

Animals of Africa



Porcupine

1



Porcupines are rodents with a coat of sharp spines or quills which protect them against predators. There are more than two dozen species of porcupine. Porcupines found in Africa usually live on the ground, sleeping in underground burrows during the day. They are usually nocturnal.

Mongoose

2



The mongoose is native to Africa, with six species found on the island of Madagascar. They have short legs, rounded ears and long tails. Most mongooses have a coat of brown or grey fur. They are especially known for their ability to kill many kinds of snakes.

Ostrich

3



The ostrich is a large flightless bird native to Africa. It has a distinctive appearance with a long neck and legs. It can run really fast, sometimes up to 70km per hour. It is the fastest bird in the world on land. Its feathers are sometimes used for feather dusters.

Rhinoceros

4



The rhinoceros is a mammal known for its large size and horned nose. There are five species of rhinoceros, two of which are native to Africa. They can grow up to one tonne in weight. They follow a mostly herbivorous diet.

Mountain Gorilla

5



The mountain gorilla lives in upland regions in Rwanda, the Virunga Mountains of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the mountain forests in Uganda. They generally lead a peaceful life and travel around in groups of between two and thirty four.

Vulture

6



Vultures tend to live in groups. They have keen eyesight and they are excellent soaring birds. They mostly feed on carrion (dead and decaying animal flesh). A group of vultures known as Old World Vultures are native to Europe, Asia and Africa.

Wildebeest

7



Wildebeest, also called gnu, is either of two large African antelopes. They tend to graze in herds and live in grasslands and bush regions from northern Kenya to northern South Africa and Namibia. It stands about 137cm high and has a long, sad-looking face.

Zebra

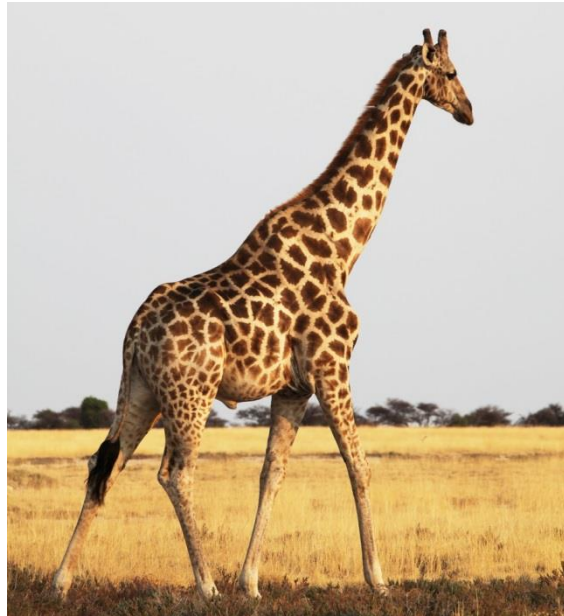
8



The zebra is a striped member of the horse family. They live in herds in the deserts and savannah of eastern and southern Africa. They mainly eat grass but may also eat bark, leaves, buds, fruits and roots. A zebra spends most of its time eating.

Giraffe

9



The giraffe is the tallest of all living animals. They can be found in 21 different countries in Africa, south of the Sahara. They live in different habitats including open woodlands, savannas and deserts. Males can stand at 5.2m tall while females can be 4.3m tall.

Cheetah

10



The cheetah is a large member of the Cat family. It is the fastest land mammal over short distances. It is usually found on the grassy plains of eastern and southern Africa. Cheetahs usually hunt by day, looking to attack medium-sized mammals, usually small or young antelopes.

Warthog

11



The warthog is an African pig with large, curved tusks on its head. It has three pairs of large warts on its face, from which it gets its name. The common warthog lives in dry sandy country from southern Africa northward to the region just south of the Sahara. The warthog usually travels in a small family group.

Aardvark

12



The aardvark, a name which means "earth pig", is an African animal with a distinctive tubelike snout. It has large ears and a long tail. It eats ants and termites. It hunts for food at night and sleeps in a burrow during the day. It can grow between 1.4 to 2 metres in length.

African Elephant

13



African elephants are larger than Asian elephants. They mainly live in an area south of the Sahara. Most African elephants have dark grey skin. The males can grow to a height of 3.4m tall while the female can grow to 2.7m tall. There are two species of African elephants – forest elephants and bush elephants.

Baboon

14



A baboon is any of several large monkeys. Many species of baboon live in Africa. They live in groups of between 10 to 200 animals. Females usually make up the majority of the group. They eat eggs, fruits, grass, insects and roots. Baboons are hunted by hyenas, leopards and lions.

Chimpanzee

15



The chimpanzee lives in tropical Africa from Lake Victoria in the east to Gambia in the west. They live mainly in forests but can also be found in humid rainforests and dry grasslands. Its body is covered with long, dark hair. It has large ears, arms that are longer than its legs and it has no tail.

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