

Science Festival 2009–2010
Sharing in Morning Assembly (4–2–2010)

A: Good morning, we are from science promotion team.

B: Let's share some fun facts about the motion of extreme animals. Do you know which animal move the fastest on land?

A: Yes, I know. Cheetah (獵豹) is the fastest creature in the world on land. It can run in a maximum speed of 120 kilometers per hour, which means it can run 33 meters in a second.

B: Wow, it is unbelievable! What is cheetah and where can I find it?

A: Just like lion and leopard, cheetah is a member of the cat family. However, cheetah is unique in its speed. Actually, it looks like a leopard with some black spots on its body. You can find it in Africa or south-western Asia besides in zoos.

B: I am amazed by its extremely high speed, why can it run so fast?

A: It is because it has a super streamlined body with long, powerful legs and its head is small in proportion to its body so that it reduces resistance for greater speed. Also, it has a long, powerful tail that helps to maintain balance when changing direction.

B: I see. Cheetah has to run so fast because its favorite prey, gazelle also run fast. In order to catch up with a meal that's as swift as the wind, the cheetah had to develop the ability to run fast.

A: Yes, it is true.

B: Besides, do you know which animal swim the fastest in water?

A: The shark?

B: No, it is sailfish (旗魚). The Indo-Pacific sailfish is the world's fastest fish. It can swim at a speed of 110 kilometers per hour.

A: Wow, it is really fast.

B: It grows to over 3.4 meter in total length and 100 kilogram in weight. Its color varies from dark blue on top, brownish on the side and silvery underneath.

A: What are features that help the sailfish to swim so fast?

B: Well, sailfish has a streamlined body, an elongated bill and no scales that help to reduce water resistance. It has a powerful tail that provides pushing force when swaying. Also, it has a characteristic erectile dorsal fin that stretches nearly the length of their body to maintain balance when swimming fast.

A: It has to swim so fast mostly for predation, right?

B: Yes, you are right.

A: Then, let's talk about the fastest animal in the sky, Peregrine Falcons(遊隼). It has horizontal cruising speeds of 65-90 kilometers per hour. When stooping, the peregrine flies at much greater speeds, varying from 160-440 kilometers per hour!

B: Oh, it is the fastest animal in the world!

A: It has black feathers on its head, sort of in the pattern of a helmet, with dark feathers around its beak, they are birds which hunt and kill for food. They can be found on every continent except Antarctica, who is the world travelers.

B: Their babies have high mortality rate, but they can live as long as 15 years. Their nests are normally built on cliff edges.

A: They are trained harshly since they are babies!.

B: To conclude, the fastest animal in ocean is sailfish (旗魚), the fastest animal on land is cheetah(獵豹) while the fastest animal in the sky is Peregrine Falcons(遊隼).

A: Hope all of you enjoy our presentation

B: And wish you all have joyful science festival.