There are few animals on Earth who work as well together as meerkats. These squirrel-size members of the mongoose family live in groups as large as 40, and everyone participates in gathering food, keeping a look out for predators, and taking care of the babies.

Meerkats have bushy, brown-striped fur, a small, pointed face, and large eyes surrounded by dark patches. They average about 20 inches long, including their tail. They live together in burrows, which they dig with their long, sharp claws. Living underground keeps them safe from predators and out of the harsh African sun.

Meerkats only go outside during the daytime. Each morning, as the sun comes up, they emerge and begin looking for food. They use their keen sense of smell to locate their favorite foods, which include beetles, caterpillars, spiders, and scorpions. They’ll also eat small reptiles, birds, eggs, fruit, and plants.
All About Meerkats

Name ____________________