



Keeper Chat - Bianca introduces our meerkat mob!



Scan the QR code to watch the video!

Reminder: turn on captions | *Time:* 3.5 minutes

1. What kind of zookeeper is Bianca?
2. How often do the keepers go into the meerkat habitat and turn over all the sand?
3. What tool is Bianca using to turn over the sand?
4. What does Bianca put into the bucket?
5. How many times a day are the meerkats at the zoo fed?
6. Why is one meerkat sitting up higher than the others, watching rather than eating?
7. Why do meerkats have pango (black) fur around their eyes?
8. Why does Bianca like working with the meerkats?
9. What are some of the animal species that Auckland Zoo are helping to support in the wild?
10. Would you like to be a zoo keeper like Bianca one day? Give three reasons why or why not.

Interesting vocabulary to learn more about:

Enrichment, behaviour, aerate, destroy, adaptations, forage, constantly, opportunities, variety, elevation, sentry, duty, mischievous, species, pango.



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Ka pai! (Well done!)

Now it's time to check your answers.

1. Bianca is a carnivore keeper.
2. The sand is turned over everyday!
3. A spade (or shovel).
4. She half-fills the bucket with sand before putting in a handful of bugs and fills up the rest of the bucket with more sand.
5. A minimum of rima (five) times a day!
6. One meerkat is on sentry duty. They keep a lookout for any kind of danger.
7. The pango (black) fur is like sunglasses for a meerkat. It reduces the glare from the sun.
8. Bianca likes working with the meerkats because they are very mischievous little creatures. The meerkats always engage with the enrichment that the keepers put out.
9. Animals like giraffes and rhinos.
10. Various answers.
Teacher judgement required.

Challenge:

Carefully draw a picture of your own design for enrichment for meerkats. Think about where the bugs might go and how the meerkats can use their sharp claws and sense of smell to find the bugs!