

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 they run, they can reach speeds of 65km/h.

How many people are there in your family?

DID YOU KNOW

My teeth keep growing for my entire life, because the constant grazing and chewing wears them down. As I graze, I use my sharper front teeth to bite the grass, and then use my duller back teeth to crush and grind.

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 **zeal**, or sometimes a **dazzle**.

What is your family name?



WE PROTECT ONE ANOTHER

I have fierce fighting skills and strong social bonds to help protect one another from predators, which include lions, leopards, hyenas and cheetahs. When under threat, we form a semi-circle facing the attacker, and prepare to strike if need be. We also protect each other when injured and weak.

Would you protect your friends and family?

ABOUT ME

Each zebra has its own unique pattern of distinctive stripes, just as humans have their own unique pattern of fingerprints. Our stripes perhaps serve 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 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.

OUR BIGGEST THREAT

Habitat loss and competition with livestock threaten us. Habitat loss due to human encroachment, agricultural practices, and livestock grazing remains an issue in the ongoing conservation of our species.

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.

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

MY NAMES

My name, 'ZEBRA', may come from the latin equiferus, meaning 'WILD HORSE'. It is derived from Italy, Spain or Portugal.

How many names do you have?

