

Spotted Hyena

The spotted hyena is primarily a predator, not a scavenger. Individuals have been clocked at over 55 kilometers per hour (34 mph), and when hunting in packs are capable of taking down the largest of prey. Spotted Hyenas have such formidable jaws (one of the strongest in the animal kingdom) and teeth that they devour even the bones of their kill. This, combined with their very strong stomach acid, results in them having crusty white droppings (from all the bone meal). The hyena's distinctive laughing call, used to disorient prey and gather the pack, has resulted in their nickname "laughing hyena".

Spotted Hyenas live in the savannas and deserts of Africa in permanent social groups called clans, averaging 40 individuals - with some as large as 100. Each clan is permanent social group called a fission-fusion society. Female

Spotted Hyenas are larger than their male counterparts, and socially dominant over them. Males leave their natal group on reaching sexual maturity, while females remain in it; the society is highly structured, with dominance relationship between the groups of females descended from a single mother that endure for generations.

Camel

Camels are even-toed ungulates in the genus *Camelus*. The Dromedary or Arabian Camel has a single hump, and the Bactrian Camel has two humps. They are native to the dry and desert areas of Northern Africa and Asia, respectively. The average life expectancy of a camel is 30 to 50 years. A fully-grown adult camel stands 1.85m/6 feet at the shoulder and 2.15m/7 feet at the hump. It can run up to 40mph in short bursts, and sustain speeds of up to 25mph.

Meerkat

The Meerkat is a mongoose of the African grasslands. Like other Mongooses, Meerkats hunt with amazing agility. Delicacies such as bugs, lizards, and small rodents prove easy prey for this predator. Meerkats differ from most mongooses because they live in large social communities of more than one family. Using their sharp claws, they dig huge burrows with tunnel systems for the colony. They all watch out for each other, and are often seen on their hind feet with their noses in the air, keeping watch.

NARRATOR 1: Once upon a time there was an African grandmother who travelled with her young grandson across the sands of the **Sahara Desert** to visit the **Village Watutu**.

NARRATOR 2: They rode on a camel and brought with them a large **Ankole Bull** that they planned to trade in the marketplace.

NARRATOR 3: Now this **Ankole Bull** not only had the largest horns ever seen by anyone in the desert, he also had the strangest and loudest MOO anyone had ever heard. Whenever it was mealtime, the bull greeted his food like this...

ALL: (Softly for a count of 3 beats) Moooooooooooooooooooooo,
(Loudly for a count of 3 beats) **OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!**

NARRATOR 4: Then he butted the trunk of the nearest **Fever Tree** with one of his long large horns and made a sound like this...

ALL: **TWUNK!** (clap hands)

NARRATOR 5: Well, as you can imagine these strange loud sounds made the young boy very nervous. He imagined the sounds were coming through the bull from the spirit world and that frightened him. He had trouble falling asleep at night.

NARRATOR 6: Every night the boy went to bed in his own little hut called an **aqal** and every night his grandmother said to him,

GRANDMA: "You're not going to be afraid tonight, are you?"

BOY: "**Maya**, not me,"

NARRATOR 6: said the boy.

NARRATOR 1: So she put out the cooking fire and before she retired, she fed the **Ankole Bull!**

ALL: (Softly) Moooooooooooooooooooooo,
(Loudly) **ooooooooooooooooooooo**,
THWUNK! (clap)

NARRATOR 2: Every night, the boy ran from his hut and hid under the largest cooking pot he could find.

NARRATOR 3: And every night grandma kicked the pot and cried out,

GRANDMA: "You're driving me crazy!"

NARRATOR 4: When they finally arrived at the **Village Watutu** and were about to bed down for the night, grandmother had an idea.

GRANDMA: "I know what to do,"

NARRATOR 4: she said.

GRANDMA: "Tonight I will put the **Desert Tortoise** in bed with you so you won't be alone and you won't be afraid."

BOY: "Not the **Desert Tortoise**,"

NARRATOR 4: said the boy.

BOY: "Her shell is hard and she looks like she might snore."

GRANDMA: "The very thing,"

NARRATOR 5: said grandmother, and she did it. She put the **Desert Tortoise** in bed with the boy. Then she said,

GRANDMA: "You're not going to be afraid tonight, are you?"

BOY: "**Maya**, not me,"

NARRATOR 5: said the boy.

NARRATOR 6: So she put out the cooking fire, and before she retired, she fed the **Ankole Bull**!

(As above)

ALL: Mooooooooooooooooooooo,
ooooooooooooooooooooo,
THWUNK! (clap)

NARRATOR 1: The boy jumped under the cooking pot!

ALL: Help!

NARRATOR 4: The **Desert Tortoise** jumped under the cooking pot!

ALL: Shhhhhhhhhhhhh!

NARRATOR 5: Grandma kicked the pot and cried out,

GRANDMA: "You're driving me crazy!"

NARRATOR 6: Then the grandmother had another idea.

GRANDMA: "Tomorrow night, my dear, I will put the **Warthog** in bed with you!"

BOY: "Not the **Warthog**,"

NARRATOR 6: said the boy.

BOY: "He's prickly and his tusks are too sharp!"

GRANDMA: "The very thing,"

NARRATOR 6: said grandmother, and the next night she did it, she put the **Warthog** in bed with the boy. Then she said,

GRANDMA: "You're not going to be afraid tonight, are you?"

BOY: "**Maya**, not me,"

NARRATOR 6: said the boy.

NARRATOR 1: So she put out the cooking fire and before she retired, she fed the **Ankole Bull**!

(As above):

ALL: Moooooooooooooooooooooo,
oooooooooooooooooooo,
THWUNK! (clap)

NARRATOR 2: The boy jumped under the cooking pot!

ALL: Help!

NARRATOR 3: The **Desert Tortoise** jumped under the cooking pot!

ALL: Shhhhhhhhhhhhh!

NARRATOR 4: The **Warthog** jumped under the cooking pot!

ALL: Snort, snort!

NARRATOR 5: Grandma kicked the pot and cried out

GRANDMA: "You're driving me crazy!"

NARRATOR 6: Then the grandmother had another idea.

GRANDMA: "Tomorrow night, my dear, I will put the **Spotted Hyena** in bed with you."

BOY: "Not the **Spotted Hyena**,"

NARRATOR 6: said the boy. Everyone knew the **Spotted Hyena** had bad breath!

GRANDMA: "The very thing,"

NARRATOR 6: said grandmother and the next night she did it, she put the **Spotted Hyena** in bed with the boy. Then she said,

GRANDMA: "You're not going to be afraid tonight, are you?"

BOY: "**Maya**, not me,"

NARRATOR 6: said the boy.

NARRATOR 1: So she put out the cooking fire and before she retired, she fed the **Ankole Bull**!

(As above)

ALL: Mooooooooooooooooooooo,
ooooooooooooooooooooo,
THWUNK! (clap)

NARRATOR 2: The boy jumped under the cooking pot!

ALL: Help!

NARRATOR 3: The **Desert Tortoise** jumped under the cooking pot!

ALL: Shhhhhhhhhhhhh!

NARRATOR 4: The **Warthog** jumped under the cooking pot!

ALL: Snort, snort!

NARRATOR 5: The **Spotted Hyena** jumped under the cooking pot!