

LOOK IN THE UNDERGROWTH FOR SMALL SAVANNAH ANIMALS

## SMALL ANIMALS

Smaller creatures also inhabit the savannah. Banded mongooses, only half a metre long, hunt lizards, mice, insects and other small prey. Mongoose packs may travel many kilometres a day in search of food during the dry season.

*Banded mongoose*

*Rock hyrax*

*Rainbow lizards*

Other small savannah mammals include the rock hyrax, a distant relative of the elephant. It feeds mainly on grass. Male hyraxes leave their family groups to seek a mate. They may have to travel several kilometres over the plains, where they are vulnerable to attack from hungry eagles, leopards, lions, hyenas, jackals and snakes.

ZOOM IN CLOSE TO THE PLANTS AND FLOWERS



SOME SMALLER ANIMALS FEED ON PLANTS AND INSECTS

ZOOM IN TO DISCOVER TINY ANTS ON A PLANT'S STEM

## PLANTS AND FLOWERS

Growing among the savanna grasses are certain other plants and flowers that are exactly suited to a climate where it is dry for half the year. They grow well in the rich soil, made fertile by the weathering of volcanic rock (*see page 23*) found everywhere in the Great Rift Valley.

The colourful flower petals, strong scent and presence of a sugary liquid called nectar all attract butterflies and bees to the plants. As they feed, they pick up sticky pollen grains which brush off at the next flower they visit, so enabling the plants to reproduce.