

Name _____



All About Meerkat Habitats

Meerkats are small mammals that live in the dry, open regions of southern Africa. These fascinating animals can be found in countries like Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Angola. They thrive in arid environments such as deserts and semi-desert regions where the ground is sandy and easy to dig. The Kalahari Desert is one

of the most well-known habitats for meerkats.

Meerkats prefer open areas with few trees. This kind of landscape allows them to keep a clear lookout for predators while they forage for food. They live in underground burrows that they dig themselves. These burrows have many tunnels and chambers, providing a safe place to sleep, hide from predators, and care for their young.

The burrows are very important for meerkats because the desert can get extremely hot during the day and very cold at night. The underground tunnels help keep the temperature comfortable. Meerkats often dig their burrows near termite mounds, which provide additional shelter and food sources.

Meerkats live in groups called mobs or clans, often made up of 20 to 40 individuals. Living together helps them stay safe because they take turns keeping watch for predators like hawks, eagles, and snakes. If a predator is spotted, the meerkat on guard will sound an alarm call, and the rest will quickly retreat into their burrows.

These social animals also work together to find food. They are omnivores and eat insects, small mammals, fruits, and plants. Their excellent sense of smell helps them find food hidden under the sand.