Cheetah Survival Game
Virtual Classroom Extension

Grade Level
Grade 7

Objectives
These activities are designed to start your at-home students in recognizing themselves as scientists and in thinking critically about problem-solving. The goal is to teach concepts through discovery and to encourage using scientific thought processes. Feel free to adapt the lessons provided to better suit your students' abilities. Take these ideas, make them your own, and your students will have a greater chance of success.

Background Information
This activity can be used with your at-home students after viewing the African Carnivores Facebook Live stream from 4/2/2020. Play this game to explore some of the hazards cheetahs encounter in the wild. This game will also give at-home students an opportunity to explore possible solutions to help cheetahs have a greater chance of survival in the wild.

What percentage of cheetahs survive the challenges they face in the wild? How are humans impacting their survival?

Materials
1. Ribbon
2. Measured out 8-yard jump (chalk line outside, duct tape, etc.)
3. Step (stool, a rock, log etc.)
4. Dice
5. Survival scenario cards (printed and cut)
6. Cheetah cards (printed and cut)

Procedures
1. Begin by gathering the necessary materials: Ribbon for "radio collars," measured out 8-yard "jump" on ground (chalk line, duct tape etc. can be used), step (a rock, log, step stool, etc.), dice, survival scenario cards, and cheetah cards.
2. Place the stack of survival scenario cards in the center of the playing area, and give each player two cheetah cards to begin the game.
3. Each player should take a turn selecting a survival scenario card from the stack. Follow the instructions on each card. When conditions are favorable, the card may tell players to take a cheetah card or take another turn. When players encounter a hazard, they may lose a cheetah card and/or a turn.

4. If a player runs out of cheetah cards, they did not survive and are out of the game. You can end the game after a certain amount of time has passed, after each player has taken a designated amount of turns, or until the scenario cards run out. A winner can be determined at the end of the game as the player with the most cheetah cards remaining OR players can continue playing until one person is left with cheetah cards, winning the cheetah survival game.
5. Not all cheetahs live a long life. Some will live, and some will die. Remind players of all the challenges they face in the wild. Fill out the provided chart at the end of the journey to best answer the question at the beginning of this lesson.
6. Have players discuss who survived and who did not.
7. Compare how many cheetah cards each player has remaining.
8. Compare and discuss the different survival scenarios that made players lose cheetah cards. What similarities do you see? What differences do you see?

Extension

1. With your at-home students, discuss how knowing more about an animal can change how you view them and their place in the environment. Many of the challenges cheetahs face in the wild, and in this game, are a result of human/wildlife conflict.
2. Encourage your at-home students to learn more about the conflicts cheetahs encounter when living near humans and how they can be avoided.
3. Ask players to think back to the positive scenarios in the game that helped them survive as a cheetah. How were humans involved in those scenarios that helped cheetahs survive?
4. You can also have players work on computers or tablets if possible, to research some solutions to the challenges cheetahs face in the wild.
5. After all players have completed their research, ask them a few questions to determine what they learned. How different or similar are their solutions? If they are different, why are they different?

Standards

Ohio Academic Content Standards
Grade 7 Life Science Topic: Cycles of Matter and Flow of Energy Energy flows and matter is transferred continuously from one organism to another and between organisms and their physical environments. In any particular biome, the number, growth and survival of organisms and populations depend on biotic and abiotic factors.