

MEET THE ZEBRA

MY FAMILY

My family and I stick together in herds. Within a herd, we tend to stay together in smaller family groups. Families are generally made up of a male, several females, and their young.

We can weigh up to 450kg and when we run, we can reach speeds of 65km/h.

How fast can you run?

ABOUT ME

Each of us has our own unique pattern of distinctive stripes, just as humans have their own unique pattern of fingerprints. Our stripes may work to dazzle and confuse predators and biting insects, or to control our body heat. Because each individual's stripes are unique, our stripes may also have a social purpose, helping us to recognise one other.

Look at how different your fingerprints are compared to your friends.

WHY WE ARE IMPORTANT

We help the local ecosystem by grazing on dry, hardened grass that is too tough for other species (such as wildebeest, ostriches and antelopes) to digest. Every zebra is important because we make the places we live in better.

OUR BIGGEST THREAT

Our species faces threats like losing our homes to humans, farming, and sharing space with farm animals.

WHAT WE LIKE TO EAT

I am a **HERBIVORE**

I am a herbivore and spend most of my day eating grass, and sometimes leaves, shrubs, twigs and bark, too. My teeth are well adapted for grazing, with sharp incisors at the front of my mouth to bite the grass, and large molars at the back for crushing and grinding. This helps me get the nutrients I need from my plant-based diet.

When humans don't eat meat, they are called vegetarians. Are you a vegetarian?

WE PROTECT ONE ANOTHER

We are really good at fighting, and we stick together in strong groups to stay safe from predators, like lions, leopards, hyenas and cheetahs, that might want to eat us. When we feel threatened, we stand together in a semi-circle and get ready to defend ourselves. If we need to, we can fight back! When one of us is hurt or not feeling well, we make sure to protect and take care of them.

What would you do to protect your friends and family?

MY NAMES

My name, **ZEBRA**, comes from the Old Portuguese word 'zevra' which means 'wild ass' (donkey). Did you know that we are part of the horse family?

How many names do you have?

DID YOU KNOW?

I have a set of teeth that grow when I'm young, and they stop growing once I reach a certain size. I use my teeth for grazing and chewing on grass, which wears them down!

Have you lost all your baby teeth yet?

DID YOU KNOW?

I love my family and we are always in large groups, called herds.

A group of zebras is called a **dazzle**, or sometimes a **zeal**.

What is your family name?

