

The Mighty Mongoose

The mongoose may look like a cute ball of fur, but be careful—this little guy is a snake killer! It's amazing how brave a little mongoose is when it meets a deadly snake. So what is the story behind this cute, wild animal? There are 38 different types of mongoose. They are found in forests, swamps, and grasslands in many places around the world. Mongooses have long bodies, short legs, and bushy tails. Their shaggy fur is gray or brown. Sharp claws help them dig holes and catch food. Mongooses eat small animals like insects, lizards, and frogs. They also enjoy eggs and fruit. In India some mongooses kill snakes—even large cobras. Though a poisonous snakebite could kill the mongoose, it still attacks the snake. How does it do such a brave thing? Well, the mongoose is very fast. When it meets a snake, it lets the snake strike toward it. Then the mongoose quickly darts out of the way. When the snake grows tired, the mongoose springs and grabs the snake by the back of the neck. The mongoose's sharp teeth bite deeply to break the snake's spine. The mongoose wins and the snake becomes dinner. Being both fierce and fast makes this animal a marvelous fighter. No wonder the mongoose has been called a snake's worst enemy!

18
33
48
61
73
90
103
116
130
146
162
176
190
203
216
221

	day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4
words read in 1 minute				
– number of mistakes				
= total words read correctly				
adult initials				

Parent Tips

1. Have the student read the ENTIRE story to himself & answer the questions.
2. Time the student while he reads aloud for exactly 1 minute. Do not help fix mistakes.
3. If the student is stuck on a word for 2 seconds, say the word & count it as a mistake.
4. Record the number of words read and the number of errors. Subtract: words read – errors = total words read correctly.
5. Now, help fix mistakes.
6. You may wish to read the story out loud as a model for fluent reading.
7. Repeat the steps on other days.

1. What do Mongooses eat?

- o They only eat fruit and frogs.
- o They only eat snakes and eggs.
- o They eat many different things.

2. What is the main idea?

- o Mongooses are good fighters.
- o Mongooses dig deep holes.
- o Mongooses have shaggy fur.



3. What is a detail that supports the main idea?

- o Mongooses live in forests.
- o Mongooses are very fast.
- o Mongooses enjoy fruit.

4. Would you like a mongoose for a pet? Why or why not?