My Meerkat Fact File

Read the meerkat fact page, then fill in your fact file.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Draw a meerkat

Meerkat facts

Size: _____

Weight: _____

Lifespan: _____

Diet: _____

Habitat: _____

Where: _____

Status: _____

Match the word to its meaning

1. mob ____	A. an animal that keeps watch for danger while the others feed
2. sentinel ____	B. a family of small, quick carnivores that includes the meerkat
3. burrow ____	C. a system of underground tunnels where meerkats sleep and hide
4. dominant ____	D. the top-ranking animal in a group, often the main parent
5. mongoose ____	E. a family group of meerkats that lives and works together

The most amazing thing I learned about meerkats

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Answer Key

Meerkat Fact File

Meerkat facts

Scientific name:	Suricata suricatta
Size:	10–14 in body + 7–10 in tail
Weight:	About 1.4–2.1 lb (0.6–1 kg)
Lifespan:	5–15 yrs wild; up to ~20 in zoos
Diet:	Insects, scorpions, lizards, eggs
Habitat:	Dry grassland, savanna and scrub
Where:	Southern Africa (Kalahari region)
Status:	IUCN Least Concern

Accept any answer that matches the fact page; sizes and lifespans are approximate.

Word match

1–E, 2–A, 3–C, 4–D, 5–B

Wow facts to share

- Meerkats take turns standing guard while the rest of the mob feeds.
- Grown-ups teach pups how to handle scorpions safely.
- Dark patches around the eyes help cut down glare from the sun.