



## Hyraxes By C4A Academy



<https://a-z-animals.com/media/2021/07/Hyrax.jpg>

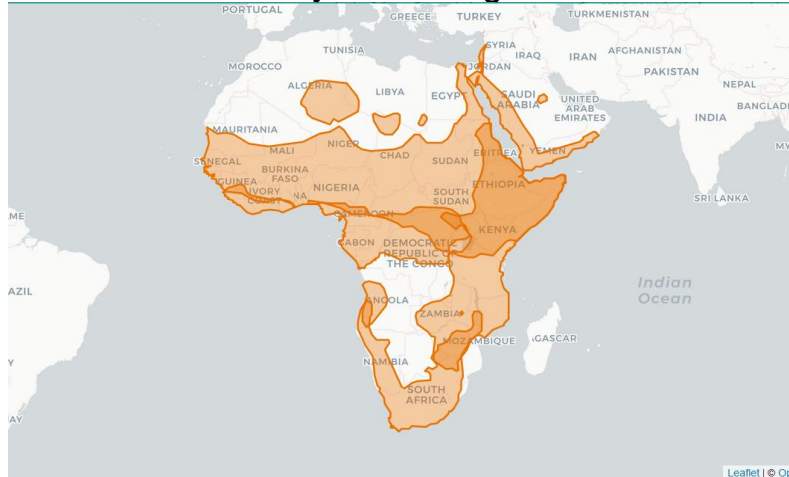
HYRAXES, also called the rock rabbit or DASSIE, are small, furry mammals that live in Africa and the Middle East. Two of the three hyrax species are known as rock hyrax, and the other is a tree hyrax. The tree hyraxes spend time in trees and the rock hyraxes prefer rocky habitats, such as mountains, cliffs, and rocky OUTCROPPINGS. Hyraxes like to live near water sources and often form large groups to live together. Some species of hyraxes are considered SACRED in certain cultures and are protected from hunting and HARVESTING. They can live up to 12 years in the wild.

Spell: HYRAXES                      OUTCROPPINGS                      SACRED  
Hyraxes are also known as the rock rabbit or \_\_\_\_\_. DASSIE  
In some cultures, hyraxes are protected from hunting and \_\_\_\_\_.  
HARVESTING

Hyraxes can live up to how long in the wild? 12 YEARS

Where did I say the hyraxes live? AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST

### Hydrax Range



Source: <https://www.awf.org/wildlife-conservation/hyrax>

Hyraxes have short, stocky bodies and short legs. They have soft, dense fur that is usually brown or gray. Their large, round ears and long WHISKERS add to their ADORABLE appearance. Despite their small size, hyraxes are INCREDIBLY strong and AGILE and are capable of climbing trees, steep cliffs, and rocks to escape predators. Hyraxes are active during the day and spend most of their time foraging for food and sunbathing.

Spell: ADORABLE                      INCREDIBLY                      AGILE

Hyraxes have large round ears and long \_\_\_\_\_. WHISKERS

They climb trees, rocks, and steep \_\_\_\_\_ to escape predators. CLIFFS

They spend most of their time foraging for food and \_\_\_\_\_. SUNBATHING

Hyrax fur is \_\_\_\_\_. SOFT, DENSE, BROWN, GRAY

Hyraxes are HERBIVORES, which means they only eat plants. They feed on grasses, leaves, and bark. They have long, curved INCISORS that help them to chew tough plant materials. Hyraxes have a highly DEVELOPED sense of smell and use this to LOCATE food.

Spell: LOCATE                      INCISORS                      DEVELOPED

Animals that only eat plants are \_\_\_\_\_. HERBIVORS

Hyraxes have a highly developed sense of \_\_\_\_\_. SMELL

Their incisors help them chew \_\_\_\_\_. TOUGH PLANT MATERIALS, PLANTS, GRASS, LEAVES, BARK

Hyraxes are considered a keystone species in their ECOSYSTEMS, as their actions and behaviors have a significant impact on the surrounding ENVIRONMENT. Hyraxes serve as both predators and prey. They are prey for many large CARNIVORES, such as leopards, HYENAS, pythons, and jackals and they feed on vegetation that can help control the growth of plants and trees in their habitats. By studying hyraxes, we can gain a deeper understanding of the relationships between different species and the role that each species plays in maintaining a healthy and BALANCED ecosystem.

Spell: ECOSYSTEMS            CARNIVORES            BALANCED  
Hyraxes are considered a \_\_\_ species in their ecosystems. KEYSTONE  
Keystone species have a significant impact on the surrounding \_\_\_\_.  
ENVIRONMENT  
Hyraxes feed on vegetation and help control the growth of plants and \_\_\_\_.  
TREES  
One of the carnivores mentioned was \_\_\_\_\_. LEOPARDS, HYENAS,  
PYTHONS, JACKALS

Hyraxes are highly social animals that live in groups of up to 50 INDIVIDUALS. Their complex social structure often consists of one DOMINANT male, several females, and their offspring. Hyraxes are known for their loud VOCALIZATIONS, which they use to communicate and warn of potential danger. They vocalize through grunts, barks, and screams, and they also use scent marking to communicate with other hyraxes. Their social behavior is unique among mammals and provides interesting insights into animal communication and social DYNAMICS.

Spell: DOMINANT            VOCALIZATIONS            BARKS  
Hyraxes are highly \_\_\_ animals. SOCIAL  
They live in groups of up to \_\_\_\_\_. 50  
The hyraxes' social behavior provides insights into animal communication and social what? DYNAMICS  
Hyraxes vocalize through what? GRUNTS, BARKS, SCREAMS

Hyraxes have a number of ADAPTATIONS that help them to SURVIVE in their rocky habitats. Their short legs and dense fur help them to climb rocks and navigate rocky TERRAIN. They are EXCELLENT swimmers, which

helps them to escape predators. Hyraxes also have a slow METABOLISM and are able to survive for long periods of time without water.

Spell: EXCELLENT SURVIVE ADAPTATIONS

Hyraxes have a slow what? METABOLISM

Their short legs and dense fur help them navigate rocky \_\_\_\_\_. TERRAIN

Hyraxes are able to survive long periods of time without \_\_\_\_\_. WATER

Hyraxes have a GESTATION (pregnancy) period of about 7 or 8 months. Rock Hyraxes have two or three cubs and tree hyraxes have one or two cubs. The cubs are fully DEVELOPED when they're born so they can run about an hour after they're born. The cubs can eat VEGETATION the day after they're born but the mother hyrax nurses her cubs for several months.

Spell: FULLY GESTATION DEVELOPED

Hyraxes have a gestational period of about \_\_\_\_\_. 7 OR 8 MONTHS

Mother hyraxes nurse their babies for several \_\_\_\_\_. MONTHS

Cubs can eat \_\_\_\_\_ the day after they're born. VEGETATION

What can cubs do about an hour after they're born? RUN, RUN AROUND

VAKTivity: Baby Hyraxes (1 min. )

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWnK4-205I4>

Hyraxes have been around for millions of years and have not changed much over time. The tooth STRUCTURE of hyraxes is unique and provides evidence of their EVOLUTIONARY relationship to elephants and sea cows which are their closest ancestors. This ancient ANCESTRY provides valuable information about the evolution of mammals and the relationships between different species.

Spell: STRUCTURE EVOLUTIONARY ANCESTRY

Hyraxes have been around for \_\_\_\_\_ of years. MILLIONS

Hyraxes provide valuable information about the evolution of \_\_\_\_\_.

MAMMALS

What are hyraxes' closest ancestors? SEA COWS, ELEPHANTS

What do you think is most interesting about hyraxes' closest evolutionary relationship being with elephants and sea cows?

Hyraxes are not considered to be endangered, but they are hunted by humans for their meat and fur. They are also THREATENED by habitat

loss as their rocky habitats are destroyed or DISTURBED by human activities. This makes them an important species to protect and conserve. By studying hyraxes and learning about their BIOLOGY, behavior, and habitat requirements, we can better understand what needs to be done to ensure their survival and protect their habitats for future GENERATIONS.

Spell: THREATENED      GENERATIONS      DISTURBED  
We can study hyraxes to learn about their behavior, habitat requirements, and \_\_\_\_\_. BIOLOGY

hyraxes are an important species to conserve and \_\_\_\_\_. PROTECT

Hyraxes are hunted for their \_\_\_\_\_. MEAT, FUR

VAKTivity: Meet the Endangered Hyrax (1.38 min.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5TWqIW3tpnl>

What do you think about hyraxes?

*This lesson was written with the assistance of ChatGPT.*

Additional References:

<https://www.awf.org/wildlife-conservation/hyrax>