

MEET THE WILD DOG

WORLD WILD DOG DAY

World Wild Dog Day is celebrated on **26 August** to raise awareness about African wild dogs and the importance of protecting them and their habitats.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Wild dogs can reach top sprinting speeds of up to about **70 km per hour**. Our real advantage is that we can keep running for long distances, helping the whole pack catch its prey.

Are you better at running short distances or long distances?

MY NAME

African wild dogs are also called “painted dogs” because of our colourful coats. Each wild dog's unique markings help scientists identify individual animals in the wild.

What different colours and patterns can you see on the wild dogs' coats?

ABOUT ME

I am an African wild dog, one of Africa's most successful hunters. My colourful coat has a unique pattern, just like a human fingerprint. No two wild dogs look exactly the same!

**How are you similar to your friends?
How are you different?**

MY FAMILY

We live in groups called packs. A pack is usually made up of one breeding pair, their pups and other adult helpers. Everyone works together to care for the pups and hunt for food.

How do you work together with your family or friends?

WHY WE ARE IMPORTANT

Wild dogs help keep nature in balance. We usually hunt older, weaker or sick animals, helping healthy herds grow stronger.

Why is it important to keep nature in balance?



DID YOU KNOW?

Wild dogs have only four toes on each front foot, while most dogs have five.

Wild dogs make a deep “hoo” sound to help keep the pack together.

When a hunt is successful, the pups get to eat first.

Would you rather have excellent hearing, be part of a great team or always get to eat first?

OUR BIGGEST THREATS

African wild dogs are endangered, which means there are very few of us left in the wild and we need help to survive.

Our biggest threats are:

- Losing our homes in the wild.
- Catching diseases from pet dogs.
- Being seen as dangerous by humans, when we are not.

We can all help protect wild dogs by looking after nature and learning more about wildlife.

WHAT DO WE LIKE TO EAT?

We are carnivores, which means we eat meat. We work together to hunt animals such as impala, springbok and other bucks.

**Do you eat meat?
Why/Why not?**