

Name _____

How Do Meerkats Move?



Meerkats are small mammals that are known for their agility and speed. They do not fly or swim but rely on running and climbing to move around their environment. Living in the deserts and grasslands of southern Africa, meerkats need to be able to move quickly to escape predators and find food.

Meerkats are excellent runners. They have long, slender bodies and powerful legs, which help them run swiftly across sandy terrain. When they sense danger, meerkats can sprint up to 20 miles per hour for short distances. This speed allows them to quickly return to the safety of their burrows.

In addition to running, meerkats are skilled climbers. They often climb small rocks or mounds of earth to get a better view of their surroundings. Climbing helps meerkats spot predators from a distance and keep watch for danger. However, they are not built for climbing tall trees or steep surfaces.

Meerkats also use a special technique called bipedal standing. This means they can stand on their hind legs for long periods. Standing upright helps them get a clearer view of their environment while keeping their front paws free for balance.

Their movement is both efficient and purposeful. Whether running, climbing, or standing tall, meerkats use their skills to stay safe and work together as a group.