Who would you nominate: the lion, the leopard, or the cheetah?

Find the three large cats and compare their traits. Decide which feline deserves the award.

I choose the _____________________.

Write three reasons why your candidate seems to be the most skilled at catching, killing, and eating an antelope. Use evidence that you can see.

Reason #1:_____________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
Reason #2:_____________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
Reason #3:_____________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

When your class returns to school, tally up the votes below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vote Tally</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leopard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheetah</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which cat won, and why? Share your reasons with the class, and listen to the opinions of your classmates. Do you agree or disagree?

As you travel from the flat plains of the savanna to the peaks of rocky mountains, you'll notice that animals which live in different environments are adapted to their own surroundings. And yet, animals with common lifestyles often resemble each other.

Question: What are some physical traits shared by different prey? Different predators?

Predator: an animal that hunts other animals
Uses strategies to catch, kill, and eat others

Prey: an animal that is hunted by a predator
Uses strategies to hide, escape, or protect oneself
Can you find a creature that eats other animals, but can be eaten by something larger? Name an animal that can be considered both predator and prey.

**Challenge!**

**How Prey Are Unique**

- Find examples of these common traits...
  - Find a prey animal that has a good example of each trait.
  - Record your observations by making a quick sketch in the circle.
  - Zoom in on the traits instead of drawing the whole animal.
  - Pattern that makes me hard to single out.
  - Structure to defend against an attack.
  - Large eyes, ears, or nose to sense danger.
  - Blending in to the background...
  - Find any antelope that uses camouflage to blend in to its particular surroundings. Use words or drawings to show how the prey’s shape or coloration helps it hide from predators. Be sure to describe the animal’s habitat.

**How Prey Are Similar**

- Find any antelope that uses camouflage to blend in to its particular surroundings. Use words or drawings to show how the prey’s shape or coloration helps it hide from predators. Be sure to describe the animal’s habitat.