

ALL ABOUT MEERKATS!

MEERKATS LESSON PLAN
Week at a Glance:
Day One: Intro to Meerkats
Day Two: Meerkat Habitats
Day Three: What do Meerkats Eat?
Day Four: Meerkat Predators & How to Protect Them

MEERKATS LESSON PLAN
Day One: Intro to Meerkats
Objective: The students will be able to identify characteristics and physical traits of meerkats.

MEERKATS LESSON PLAN: DAY ONE
Introduction (5 minutes)
Teacher Says: This week we are going to learn about meerkats. How are they different from other animals that live in the desert? They are small and they have dark stripes on their backs and long tails.

MEERKATS VOCABULARY MATCH UP

pup	ways an animal protects itself
defence	a group of meerkats
mob	a hole or tunnel where meerkats live
burrow	a baby meerkat

MEERKATS MEERKATS
can are
have

MEERKATS HABITATS
Directions: In the circles below, write down Four Facts about meerkat habitats.

MEERKATS
Definition:
Sentence:
Picture:

MEERKATS
Meerkats have large ears.
Meerkats are mammals.
Meerkats are as large as a lion.
Meerkats have dark circles around their eyes.
Meerkats are reptiles.
They have sharp claws for digging.
They have long tails.



A COMPREHENSIVE FIVE DAY UNIT ALL ABOUT MEERKATS!

Includes lesson plans, graphic organizers, craft ideas, projects, comprehension questions and more!

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT



MEERKATS

LESSON PLAN

Week at a Glance:

Day One: Intro to
Meerkats

Day Two: Meerkat Habitats

Day Three: What do
Meerkats Eat?

Day Four: Meerkat Families

Day Five: Meerkat
Predators & How They
Protect Themselves



MEERKATS

LESSON PLAN



Day One: Intro to Meerkats

Objective: The students will be able to identify characteristics and physical traits of meerkats.

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LESSON PLAN: DAY ONE

Introduction (5 minutes):

Teacher Says: This week we are going to be learning about meerkats! What do you already know about meerkats? What do they look like? Meerkats are small furry mammals that typically live in the dry grasslands and deserts of Southern Africa. They are most well known for standing up on their back legs to look around! They have tan, or light brown fur, dark stripes on their back and dark patches around their eyes. They also have small, round ears, pointed noses & long tails.

MEERKATS

Lesson (20 minutes):

*The teacher will read, "Meerkats (National Geographic Kids Readers, Level 1)" Questions to ask during/after reading - What do meerkats look like? Where do they live? What do they eat? Why do meerkats dig burrows? Why do they stand on their back legs? What was the most interesting thing you learned from the book?

*Guide the students in completing the "Meerkats can, have, are" graphic organizer attached below.

Independent Work (10 minutes)

*The students will complete the "Fact or Fiction?" worksheet attached below. They will color in facts about meerkats in green and untrue statements in red.

Closing (5 minutes)

*With small groups or as a class, review together the "Fact or Fiction?" worksheet attached.

MEERKATS

MEERKATS

can

are



have

MEERKATS

FACT OR FICTION?

Directions: Color the facts in green. Color statements that are fiction in red.

Meerkats
are
mammals.

Meerkats
have giant
ears.

Meerkats
are small
and
furry.

Meerkats
are as large
as a lion.

Meerkats
have dark
circles around
their eyes.

Meerkats
are
reptiles.

They
have sharp
claws for
digging.

They
have long
tails.

MEERKATS



LESSON PLAN



Day Two: Meerkat Habitats

Objective: The students will be able to identify where meerkats live and what they need in their habitats to survive.



LESSON PLAN: DAY TWO

Introduction (5 minutes):

Teacher Says: Today, we are going to investigate more about meerkat habitats. What is a habitat? A habitat is where an animal lives and gets their food. Meerkats usually live in dry habitats, like deserts, grasslands & savannas in southern Africa. They use their sharp claws to dig burrows underground where they rest, stay safe from predators and stay cool in hot temperatures. The burrows even have tunnels where multiple meerkats can live in the same burrow.

MEERKATS

Lesson (15 minutes):

*The students will watch the video, "Meerkat Mischief" from National Geographic -
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4og8g_X22o



*In small groups, students will complete the "Meerkat Habitats" worksheet attached below. They will write four facts about meerkat habitats.

Independent Work (10 minutes)

*The students will independently draw a meerkat habitat on the attached blank worksheet. Label food, shelter and protection.

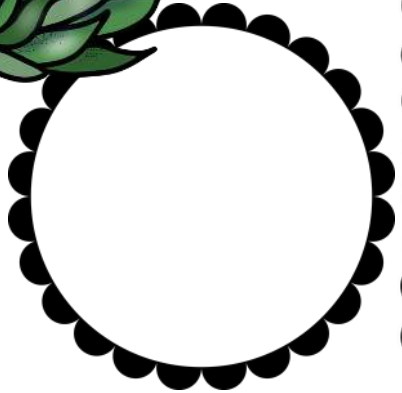
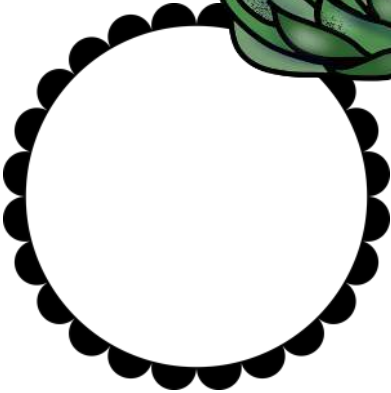
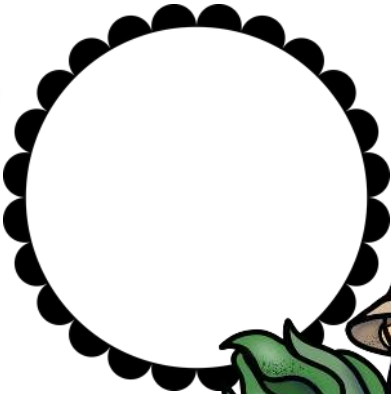
Closing (5 minutes)

*The students will share their habitat with their small groups or with a partner.

MEERKATS

MEERKAT HABITATS

Directions: In the circles below, write down four facts about meerkat habitats.



MEERKATS

A Meerkat Habitat



MEERKATS

LESSON PLAN



Day Three: What Meerkats Eat

Objective: The students will be able to identify what meerkats eat and how they get their food.

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LESSON PLAN: DAY THREE

Introduction (5 minutes):

Teacher Says: Today, we will explore more about what meerkats eat. Make a prediction: Do you think they are herbivores, carnivores, or omnivores? Meerkats are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and animals. Their favorite foods are insects, small animals like lizards or scorpions, eggs from birds or reptiles and roots and plants. They are very good hunters, as well, searching in large groups, using their sharp senses and digging skills! They work as a team, with some looking for food and some keeping look out for predators.

MEERKATS

Lesson (15 minutes):

*The teacher will read the book, "The Nature Kid's Guide to Meerkats: A Level 2 Reader for Curious Young Kids Who Love Meerkats". Questions to ask after reading - What do meerkats eat? How do they find their food? How do they work as a team?

*The teacher will guide the students in completing the "Vocabulary Square" activity worksheet attached below. They will define the word, "", use the word in a sentence and draw a picture to match the word.

Independent Work (10 minutes)

*The students will complete the "Meerkat Unscramble" attached below. Each word is associated with what a meerkat eats.

Closing (5 minutes)

*The teacher will give each student a sticky note or index card. They will write three things that meerkats eat!

MEERKATS

VOCABULARY SQUARE

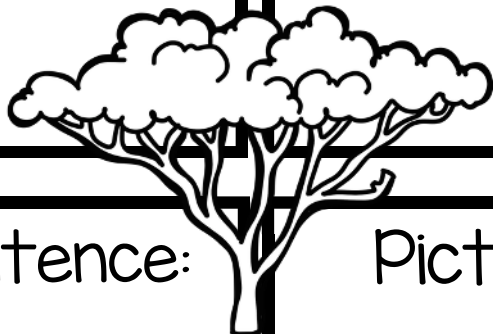
Word:

omnivore

Definition:

Sentence:

Picture:



MEERKATS

MEERKAT UNSCRAMBLE

Directions: Unscramble each word associated with a meerkat's diet.

S P O I N S C R O

E G S G

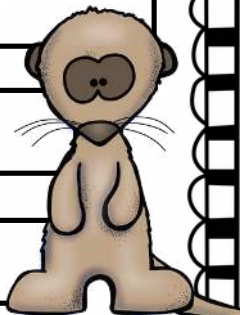
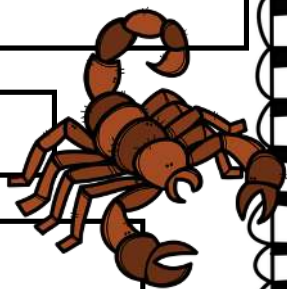
I N C T E S S

O M N V R O E I

L Z A R I S D

R T O O S

N P L A T S



MEERKATS

LESSON PLAN



Day Four: Meerkat Families

Objective: The students will be able to describe the different roles in a meerkat family.

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LESSON PLAN: DAY FOUR

Introduction (5 minutes):

Teacher Says: Today, we are going to be learning more about meerkat families. Meerkats are very social animals and live in large groups called mobs. They can have anywhere from 10 to 50 meerkats in their "mob". Families work together as a team to find food, stay safe from predators, dig burrows, teach young meerkats different skills and watching out for danger. Baby meerkats are called pups. They usually stay underground for the first few weeks of their life and are cared for by the adult meerkats.

MEERKATS

Lesson (15 minutes):

*The students will watch the video, "What's it Like to be a Meerkat?" - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_dmZnyhBlw

*After the video, ask the students to share three things they learned with a partner.

*The teacher will guide the students in completing the "Vocabulary Match Up", defining the words - pup, mob, defense and burrow.

Independent Work (10 minutes)

*The students will use the template attached below to write a 4-5 sentence paragraph about meerkat families.

Closing (5 minutes)

*In partners, the students will share their paragraphs with each other.

MEERKATS

VOCABULARY MATCH UP



pup



defense



mob



burrow

ways an
animal
protects itself

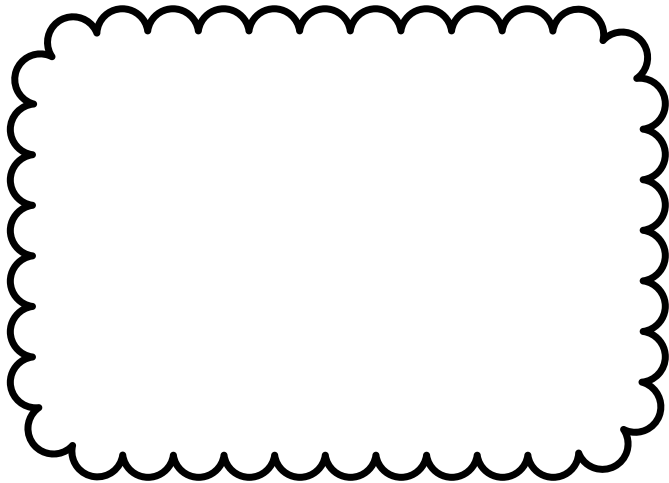
a group of
meerkats

a hole or tunnel
where
meerkats live

a baby
meerkat

MEERKATS

MEERKAT FAMILIES



Four sets of horizontal dashed lines for writing, each set consisting of a solid top line and a dashed middle line, with a solid bottom line. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page.

MEERKATS

LESSON PLAN



Day Five: Meerkat Predators and Protection

Objective: The students will be able to identify predators of meerkats and how they protect themselves.

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LESSON PLAN: DAY FIVE

Introduction (5 minutes):

Teacher Says: What is a predator? A predator is an animal that hunts another animal. What kinds of animals in the African savanna or grasslands do you think hunt meerkats? How do you think they stay safe? Meerkats have a few main predators including birds of prey, like hawks or eagles, snakes and other small carnivores like jackals. However, there are many ways they stay safe - living in a large group, they have a "lookout" to stand guard, they use warning calls, & go inside their burrow to hide underground.

MEERKATS

Lesson (15 minutes):

*The teacher will read, "Meet the Meerkat". Questions to read during/after reading - Why is living in groups important for meerkats? How do they work together as a team? What do you think would happen if they didn't work together? How do they stay safe from predators? If you were a meerkat, what would you want your job to be? Would you want to live in a meerkat mob? Why or why not?

Independent Work (10 minutes)

*The students will complete the "Meerkat Quick Check" attached below to assess understanding from the lesson.

Closing (5 minutes)

*The students will discuss with the class what their favorite part of the unit was!

MEERKATS

MEERKAT QUICK CHECK

1. What are examples animals that hunt meerkats?

2. How do meerkats watch for predators?

3. How else do meerkats protect themselves from predators?
