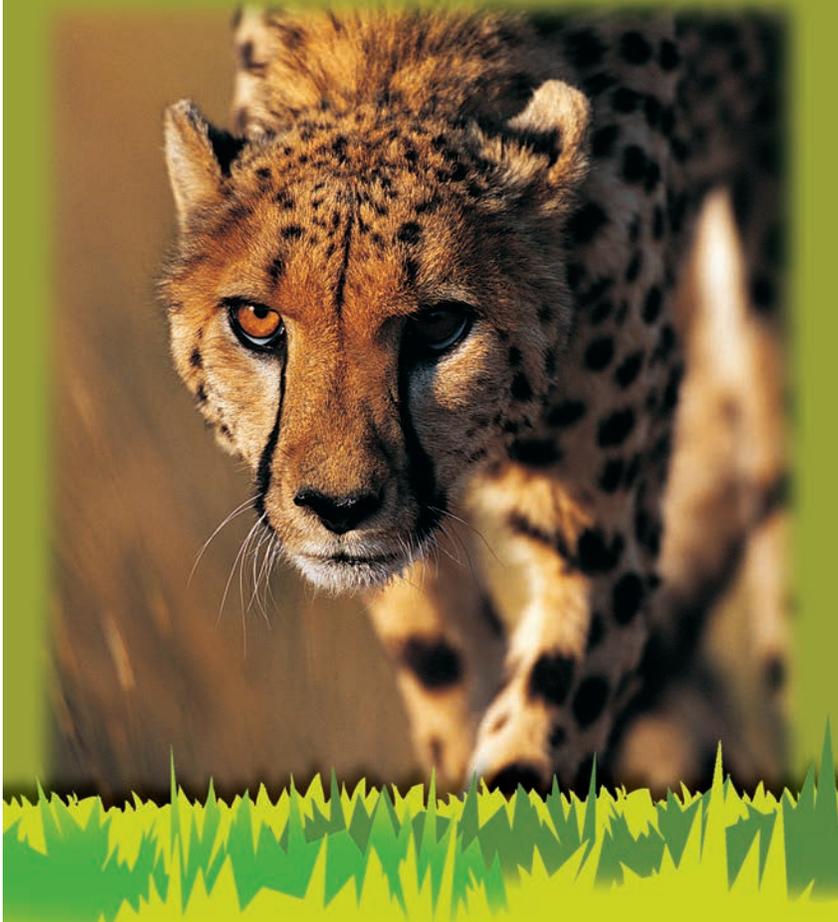
Lady Beetles came to the United States as stowaways on ships. They can help control some insect populations, but they can also become pests themselves.

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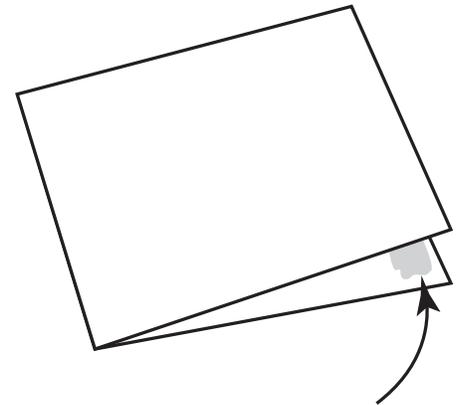


Grasslands

ANIMAL CLASSIFYING CARDS



TRIM CARDS ALONG THE SOLID LINE.
FOLD CARDS ON DOTTED LINE AND
GLUE STICK THE BACK SIDES TOGETHER.



USE GLUE STICK OR DOUBLE-SIDED TAPE

Welcome to Animal Classifying Cards: Grasslands! Children will be excited to learn about the wide variety of animals that inhabit their world. This card set provides children with a closer look at animals of the world's grasslands. Each card has a large color photograph of the animal, as well as short descriptions of the animal's habitat, skin covering, diet, and size.

Introduce children to basic scientific classes; this card set includes animals in classes Aves (birds), Mammalia (mammals), Insecta (insects), and Reptilia (reptiles). Talk about sorting animals into groups. For more advanced children, talk about scientific classification techniques. Explain that scientists sort by distinguishing characteristics: whether animals have a backbone (if they are vertebrates or invertebrates), what they eat (if they are carnivores, herbivores, or omnivores), whether they are warm-blooded or cold-blooded, and whether an invertebrate has an exoskeleton. Ask if

children can think of other ways to sort animals. Accept age-appropriate answers that may not be taken into account by scientists.

Children should try to sort the cards in different ways: by class, by location, by covering, by diet, and by size. What do they notice about animals in one sorted group? Are they alike in other ways? How are they different? Read the SuperFact! together and discuss it. How does that fact make the animal special?

Turn the cards face up so children can see only the animal photographs. How many animals can they identify? What do they know about those animals without reading the backs of the cards? What sorting activities can they do based on the photographs (animals with fur, animals with four legs, animals they've seen "in person," and so on)? The possibilities for creative scientific investigation are virtually endless!