5th Grade: Use the pictures below to answer these questions! If you want to learn more, these questions give you a starting place to do further scientific research.

What athletic ability does each animal pictured specialize in?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

What are humans best at in the animal kingdom?

________________________________________________________________________

Pick your favorite animal. Use words or drawings to explain why it is strong, fast, jumps or can run for a long time.

Describe how your favorite animal might compete with another animal. Would it win all of the time?
What athletic ability does each animal pictured specialize in?

Kangaroo - Jumping

Cheetah - Sprinting

Gorilla - Strength

Gazelle/Pronghorn - endurance (distance) running

What are humans best at in the animal kingdom?

Endurance/Distance Running

Pick your favorite animal. Use words or drawings to explain why it is strong, fast, jumps or can run for a long time.

Cheetah – flexible spine, non-retractable claws, mostly red (fast twitch) muscle fibers, predator, etc.

Pronghorn/Gazelle – fast but great endurance, more white (slow twitch) fibers, big ears help it not over heat, light/skinny lower legs, prey

Gorilla – strong base (four legs, big hands/feet), strong/thick legs and shoulders, prey; attacked by leopards—strength of gorilla protects them, but not uncommon to find both leopard and gorilla dead from mutually inflicted wounds, fast twitch fibers for power, slow twitch for migration between home sites

Kangaroo – big feet, long and strong legs, strong tail, patchy resources; jumping is most efficient, can’t move legs independently, fast twitch fibers for speed, slow twitch for grazing

Describe how your favorite animal might compete with another animal. Would it win all the time? (Not always, but it’s more likely to win because of ability(s) described above). Cheetah races with pronghorn/gazelle (predator-prey), kangaroos box with each other, gorillas/elephants compete for territory
After the Animal Olympics, journalist Terry Turtle got the inside scoop. Terry asked gold medalists key questions about what makes them excellent athletes. Long jumper Karen Kangaroo accidentally knocked the notecards out of Terry’s hands. Karen drew arrows to her answers, but now Terry is stuck! Can you help Terry write his article by deciding which champions gave the answers below?

Q: What is your favorite pre-game meal?

- Mostly raw meat
- I’m a veggie kind of kid!

Q: Is flexibility a regular part of your routine?

- I have flexible parts
- My whole body is bendy, so that I can take long steps

Q: Are you part of a team or an individual sport?

- I don’t go anywhere without my buddies!
- I usually work alone

Q: What kind of muscle fibers are most important for your survival?

- Red, slow twitch fibers
- Both red and white!
- White, fast twitch fibers

Q: Why did you first start competing?

- To not get eaten!
- Safety, food gathering!
- Harsh environment, saves energy!
- To catch food!

What do the four animal Olympians pictured do best? Use the space below to write your answers.
After the summer Olympics, we interviewed many of the participants for our magazine. Below, you can read about how our gold medalists answered key questions about what makes them excellent athletes. But, someone dropped our notecards and we mixed up the answers. Draw in the lines below to help us write the inside scoop on your favorites!!

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- I'm a veggie kind of kid!

Q: Is flexibility a regular part of your routine?
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- My whole body is bendy, so that I can take long steps

Q: Are you part of a team or an individual sport?
- I don't go anywhere without my buddies!
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Q: Why did you first start competing?
- To not get eaten! Safety, food gathering!
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- To catch food!

What do the four animal Olympians pictured do best? Use the space below to write your answers.

Distance running | Strong | Jumping | Speed