



National Geographic Readers: Meerkats

By: Laura Marsh

Welcome to the wacky world of meerkats, where groups of these furry friends team up to survive in the wild.

5-7	5-20 mins	320L	2.1
Age Range	Length	Lexile [®] Measure	AR Level

Meerkats

Laura Marsh



Washington, D.C.

公众号：Wecancan

What Are They?

They have fun, just like you.
They work, play, and rest, too.

They dig in the sand
and lie in the sun.

Most often you'll find
more than one!

What are they? Meerkats!

All About Meerkats

Meerkats are funny to look at. Sometimes they stand on their back legs. Their paws hang down in front.

Meerkats belong to the mongoose family. They live in the desert. It is hot and dry there.



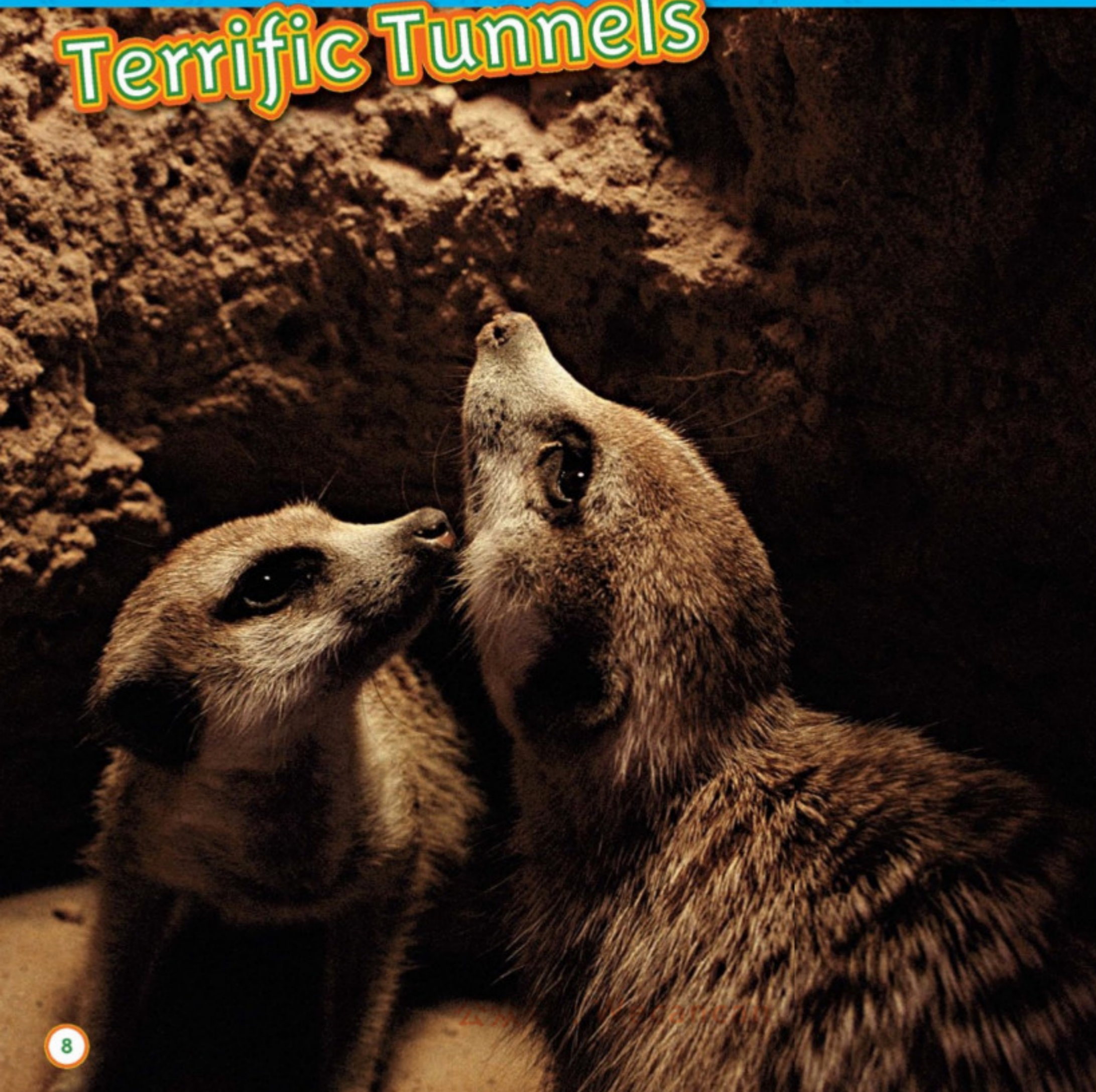
yellow mongoose

Wild Word

MONGOOSE: A furry animal with a long body and tail. It lives in Africa and Asia.



Terrific Tunnels



Q

What do you call a meerkat at the North Pole?

Lost!

A

A meerkat's home is under the ground.

It is called a burrow.

Long tunnels lead to rooms. Meerkats sleep in the burrow at night.

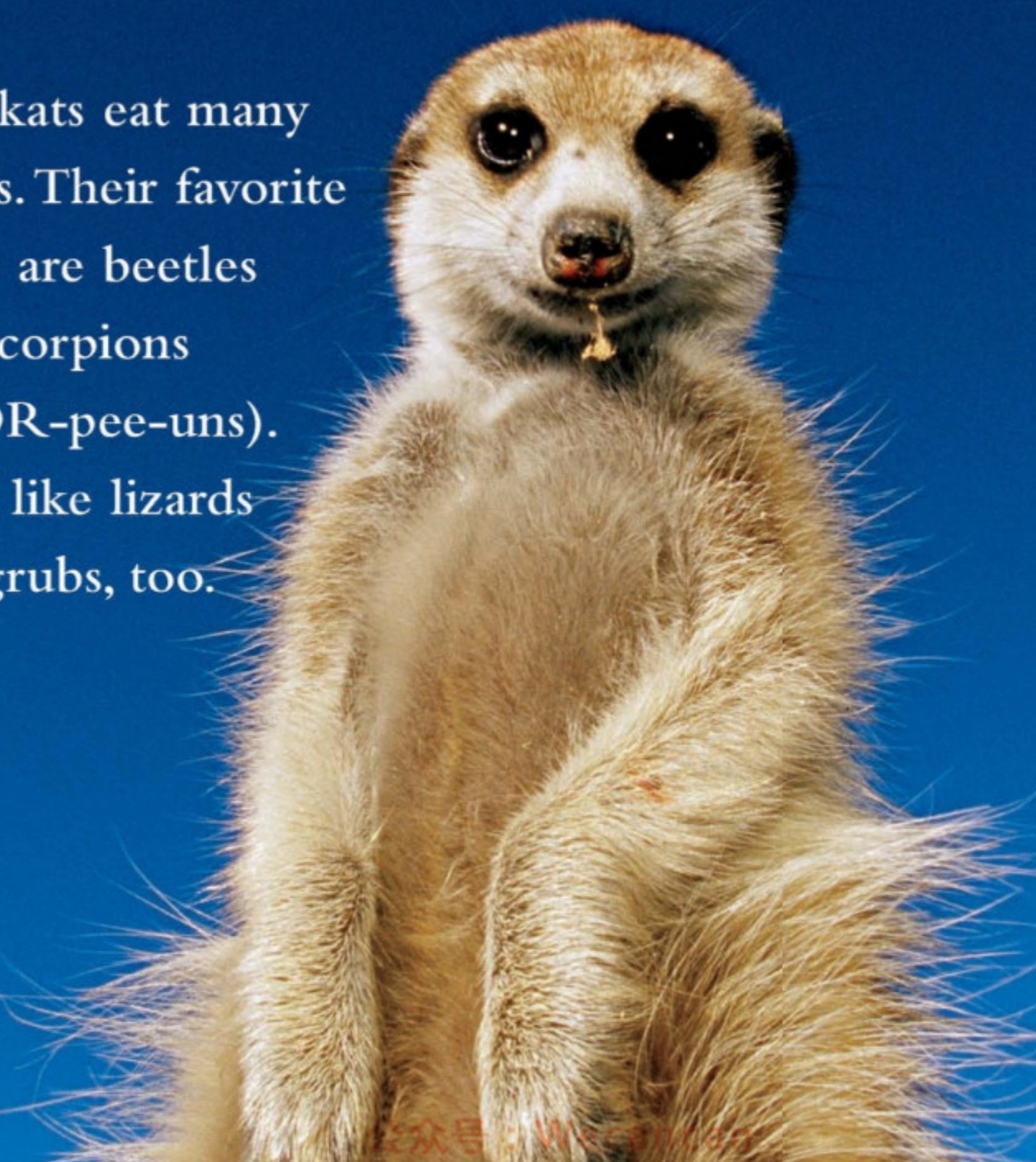
Wild Word

BURROW: A hole or tunnel that an animal digs to use as a home



On the Menu

Meerkats eat many things. Their favorite foods are beetles and scorpions (SKOR-pee-uns). They like lizards and grubs, too.





How does a meerkat stop the DVD from playing?

It presses the PAWS button!



How do meerkats find most of their food? They dig for it!



What makes a super-fast digger? Long, curvy claws and four digging paws.

挖洞 We canan

Big Family

Meerkats live in a big group.

A few families live all together.

The group is called a mob.

Meerkats work and rest together.

They also play and sleep together.



公众号: Wecancan



A Job to Do

Every meerkat has a job. Each job helps the group.

babysitter

Babysitters

Most of the adults are out hunting. Young meerkats need care. So babysitters watch over them.

Babysitters comfort little ones.



How do meerkats celebrate Christmas?

With SANDY CLAWS!



Guards

Guards watch for predators (PRED-uh-turs). They stand on a hill, rock, or tree.

The guards make a loud peeping sound. This warns the others. Look out!

Wild Word

PREDATOR: An animal that hunts and eats other animals



Q Why do meerkats make bad storytellers?

A Because they only have one tail!



Teachers

Teachers show young meerkats how to find a meal. They show them how to eat it, too.

Feeders

Babies need milk. Mothers and other females in the mob feed the babies. The feeders take turns.



Cool Facts 7 About Meerkats

1



Meerkats sometimes share their homes with yellow mongooses (above).

2



Meerkats have great noses! They can smell food that's under the sand.

3



Meerkats like to snuggle. It keeps them warm. And they like to stick together.

4



Meerkats lie in the sun to warm up.

5



A meerkat can dig hundreds of holes in one morning!

6



A meerkat burrow usually has about 15 rooms.

7



A meerkat is about the size of a squirrel.

Pups

Meerkat babies are called pups.
They are born with their
eyes closed.



The pups grow fast! They run
and dig. Soon the pups will be
all grown up.



Staying Safe

Meerkats know what to do when a predator arrives. Sometimes, they stand together. They show their teeth and hiss. This might scare off the predator.

Other times, meerkats just run. They hide in a bolt hole.

Wild Word

BOLT HOLE: A hole in the ground where meerkats run to hide from danger. It's wide enough to fit many meerkats at once.





What's a baby meerkat's favorite movie snack?

pop-corn!



Meerkats are fun to watch.
But what's extra special
about them?

Meerkats help each other!
Sticking together keeps them safe.



公众号: Wecancan

What in the World?

These pictures are up-close views of things in a meerkat's world. Use the hints to figure out what's in the pictures. Answers are on page 31.

WORD BANK

claws eyes beetle fur lizard nose



HINT: Meerkats have black circles around these.



HINT: An animal with bumpy skin that meerkats like to eat



HINT: These help meerkats make holes.



HINT: Hair that covers an animal



HINT: A favorite snack for meerkats



HINT: Meerkats have one. So do you.

Answers: 1. eyes, 2. lizard, 3. claws, 4. fur, 5. beetle, 6. nose



BOLT HOLE: A hole in the ground where meerkats run to hide from danger. It's wide enough to fit many meerkats at once.



BURROW: A hole or tunnel that an animal digs to use as a home



MONGOOSE: A furry animal with a long body and tail. It lives in Africa and Asia.



PREDATOR: An animal that hunts and eats other animals