

ALPHABET ZOO FACTSHEET

storytime™

Letter
M
Animals

MEERKAT



1. **Meerkats** live in southern Africa, where families share burrows with other families.
2. **Meerkat** families love moving house – they change burrows regularly.
3. While other **meerkats** forage for food, ‘sentries’ stand on guard looking for danger.
4. The skin on their tummies is black, so they can soak up the sun quickly and warm up after a cold night.
5. If a snake appears, **meerkats** gang up and attack it.

TRUE!

Meerkats have a special membrane on their eyes to protect them when they’re digging burrows.

1. The pygmy **marmoset** is the smallest monkey in the world.
2. The pygmy **marmoset**’s tail is longer than its body. It uses it to balance.
3. Mum and dad **marmoset** stay together for life and live in small family ‘troops’.
4. They have such high-pitched voices, they can make sounds humans can’t hear!
5. Their favourite food is tree sap. They can make over 1,000 holes in a single tree trying to get at its sap.

MARMOSET



CUTE!

A fully grown pygmy marmoset weighs about the same as a stick of butter.

MACAW



1. **Macaws** are large members of the parrot family. There are 17 macaw species, including the scarlet macaw.
2. **Macaw** males and females stay together for life. At night, they gather in large flocks to sleep.
3. Their beaks are so strong, they can easily crush a brazil nut.
4. Scarlet **macaws** can eat fruits that are toxic to other animals.
5. A macaw's tongue is dry and has a bone in it – perfect for crushing food!

FACT!

A scarlet macaw can live for up to 60 years – even longer in captivity.

1. Patagonian **maras** live on grasslands and scrublands in Argentina.
2. The **mara** is related to a guinea pig!
3. Unlike most rodents, they are active in the day and love basking in the sun.
4. Though small, they can reach speeds of 28 miles (45km) per hour.
5. This is another animal that, when it finds its perfect partner, they stay together forever.

FUNNY!

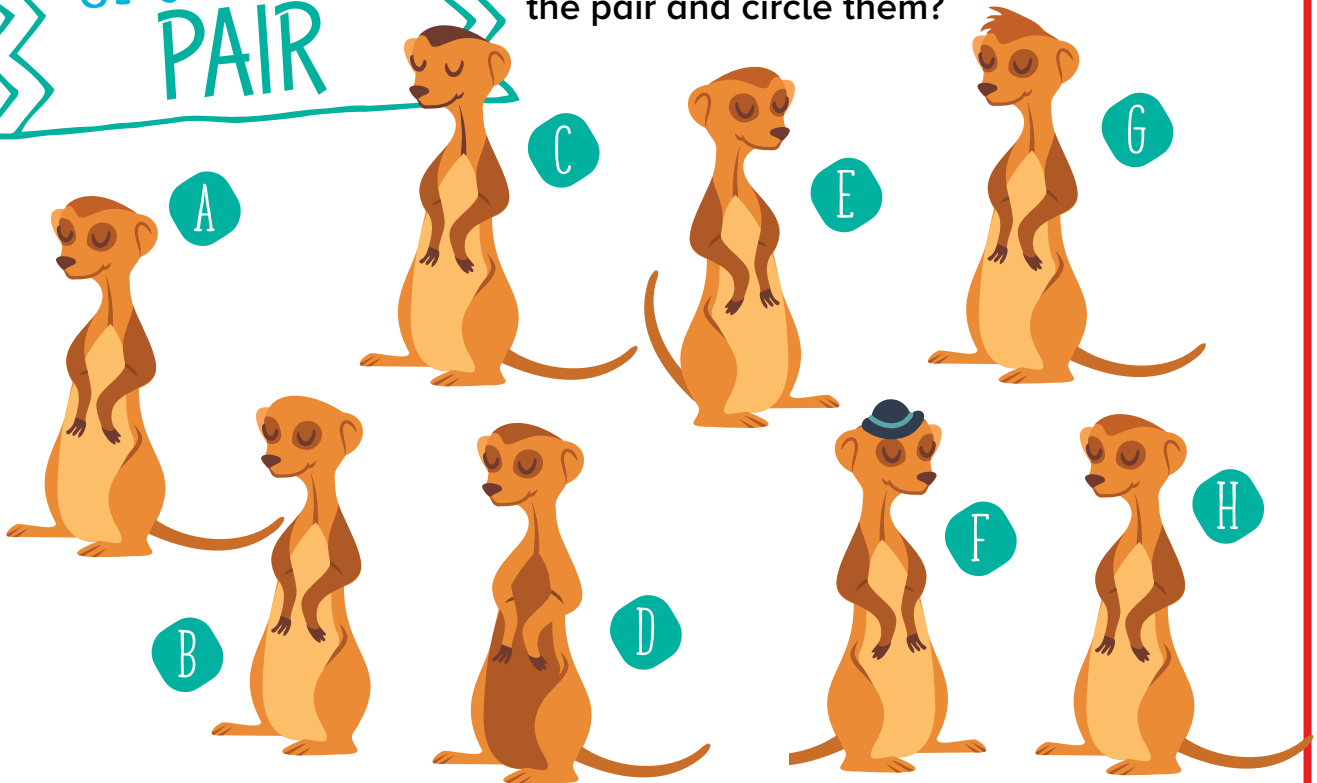
Maras do a special move called the 'stot', where they bounce around on all four legs at the same time.

MARA



SPOT THE PAIR

Only two of these meerkats are identical. Can you find the pair and circle them?



M IS FOR...

In one minute, write down as many words beginning with the letter M as you can think of!

4 TO 7 WORDS:

Great effort!

8 TO 10 WORDS:

Brilliant job!

11 OR MORE WORDS:

Word wizard!



RAINBOW MACAW

Colour in this scarlet macaw using all
the colours of the rainbow!



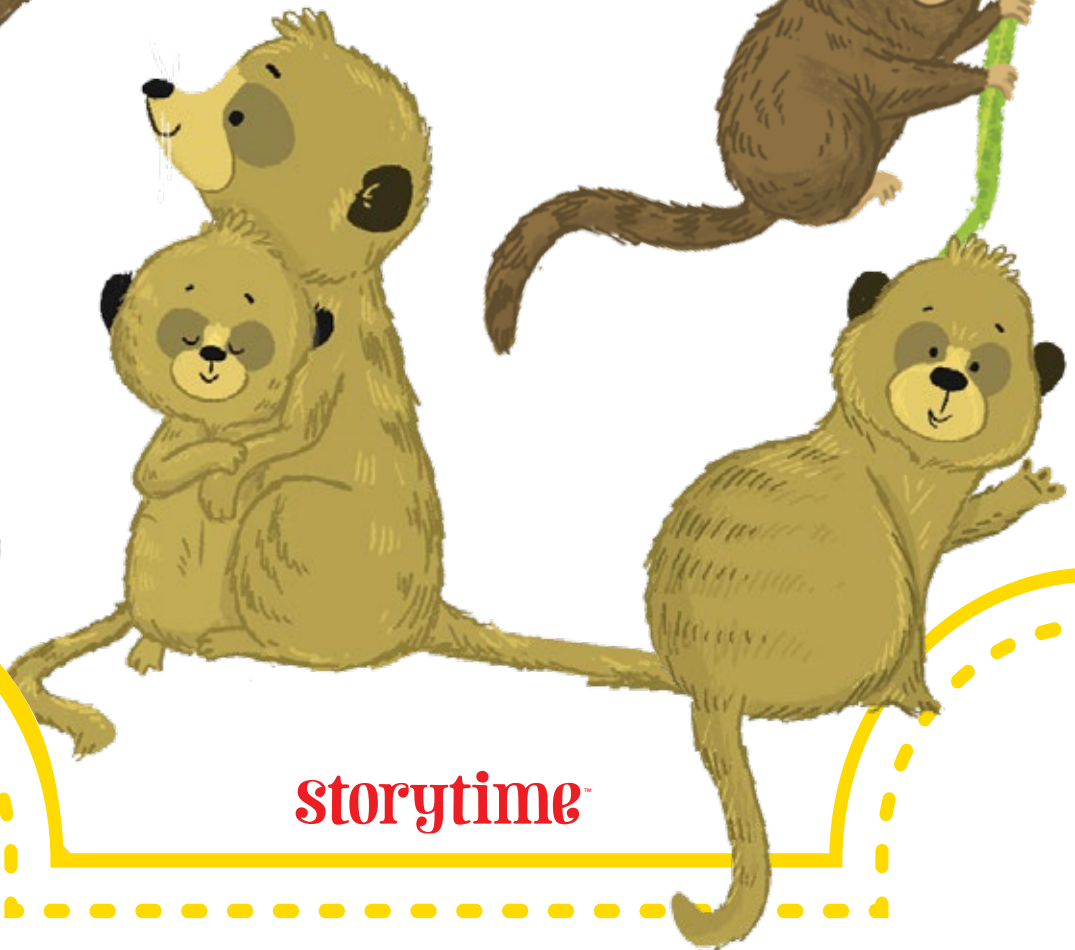
JOKE!

Why didn't the
meerkats let the kitten
join their game?

Because it was a
mere cat.

Mm

Meerkat
Marmoset
Macaw
Mara



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