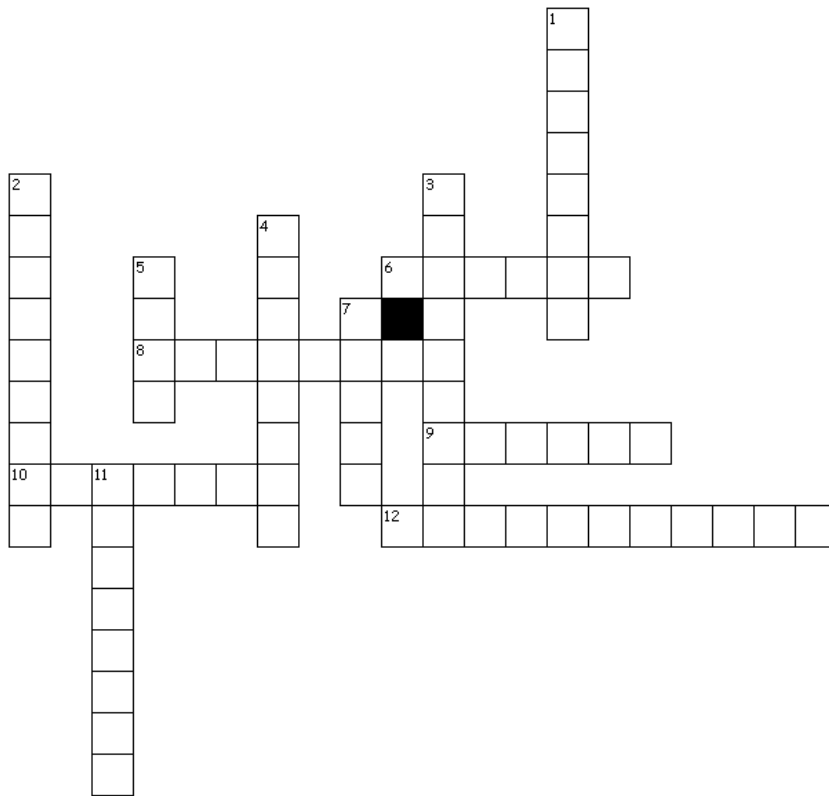


VOCABULARY REVIEW

Instructions: Fill in the crossword puzzle with the correct word for each definition. Use the first letter as a clue.



Across

- 6. to move unsteadily *f*
- 8. having the power to decide *d*
- 9. a protective covering *a*
- 10. to defeat and occupy the position of *o*
- 12. to make a full statement *d*

Down

- 1. to attack by surprise *a*
- 2. a large body of troops *b*
- 3. a drawn contest *s*
- 4. a military unit consisting of battalions *r*
- 5. something that fluctuates like the sea tides *t*
- 7. the placing of an army around a place to force its surrender *s*
- 11. to make a camp *e*

COMPREHENSION

Read this report about meerkats and answer the questions that follow.



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 in the mob participates in gathering food, keeping a look out for predators, and taking care of the babies.

Meerkats live in the deserts and grasslands of the southern tip of Africa. They are extremely cute, with bushy, brown-striped fur, a small, pointed face, and large eyes surrounded by dark patches. They average about 20 inches (50 centimeters) long, including their tail.

These extremely social animals live together in burrows, which they dig with their long, sharp claws. Living underground keeps mob members safe from predators and out of the harsh African heat. These burrows can be 16 feet (5 meters) long and contain multiple entrances, tunnels, and rooms. A group will use up to five separate burrows at a time.

Meerkats only go outside during the daytime. Each morning, as the sun comes up, the mob emerges and begins looking for food. They use their keen sense of smell to locate their favourite foods, which include beetles, caterpillars, spiders, and scorpions. They'll also eat small reptiles, birds, eggs, fruit, and plants.

The average lifespan of a meerkat is about ten years, but only one meerkat pup out of four survives to adulthood. At the burrow, several babysitters stay behind to watch over newborn pups. This duty rotates to different members of the mob, and a sitter will often go all day without food. The babysitters' main job is to protect pups from meerkats in rival mobs, who will kill the babies if they can.

While the rest of the mob forages for food, one or more meerkats, called a sentry, will find a high point, like a termite mound, and perch on their back legs, scanning the sky and desert for predators like eagles, hawks, and jackals. A sentry who senses danger will let out a high-pitched squeal, sending the mob scrambling for cover.



Meerkats dig safe places called bolt-holes throughout their foraging area, where they can hide in an emergency. If caught in the open by a predator, a meerkat will try to look fierce, lying on its back and showing its teeth and claws. If a group is confronted, the meerkats will stand together, arching their backs, raising their hair, and hissing. This sometimes fools an attacker into thinking they are a single large, vicious animal.

Meerkats are abundant throughout their range and are not considered threatened or endangered. But they live a very difficult life in the African desert, constantly threatened by hungry predators, rival meerkats, drought, and burrow-flooding rainstorms. Interestingly, some people sometimes tame meerkats and use them as rodent-catchers.

Extract taken from National Geographic for Kids (modified to suit students' needs)

12. The information on meerkats is a report. A report contains facts. State two facts you find in the first paragraph.

13. A report has technical words. Write down three technical words from the passage.

14. A report is usually written in the third person (he, she, it, they). Write down one use of the third person in the reading.

15. A topic sentence introduces the main idea of a paragraph. Write down the topic sentence in paragraph 4.

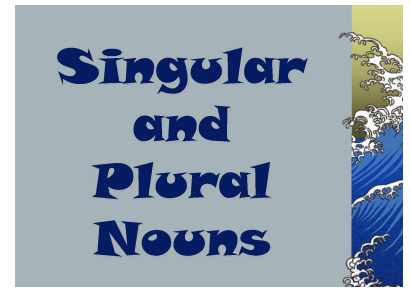
SPELLING: WORD SEARCH

R	O	T	A	D	E	R	P	L	N
N	B	R	K	I	W	W	R	A	P
Y	A	M	I	O	R	O	N	I	O
S	O	P	R	V	X	G	J	C	O
B	Z	R	S	M	A	P	K	O	Z
E	U	P	L	E	Z	L	R	S	S
B	P	H	T	W	F	D	U	E	E
W	X	H	U	L	L	I	D	P	Z
S	E	N	T	R	Y	X	L	U	B
M	R	Q	N	K	B	G	S	P	Y

- | | | |
|----------|----------|-------|
| BURROW | LIFESPAN | MOB |
| PREDATOR | PUP | RIVAL |
| SENTRY | SOCIAL | |

GRAMMAR: Singular and Plural Nouns

Nouns can be singular or plural. When you are talking about just one thing or person, use a singular noun. For example: *a tent, a park, an idea*. Use a plural noun when you are talking about two or more people, places or things. Just add s to make most nouns plural. For example: a computer (singular); computers (plural)



Nouns that end in s, ss, ch, sh or x, are made plural by adding es.

Task 1: Write the singular/plural for these nouns:

SINGULAR	PLURAL	SINGULAR	PLURAL
bus glass dress branch church beach			sandwiches witches brushes flashes boxes foxes

Most nouns that end in y are made plural by changing the y to i and adding es.

TASK 2: Write the plural of these nouns:

SINGULAR	PLURAL
baby family story teddy fairy puppy housefly library city lily party dictionary	

Some nouns have a vowel before they are made plural by simply adding s at the end.

TASK 3: Write the Plural for these nouns:

SINGULAR	PLURAL	SINGULAR	PLURAL
key monkey donkey toy		day tray runway chimney	

Many nouns that end in f are made plural by changing the f to v and adding es.

TASK 4: Write the Plural for these nouns:

SINGULAR	PLURAL
half leaf shelf wolf thief	

But some nouns that end in f are made plural simply by adding s.

SINGULAR	PLURAL
chief roof handkerchief cliff puff	

Most nouns that end in fe are made plural by changing the f to v and adding s.

SINGULAR	PLURAL
knife wife life midwife	

Most nouns that end in o are made plural by adding s. For example: rodeo – rodeos.

SINGULAR	PLURAL
video hippo zoo kangaroo	

But other nouns that end in o are made plural by adding es.

SINGULAR	PLURAL
tomato potato hero	

Some nouns change spelling from the singular form to the plural.

SINGULAR	PLURAL
man woman child	

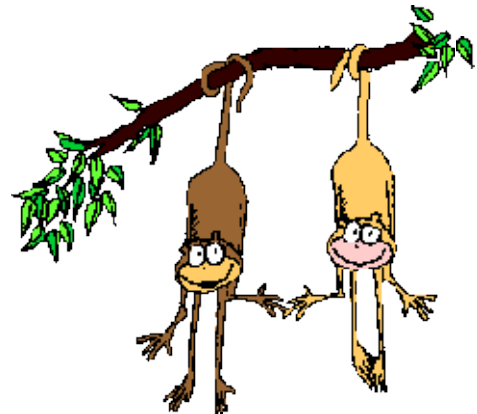
SINGULAR	PLURAL
person mouse tooth foot goose	

The plural form of some nouns is the same as the singular form.

SINGULAR	PLURAL
sheep deer fish aircraft salmon	

Task 5: Read the following passage. Notice that the plural nouns are missing. Write the correct plural form of the singular nouns in parentheses.

Three _____ (lady) in pink _____ (dress) took their
_____ (baby) for a walk in the zoo.
They saw four _____ (giraffe), three
_____ (hippo), two
_____ (kangaroo) and an elephant.
They walked for so long that their
_____ (foot) became sore, so they sat
down on a bench for a rest near some
_____ (monkey). The
_____ (monkey) were playing with
cardboard _____ (box) and throwing _____ (stick) at each
other. After a while, the _____ (lady) looked at their _____
(watch) and decided it was time to go home.





VOCABULARY

Use words from the box to write synonyms for the words in the table below:

collective	tunnel	rat	enemy
lifetime	peril	violent	animal of prey
approach	guard	group	look around

WORD	SYNONYM
SOCIAL	
BURROW	
PREDATOR	
LIFESPAN	
RIVAL	
MOB	
FORAGES	
SENTRY	
CONFRONTED	
VICIOUS	
ENDANGERED	
RODENT	



WRITING

Write an information report on an animal of choice. Use the graphic organiser below to plan your writing. Refer to books/magazines/encyclopaedia in your local library.

Classification and Location _____

Appearance _____

Diet _____

Nest and young _____

Hunting habits _____

Conclusion (plight/interesting fact) _____

For Teacher: Answers

Vocabulary

Across

6. to move unsteadily falter
8. having the power to decide decisive
9. a protective covering armour
10. to defeat and occupy the position of overrun
12. to make a full statement declaration

Down

1. to attack by surprise ambush
2. a large body of troops battalion
3. a drawn contest stalemate
4. a military unit consisting of battalions regiment
5. something that fluctuates like the sea tides tide
7. the placing of an army around a place to force its surrender siege
11. to make a camp encampment

COMPREHENSION

1. They live in groups, work as a team and take care of each other.
2. burrows
3. It protects them from predators and the harsh sun.
4. yes
5. no
6. true
7. True
8. Omnivores
9. Sentry, babysitter
10. They stand guard while the other members of the group forage for food/they babysit the pups
11. This is probably due to the difficult life a meerkat endures: threat from other rival meerkats, predators and adverse weather conditions.
12. Answers will vary: Meerkats dig bolt-holes. A meerkat sentry will let out a high-pitched squeal if it senses danger.
13. Burrows, endangered, predators
14. Answers will vary: They use their keen sense of smell to locate their favourite foods.
15. Meerkats only go outside during the daytime.

GRAMMAR

SINGULAR	PLURAL	SINGULAR	PLURAL
bus glass dress branch church beach	buses glasses dresses branches churches beaches	sandwich witch brush flash box fox	sandwiches witches brushes flashes boxes foxes

Most nouns that end in y are made plural by changing the y to i and adding es.

TASK 2: Write the plural of these nouns:

SINGULAR	PLURAL
baby family story teddy fairy puppy	babies families stories teddies fairies puppies

housefly library city lily party dictionary	houseflies libraries cities lilies parties dictionaries
--	--

Some nouns have a vowel before they are made plural by simply adding s at the end.

TASK 3: Write the Plural for these nouns:

SINGULAR	PLURAL	SINGULAR	PLURAL
key	keys	day	days
monkey	monkeys	tray	trays
donkey	donkeys	runway	runways
toy	toys	chimney	chimneys

Many nouns that end in f are made plural by changing the f to v and adding es.

TASK 4: Write the Plural for these nouns:

SINGULAR	PLURAL
half	halves
leaf	leaves
shelf	shelves
wolf	wolves
thief	thieves

But some nouns that end in f are made plural simply by adding s.

SINGULAR	PLURAL
chief	chiefs
roof	roofs
handkerchief	handkerchiefs
cliff	cliffs
puff	puffs

Most nouns that end in fe are made plural by changing the f to v and adding s.

SINGULAR	PLURAL
knife	knives
wife	wives
life	lives
midwife	midwives

Most nouns that end in o are made plural by adding s. For example: rodeo – rodeos.

SINGULAR	PLURAL
video	videos
hippo	hippos
zoo	zoos
kangaroo	kangaroos

But other nouns that end in o are made plural by adding es.

SINGULAR	PLURAL
tomato	tomatoes
potato	potatoes
hero	heroes

Some nouns change spelling from the singular form to the plural.

SINGULAR	PLURAL
man	men
woman	women
child	children

SINGULAR	PLURAL
person	people
mouse	mice
tooth	teeth
foot	feet
goose	geese

The plural form of some nouns is the same as the singular form.

SINGULAR	PLURAL
sheep	sheep (not sheeps)
deer	deer (not deers)
fish	fish (not fishes)
aircraft	aircraft (not aircrafts)
salmon	salmon (not salmons)

Task 5: Ladies, dresses, giraffes, hippos, kangaroos, feet, monkeys, boxes, sticks, watches

VOCABULARY

WORD	SYNONYM
SOCIAL	collective
BURROW	tunnel
PREDATOR	animal of prey
LIFESPAN	lifetime
RIVAL	enemy
MOB	group
FORAGES	look around
SENTRY	guard
CONFRONTED	approach
VICIOUS	violent
ENDANGERED	peril
RODENT	rat