

# MEEKKATS

SURICATAS

## Exhibit Search

The Maritime Aquarium's special "Meerkats" exhibit features six entertaining meerkats native to Africa's Kalahari Desert. It's part of the larger "Africa: From the Desert to the Sea" special exhibit. Bring this along on your next visit and use it to enhance your Exhibit Search encounter!

### Look for Meerkat Adaptations



Look for the black circles around their eyes. Just as a baseball player puts "eye black" under his eyes on a sunny day, the dark rings around the meerkats' eyes help them to see better in the desert sun.

Their front claws are long, but surprisingly flexible. They don't leave much of a scratch. But in desert sand, they're perfect for digging holes and exposing tasty bugs.



Watch their tails, and think about how they use them. Like ... when they stand up!



One meerkat is usually up on a log, acting as sentry lookout. You may see a sentry looking up. Sentries watch for hawks, one of their predators.

### Observing Behaviors



Though very active, the meerkats do nap. Look for some snuggled together into one big meerkat mass. They do this to look more like a rock than a sleeping meerkat vulnerable to predators.



Meerkats work together, when digging or taking turns being sentry. But when it comes to food, cooperation goes out the door. They become very defensive, fighting for each scrap.