

Nonfiction

Meerkat Family

by Donna Loughran



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PAIRED
READ

Poetry

STRATEGIES & SKILLS

Comprehension

Strategy: Reread

Skill: Main Topic and Key
Details

Phonics

Ending consonant blends:
nd, nk, nt, st, sk, mp

High-Frequency Words

eat, no, of, under, who

Content Standards

Science

Life Science

Word count: 232**

Photography Credit: Cover; Ed Reschke/Peter Arnold/Getty Images.

**The total word count is based on words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in captions, labels, diagrams, charts, and sidebars are not included.



Education

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A



Essential Question

Where do animals live together?



Meerkat Family

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**PAIRED
READ**

Poetry: I Live in a House! . . . 13

Meet the meerkat family!
They live in Africa.
Aren't they cute?





Meerkats have spotted fur.
Their noses are ink black.
They have a dark mask
around their bright eyes.



See the meerkats sit up!
They have long tails that
help them stand.
What do these meerkats see?
It may be a bird.

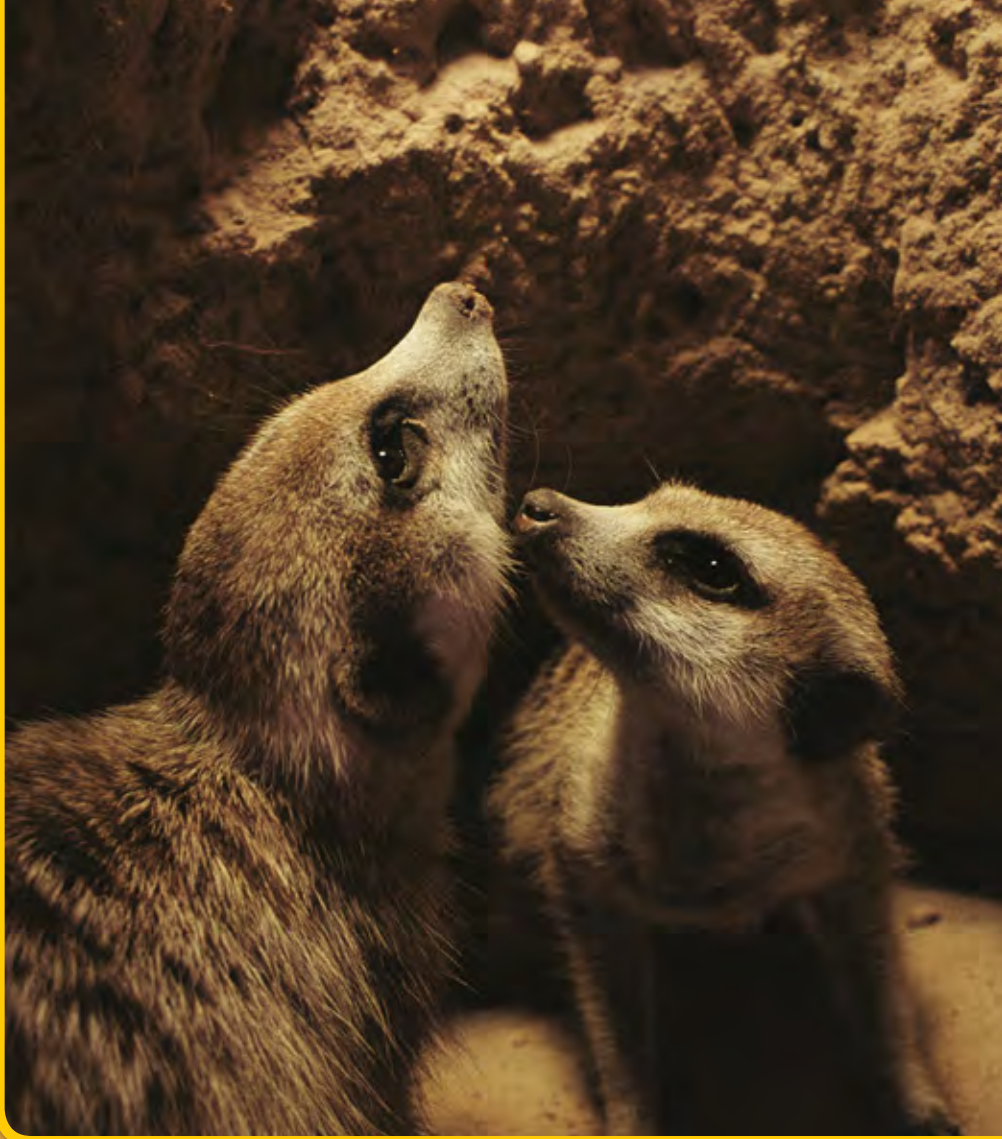




Some birds hunt meerkats for food. The meerkats keep watch. Meerkats hunt for food too. They eat bugs and plants. They eat small animals too!

Can you close your ears?
No? Meerkats can!
This keeps out the
desert sand.





Meerkats dig burrows.
A burrow is a home
under the ground.

A burrow has many rooms.
It may be hot outside,
but the rooms stay cool.



Meerkats rest in burrows.
They have their babies
there too.



Nigel Dennis/Gallo Images/Getty Images, Martin Harvey/Peter Arnold/Getty Images

Who takes care of the babies? The adults do! They sit and watch the babies.



The babies learn to hide.
They learn to jump and run.
They are safe with their
meerkat family!

Bobby Jo Clow/Flickr/Getty Images



Respond to Reading

Retell

Use the chart to retell *Meerkat Family*.

Main Topic		
Detail	Detail	Detail

Text Evidence

1. Look at page 2. Where do meerkats live? **Main Topic and Key Details**
2. Look at page 9. Where do meerkats have their babies? **Main Topic and Key Details**
3. Is *Meerkat Family* a pretend story or is it real? Why? **Genre**



Compare Texts

Read about the different places people and animals live.

I Live in a House!



Who is that under
the house?

Look! I see a little mouse!
See *my* house by the tree.
I live there with my family!



Marilyn Janovitz

People live in many places.
Animals live in wild spaces.
Fish swim and live at sea.
But I live with my family!

I wish I could sail away,
To see all the whales
at play!
Then I'd sail home to see
My happy little family!



Marilyn Janovitz



Make Connections

Where do animals and people live?

Text to Text

Focus on Science

Purpose To find out how and where animals live

What to Do

Step 1

Think about animals you see in your neighborhood. Think about where they live.

.....

Step 2

Draw a poster to show where animals in your neighborhood live.

.....

Step 3

Label the animals in your poster.

Conclusion Talk about your poster and tell what it shows.

Thinkmark

The Topic

What is *Meerkat Family* mostly about?

Conclusions

What did you learn about how meerkats live?

Make Connections

In *I Live in a House!* you read about where different animals live. Where do you live?