

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Zebras



Zebras are several species of African equids (horse family) united by their distinctive black and white stripes. Their stripes come in different patterns unique to each individual. The unique stripes of zebras make these among the animals most familiar to people. They live in a variety of habitats, such as grasslands, savannas, woodlands, thorny scrublands, mountains, and coastal hills.

The vertical striping may help the zebra hide in grass. Even though that grass is neither white nor black, it is supposed to be effective against the zebra's main predator, the lion, which is color blind.

Zebras communicate with each other with high pitched barks and whinnying. A zebra's ears signify its mood. When a zebra is in a calm, tense or friendly mood, its ears stand erect. When it is frightened, its ears are pushed forward. When angry, the ears are pulled backward. A zebra who spots or senses a predator will bark or bray loudly to alert the others.

It is believed that Zebras have excellent senses. They have great eyesight and is known that Zebras can see in colour. The zebra has its eyes on the side of its head, giving it a wide field of view. Zebras also have night vision although it is not as advanced as other animals. Zebras have excellent hearing and have larger, rounder ears and can turn their ears in almost any direction. They also have an acute sense of smell and taste. Zebras feed almost entirely on grasses, but may occasionally eat shrubs, herbs, twigs, leaves and bark.

Like horses, zebras walk, trot, canter and gallop. They are generally slower than horses, but their great stamina helps them outpace predators. When chased, a zebra will zig-zag from side to side, making it more difficult for the predator.

At birth, zebras are able to stand, walk and suckle shortly after they are born. A zebra foal is brown and white instead of black and white at birth.

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____ Date: _____

Use the reading sheet to answer the following questions.

Answer the following:

1) What distinctive feature do zebras have?

2) Which type of habitats do zebras live in?

3) How do vertical stripes help zebras?

4) Name 2 of the zebras predators.

5) What do zebras ears signify?

6) What happens when a zebra spots a predator?

7) Where are the zebras eyes located? Why?

8) What do zebras feed on?

9) When chased, what will a zebra do?

10) At birth what colour is a zebra foal?
