

QUICK! WHAT DO ALL OF THESE HAVE IN COMMON?

All have claimed the title of fastest of their kind. And all can be found at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.



Smithsonian Institution

Hidden in this puzzle are ten words that can be used as verbs (action words) to mean "go fast." The words are also in the picture captions, many of them used as nouns (words for things). Circle the words in both the puzzle and the captions.

S P R I N T H
P H R F L Y U R
E D O F L R R
E A C O N A R Y
D S K R T C Y
S H E Y R E E
Z O T Z O O M

Words can go down, across, or diagonally.

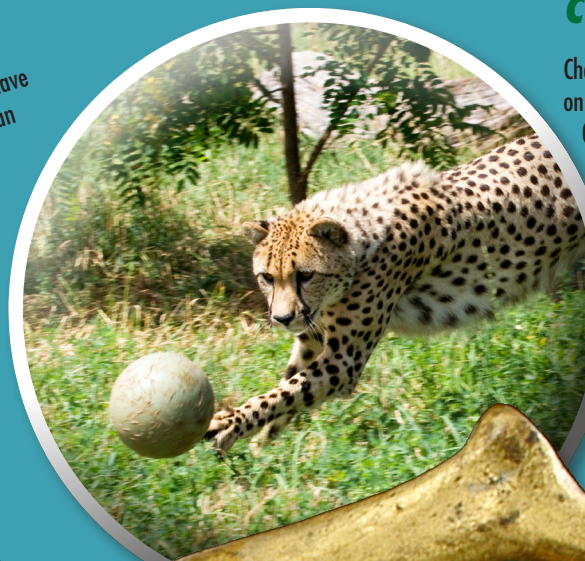
Find a friend and have a race. See who can finish first!

You'd have to move pretty fast to see everything at the Smithsonian on one trip. A good place to start is at smithsonianeducation.org/students

BUT COULD THE CHEATER BEAT A CHEETAH?

Cheetahs are the fastest animals on land. They can shoot from 0 to 45 miles per hour in 2.5 seconds. At full sprint, they can go more than 65 mph, which would break the highway speed limit in some states.

Cheetahs live in two places at the Smithsonian: the National Zoo in Washington and the nine-acre Cheetah Science Facility in Virginia.



Mehgan Murphy, Smithsonian's National Zoo

ZOOM! BOOM!

In 1947, pilot Chuck Yeager reached 700 miles per hour in this rocket-powered Bell X-1, becoming the first to fly faster than the speed of sound. Nature lets us know when the sound barrier is broken. We hear an exploding sound, called a "sonic boom."

Yeager's supersonic plane hangs from the ceiling of the National Air and Space Museum.



Eric Long, National Air and Space Museum

IT TOOK A CHEATER TO DEFEAT HER

Atalanta, the fastest girl in ancient Greece, was in no hurry to get married. She agreed to marry a guy named Hippomenes only if he could beat her in a race. As she made a dash for the finish line, Hippomenes threw three apples in front of her—irresistible golden apples from the garden of Venus, the goddess of love. Atalanta stopped to pick them up and he won.

This gilded bronze sculpture of Atalanta by Paul Manship is at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

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Paul Manship, *Running Atalanta*
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Bequest of Paul Manship



THE MOTORCYCLE FASTER THAN A PLANE

In 1906, aviation pioneer Glenn Curtiss designed a lightweight V-8 engine for a plane, but first gave it a test run on this motorcycle. He reached a speed of 136 miles per hour, becoming "the fastest man in the world."

The Curtiss motorcycle is in the *Early Flight* exhibition at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

READY, SET, GO!