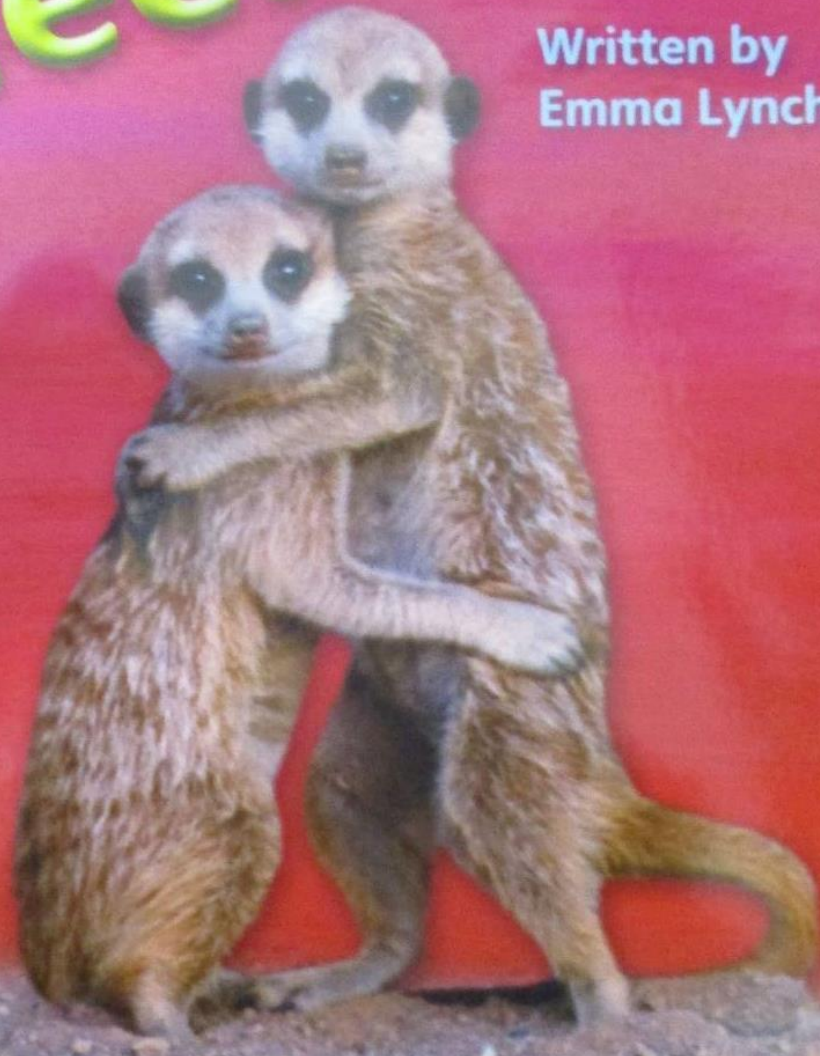


Meerkats

Written by
Emma Lynch



Tricky Words

lives

their

where

They

little

Tricky Words

eyes

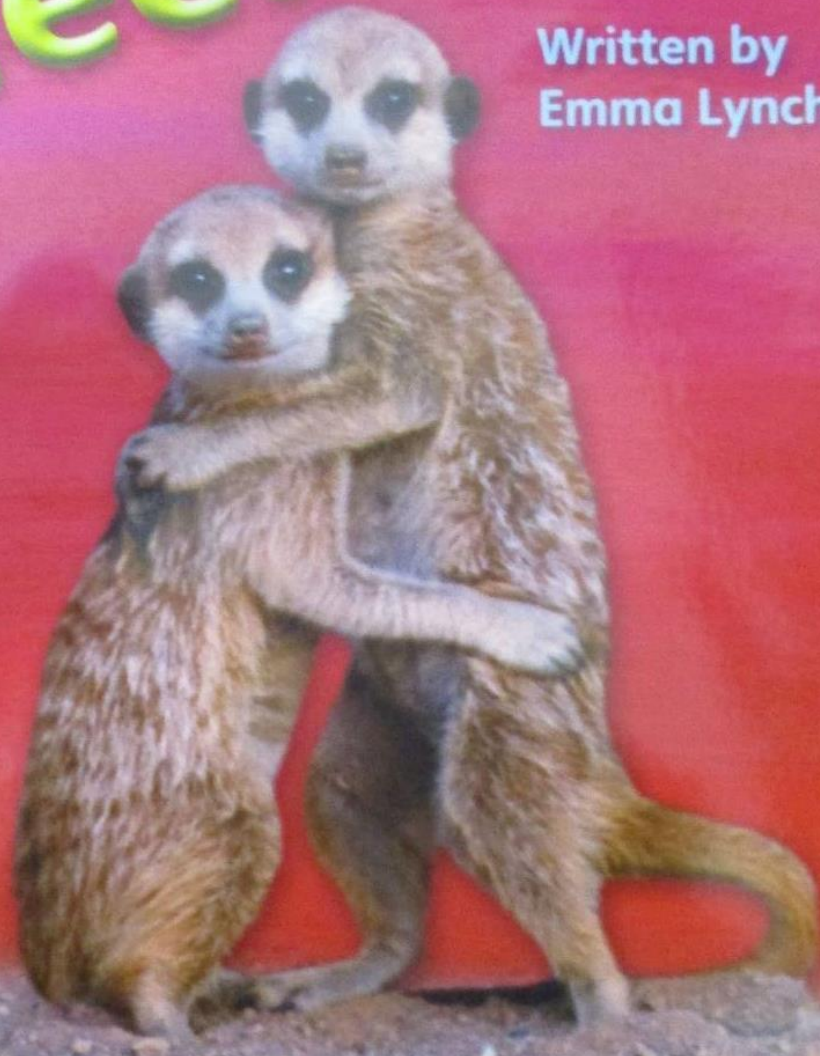
when

work

Beware

Meerkats

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Meet the meerkats

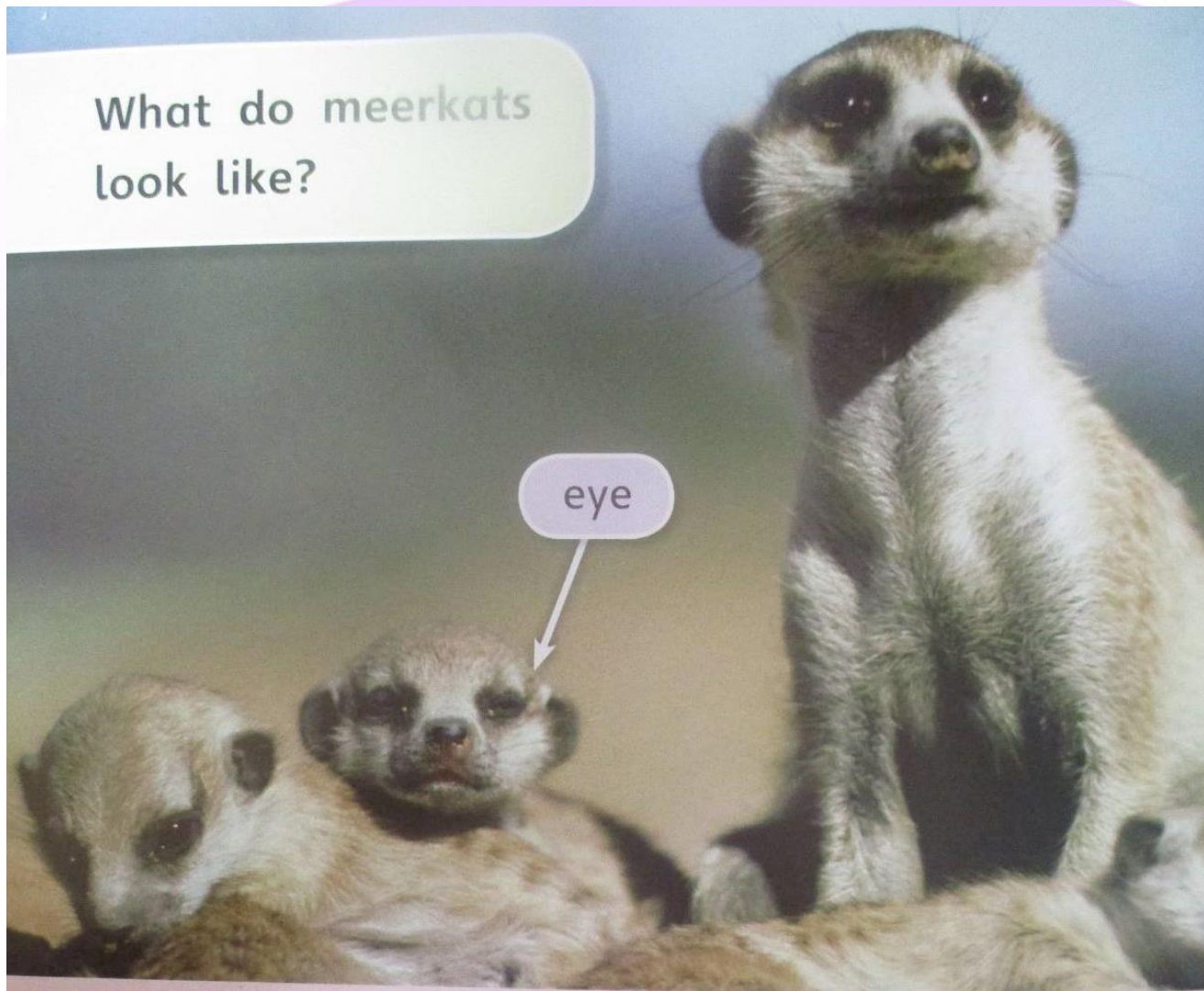


Here is a meerkat.
It is a **mammal** that lives in South Africa.

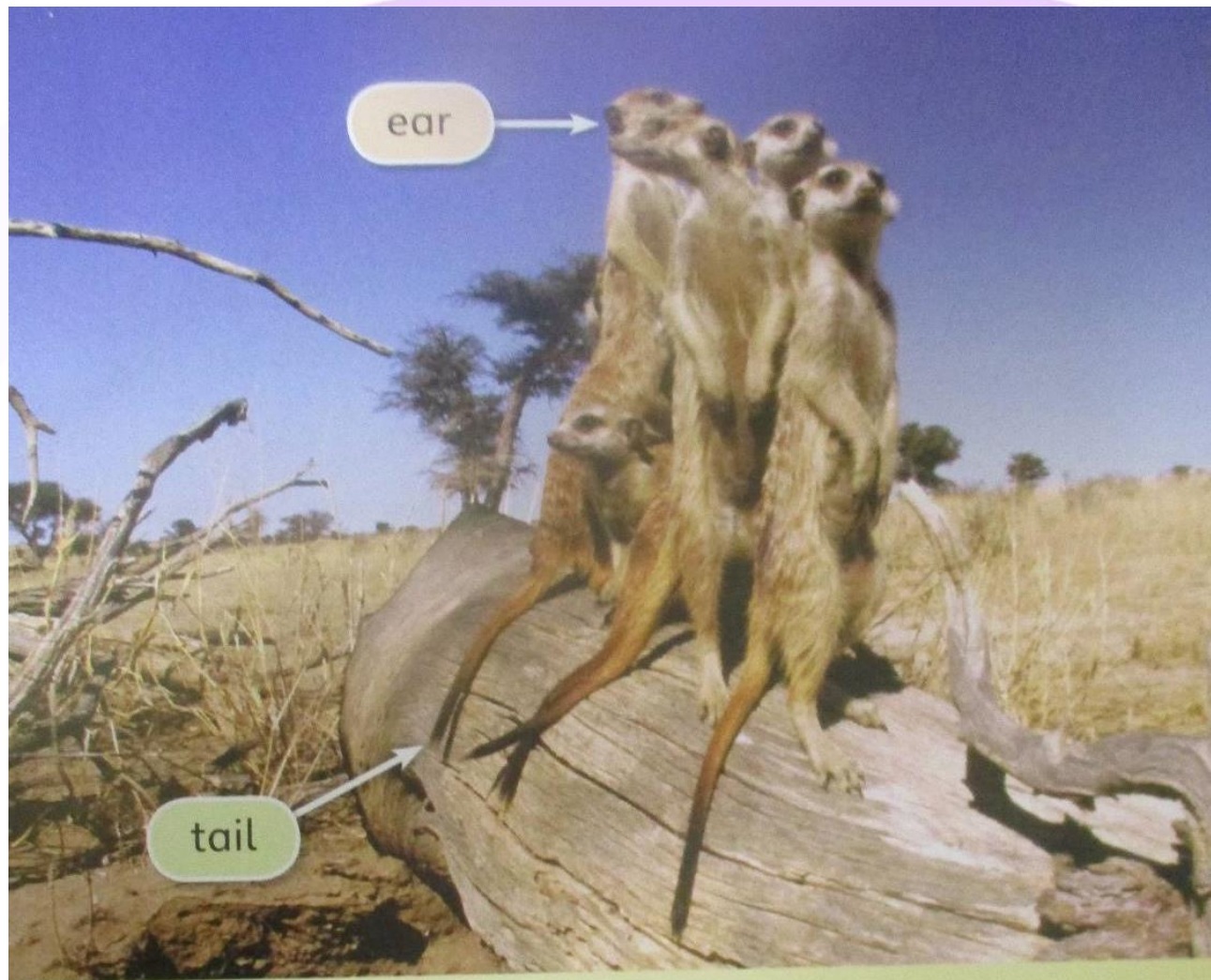


Let's look at a **mob** of meerkats.

What do meerkats look like?

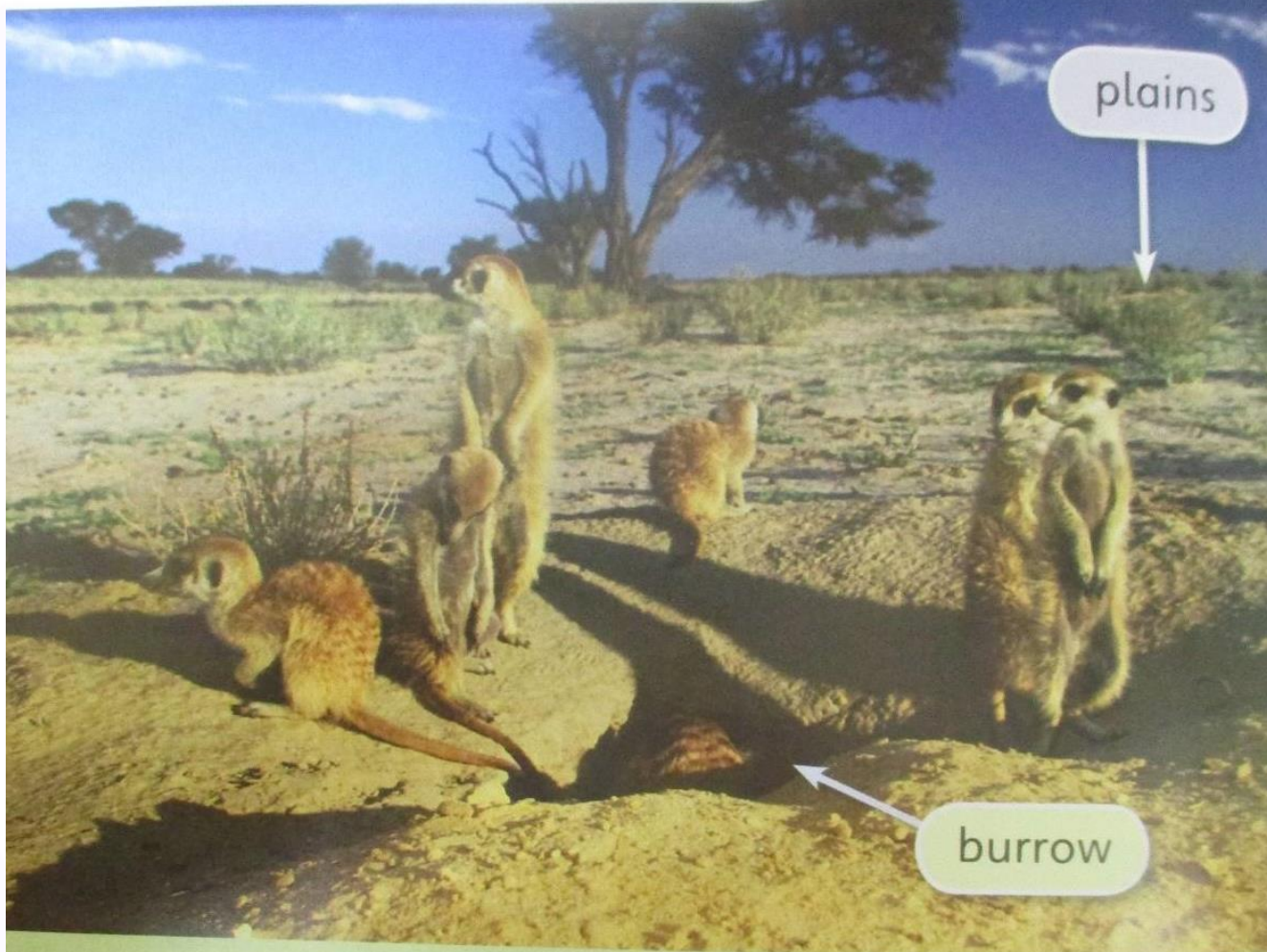


Meerkats are greyish brown and have black rings around their eyes.



Meerkats have a long body and short legs. They have round ears and a black tip to their tail.

Where do meerkats live?



Meerkats live in **burrows** on dry, sandy **plains**.

Baby meerkats
are safe in
the burrow.

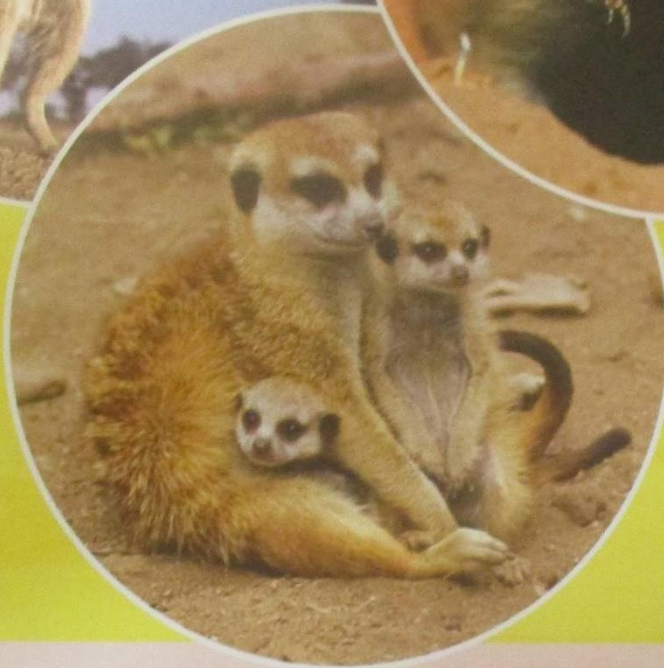
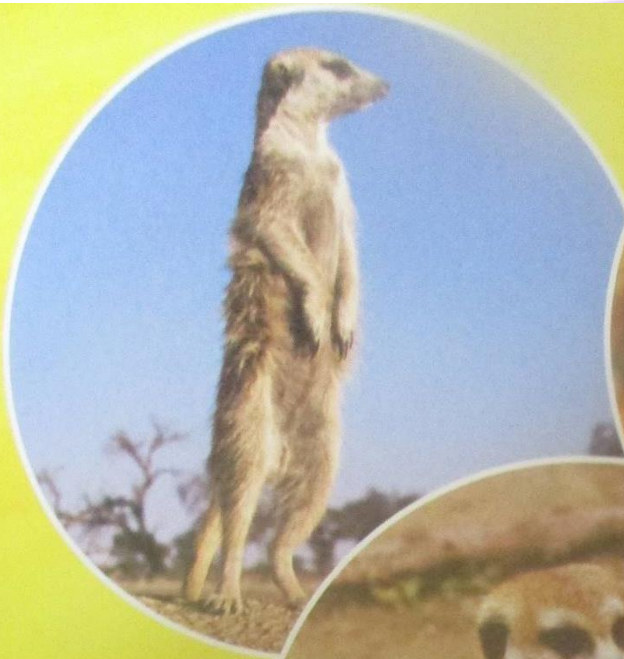


The meerkats dig tunnels and nests where
they can sleep in the burrow.

What do meerkats do?

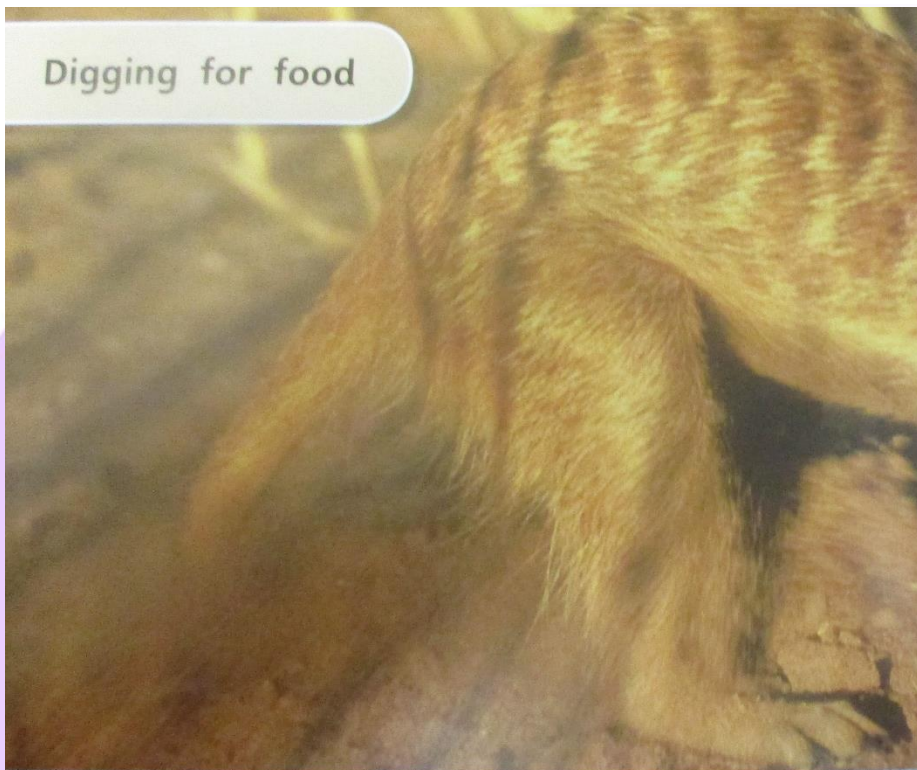


Meerkats stand in the morning sun to prepare for the day. Then the adult meerkats share the work with their friends.



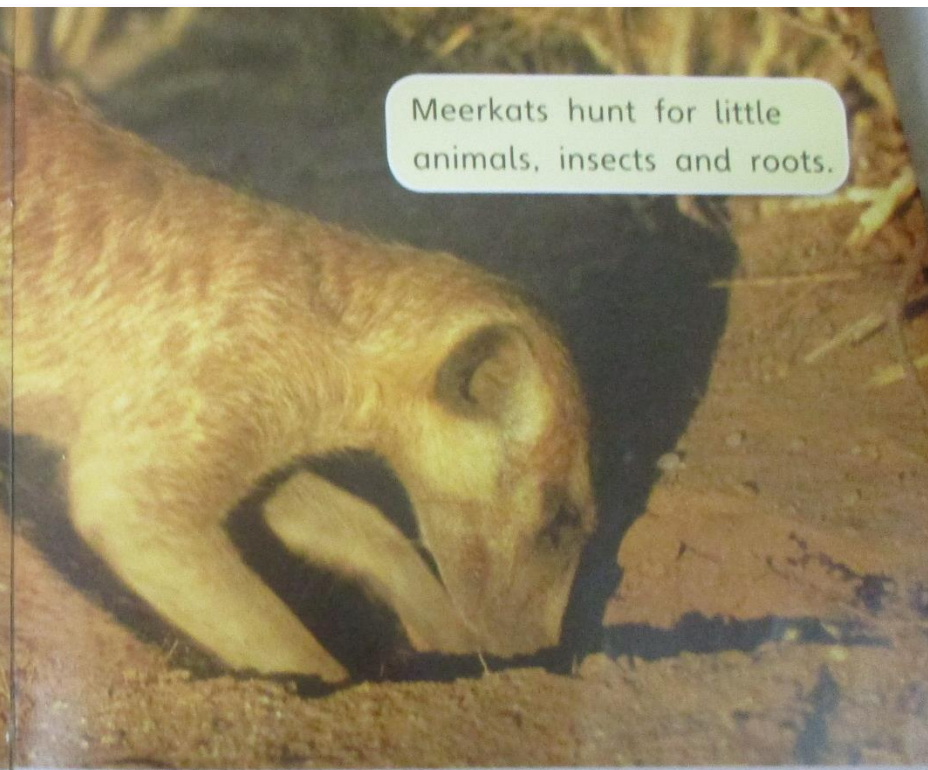
Some meerkats look out for **predators**.
Some take care of the babies.
They all hunt for food.

Digging for food



Meerkats tear through the sand to find food.

Meerkats hunt for little animals, insects and roots.



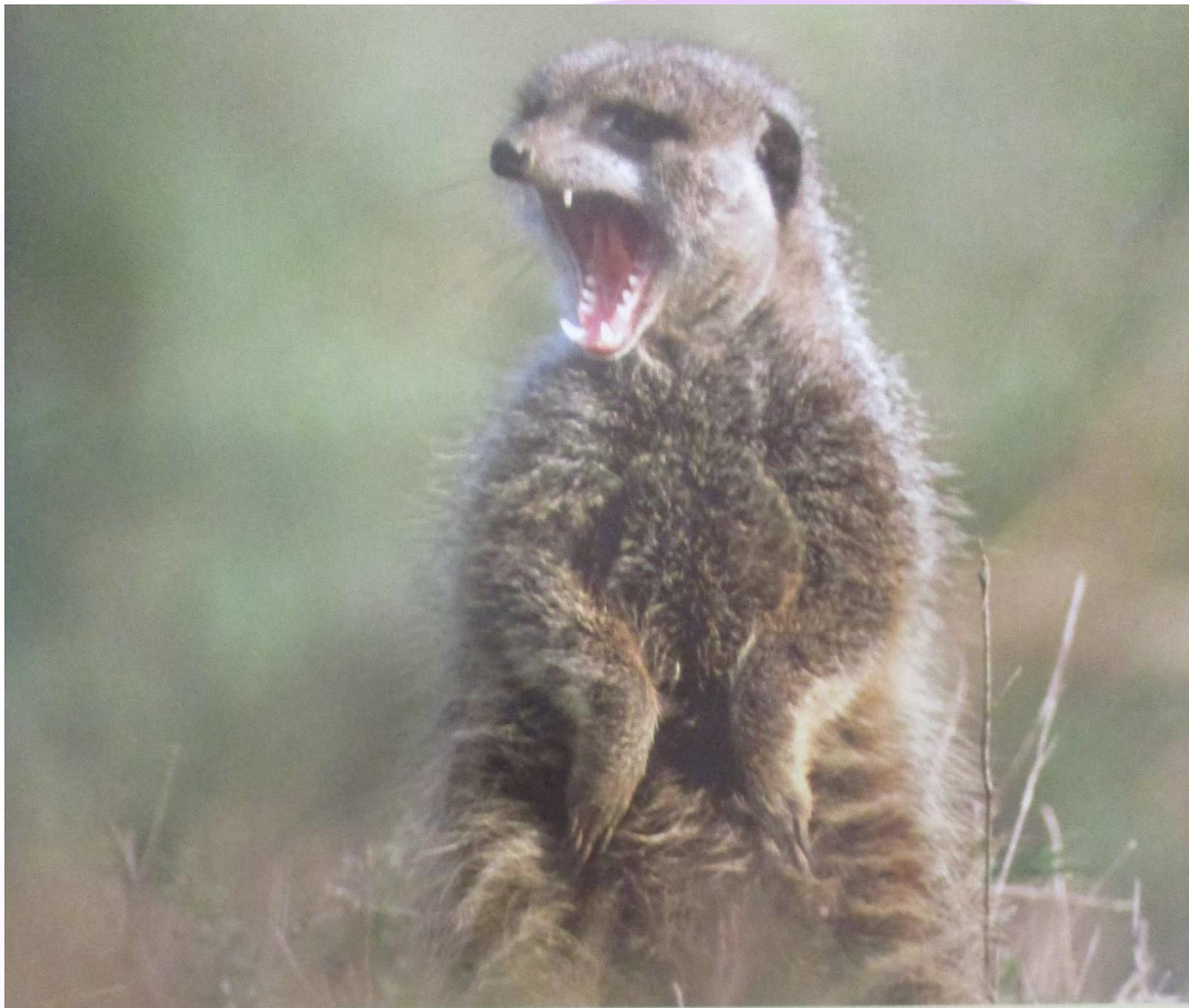
Meerkats dig hundreds of holes.
They shut their eyes when they dig to keep the sand out.

Keeping a look-out

The meerkat sniffs the air. It peers around carefully.



Adult meerkats take turns to be look-out. One meerkat stands up outside the burrow and stares around.



If it spots a predator, it barks
'Beware!' to its friends.

Staying safe



Meerkats run back to the burrow if a bird of prey flies by. If a snake comes near, they stand together to scare it away.



When they finish work, the meerkats have a nap in the shade.

Glossary

burrows	holes to live in under the ground
mammal	an animal that has hair and can feed its babies
mob	many meerkats living together
plains	flat land in Africa
predators	animals that kill smaller animals for food

