

International Cheetah Day Solution

As an endangered species, cheetahs' days are numbered.

#SaveTheCheetah

	Acceleration time	Breaths	Cubs smuggled	Former range countries	In the wild (approx.)	Population decrease percentage (last century)	Sprint
April, June, September, and November	B	D	A	P	H	N	G
Bald eagle feathers	A	B	I	S	L	K	U
Binary six or platinum anniversary	L	B	P	M	I	C	E
Dunbar	A	D	T	G	R	I	S
Hat-trick	G	T	N	C	S	U	I
Square corner	C	A	H	G	N	E	T
Ten-pin bowling perfect score	N	A	S	R	H	W	E

Solution Explained

Answer: XXXXXXXXXX

There are a couple clues to start with from the title and flavor text. The key words to pay attention to "numbered" and the "#SaveTheCheetah" tag. Additionally, the flavor text clues to the fact that this puzzle is themed around raising awareness that cheetahs are an endangered species, which is one of the goals of International Cheetah Day. The "#SaveTheCheetah" tag helps clue towards the [Cheetah Tweet Sheet page](#) on internationalcheetahday.com which will be relevant as one considers the provided clues.

Now, we return to the word "numbered" from the flavor text. The key insight here is that all of the clues correspond to numbers. This can also be deduced by looking at some of the features of the clues such as "acceleration time", "in the wild (approx.)", and "population decrease (last century)." The hope here is that puzzlers can start googling the answers to these statistics to get started. An alternate approach is by noticing the Cheetah Tweet Sheet and finding the corresponding factoids from this page. At this point, a puzzler may also notice that all the clues across the top row pertain directly to cheetahs, whereas the clues along the left side do not. However, if we stick with the "number" clue, we can start googling the left hand side clues with respect to "numbers". For example, "number of bald eagle feathers" or "Dunbar number." A complete list of number gathering leaves you with the following:

Left-side clue	Number	Explanation
Bald eagle feathers	7000	A bald eagle has 7000 feathers
Binary six or platinum anniversary	110 or 70	Six in binary is written as 110 and the platinum anniversary is celebrated after 70 years.
Dunbar	150	The Dunbar number is coined by evolutionary psychologist Robin Dunbar which he defines as the number of stable relationships people are cognitively able to maintain at once.
Hat-trick	3	A hat-trick is a term used to represent three positive feats in a row, usually used in sports.

April, June, September, and November	30	There are 30 days in each of these months.
Square corner	90	This is referencing the 90 degree angle in a square corner.
Ten-pin bowling perfect score	300	If you bowl all strikes, you can get up to a score of 300.

Top-side clue	Number	Explanation
Acceleration Time	3	A cheetah can accelerate to its max speed in 3 seconds.
Breaths	150	A cheetah takes up to 150 breaths per minute during a high speed chase.
Cubs smuggled	300	There are 300 cheetah cubs smuggled per year for illegal trade.
Former range countries	30	The cheetah is now extinct in 30 former range countries.
In the wild (approx.)	7000	There are approximately 7000 cheetahs left in the wild.
Population decrease (last century)	90	Cheetah populations have declined by 90% in the last century.
Sprint	110 or 70	The cheetah's max sprint speed is 110km/hr or 70mph.

Finally, a puzzler may notice that there are equivalent numbers between the left-side clues and the top-side clues, matching the rows and columns like a coordinate grid will yield an intersecting letter that corresponds to the extracted letter. A small note here is also that some puzzlers will notice that the clues are listed in alphabetical order which indicates that the order of the clues is not important and that ordering is determined in a different way. In this case, order is read top down from the grid for a final answer of **PLEDGES**.

April, June, September, and November
Bald eagle feathers
Binary six or platinum anniversary
Dunbar
Hat-trick
Square corner
Ten-pin bowling perfect score

Acceleration time
Breaths
Cubs smuggled
Former range countries
In the wild (approx.)
Population decrease percentage
(last century)
Sprint

B	D	A	P	H	N	G
A	B	I	S	L	K	U
L	B	P	M	I	C	E
A	D	T	G	R	I	S
G	T	N	C	S	U	I
C	A	H	G	N	E	T
N	A	S	R	H	W	E