

A photograph of two zebras in a savanna setting. The zebra in the foreground is in sharp focus, showing its distinctive black and white stripes. The zebra in the background is slightly out of focus. The background is a soft, warm-toned landscape under a clear sky.

ALL ABOUT ZEBRAS

Stripe, trot, and explore these bold animals of the grasslands!

A NONFICTION UNIT

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MEET THE ZEBRAS!

Clip-clop! A striped animal trots across the plain—it's a zebra!

Zebbras are wild relatives of horses. They live in warm, open grasslands and travel in herds. Their bold black-and-white stripes make them easy to recognize from far away.





WHAT ZEBRAS ARE LIKE

Zebras are **mammals**, which means they have hair and drink milk from their mothers when they are babies. They have four long legs, **hooves**, a **mane**, and a tail with a **tuft** at the end.



WHERE ZEBRAS LIVE

Zebras live in **grasslands** and **savannas**. These places have wide open spaces and lots of grass to eat. Zebras move together to find food and water. They like warm weather and plenty of room to run.

FROM FOAL TO ADULT

A zebra's life begins as a **foal**. Foals can stand and walk very soon after they are born. They stay close to their mother and drink milk to grow strong. As they grow, foals start eating grass. Over time, a foal becomes an adult zebra.



WHAT ZEBRAS EAT

Zebras are **herbivores**, which means they eat plants. They mostly eat grass. Zebras spend many hours each day **grazing**. Eating grass gives them the energy they need to walk, run, and stay healthy.



INSIDE A ZEBRA FAMILY

Zebras live in groups called **herds**. Living together helps zebras stay safe. Mothers watch over their foals, and the herd moves as one. Zebras use sounds, ear movements, and tail swishes to communicate.





WHY ZEBRAS HAVE STRIPES

Zebra **stripes** help them in different ways. The stripes can make it hard for predators to pick out one zebra in a moving herd. Stripes may also help keep zebras cool in the hot sun. Stripes are part of what makes zebras special!





KEEPING SAFE

Zebras stay safe by staying close to their herd and running fast when danger is near. Their strong legs help them kick and run. Being alert and moving together helps protect the group.



DID YOU KNOW?

Zebras don't all have the same stripes. Each one has its own special pattern. This helps zebras tell their family and friends apart.

QUESTION TIME!

1. (True or False) Zebras are mammals.
2. (True or False) Zebras eat meat.
3. (True or False) Baby zebras are called foals.
4. (Fact or Opinion) Zebras have stripes.
5. (Fact or Opinion) Zebras are the coolest animals.
6. Where do zebras live?
7. What do zebras eat?
8. What is a group of zebras called?
9. Why do zebras have stripes?
10. How do zebras stay safe?



ANSWERS

1. True. Zebras are mammals.
2. False. Zebras eat plants.
3. True. Baby zebras are called foals.
4. Fact. Zebras really do have stripes.
5. Opinion. "Coolest animals" is a personal idea.
6. They live in grasslands and savannas.
7. They eat grass.
8. A group of zebras is called a herd.
9. Stripes help with safety and staying cool.
10. They stay together and run fast.



A savanna landscape with a large tree in the foreground and a zebra in the background. The tree has dense green foliage and some orange fruits. The ground is dry and sandy. In the background, there are more trees and a zebra standing near a body of water.

GLOSSARY

Foal – a baby zebra

Grazing – eating grass or plants slowly throughout the day

Grassland – a wide, open area covered mostly with grass

Herbivore – an animal that eats only plants

Hooves – hard coverings on the feet of animals like zebras and horses

Mammal – an animal with hair or fur that feeds milk to its babies

Mane – the line of hair that grows along the top of a zebra's neck

Savanna – a warm grassland with scattered trees

Tuft – a small bunch of hair at the end of a zebra's tail

Zebra – a wild, horse-like mammal with black-and-white stripes



FUN WITH ZEBRAS

Q: What did the zebra say before leaving?

A: I'll be white black.