

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Animal Track Star

By Guy Belleranti

Is the cheetah the fastest land animal? Yes, if the race is as long as a football field. But in longer races, the pronghorn wins.

Pronghorn can run 55 miles (89 kilometers) per hour for the first half mile. Then they can go 35 miles

Pronghorn live in North American grasslands and deserts. Males have long horns with a curved point. Females have much shorter horns.

Mothers hide babies in tall grass for several weeks. Still, coyotes and bobcats can be dangers. But



## Preview

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1. What was the author's purpose for writing this article?
  - a. to convince readers that pronghorn are faster than cheetahs
  - b. to teach readers facts about the pronghorn
  - c. to tell a funny story about a fast animal
  - d. to convince readers that the pronghorn is the best animal
2. How does running with an open mouth help the pronghorn run fast?  
\_\_\_\_\_



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yes

no

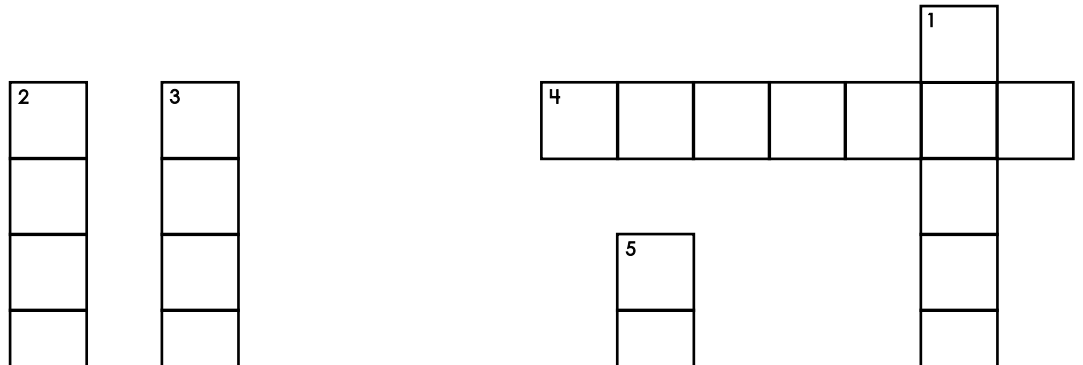
5. Reread the last paragraph of the article. Which word could be used in place of *herds* without changing the meaning of the text?

Living in herds provides protection. Pronghorn can see movement 3 miles (5 kilometers) away. They have white fur on their rumps. If alarmed, this fur stands up. This warns others to be ready to run.

- a. groups
- b. houses
- c. deserts
- d. grasslands

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### Down:

1. dry lands that get little rain
2. A circle is a \_\_\_\_\_ shape.
3. fastest land animal
5. types of feet some animals have
7. a chemical needed to live, found in the air

### Across:

4. wild animals related to dogs
6. Sunscreen offers \_\_\_\_\_ from the sun.
8. animals in North America that are a kind of wild cat
9. areas covered with plants but not trees
10. padded

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In the article, "Animal Track Star," you learned that a pronghorn can run 35 miles (56 kilometers) per hour for several miles. That's a common speed for cars to go on local roads.

Imagine you could run that fast. Would you still ride in cars and buses, or would you just run everywhere? On the lines below, write about why you made the choice you did. Include at least 2 pros (positives) and 1 con (negative) to your choice.

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## ANSWER KEY

# Animal Track Star

By Guy Belleranti



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- a. groups**
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