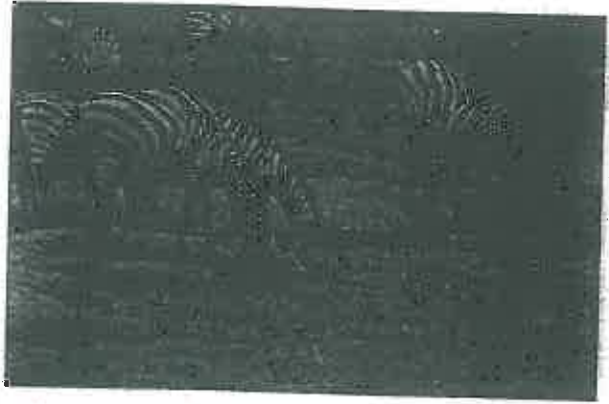


LESSON 1

Read this article about zebras. Then answer questions about the article. Choose the best answer for Numbers 1 to 12.

Zebras are members of the horse family. They live in herds in the grasslands and deserts of Africa. There are three species of zebra. They are the common zebra, Grevy's zebra and the mountain zebra.

When zebras are born, they are brown and white. As they grow, they develop a distinctive stripe pattern. A zebra's stripes are like fingerprints. No two sets of zebra stripes are exactly alike. All zebras have alternating white and black or dark brown stripes. A zebra's stripes might be wide or thin. Some stripes swirl together near the back of the legs.



It is believed that a zebra's stripes help to keep herds of the animals together. Members of the same herd know who belongs and who does not by their stripe patterns. Zebras with abnormal stripe patterns are usually not allowed in the herd. They seldom survive on their own.

Zebras feed on grass. They also eat bark, leaves, buds, fruit and roots. A zebra spends most of its time eating. The stripes protect the zebra while it feeds. They help the zebra blend into the tall grass, making it hard for predators to find them. When a herd of zebras huddles together, a predator has a difficult time trying to single out one zebra among the mass of moving stripes. It can't tell where one zebra begins and another ends.

The main enemies of zebras include lions, hyenas, leopards and cheetahs. Zebras protect themselves from predators by keeping together in the herd. When a herd of zebras is sleeping, one zebra is always on the alert for danger. A zebra's large ears rotate to locate sounds. Its night vision is as keen as an owl's. If threatened, zebras will try to run away. They can run at speeds of up to 60 kilometres per hour. Zebras may live up to 22 years in the wild. Those that live this long usually die of old age.

Today, zebras face an uncertain future in the wild. Many are hunted by humans for their meat and their hide. The hunting of zebras must be stopped. Otherwise, their numbers will decrease. Zebras are also at risk because food and water supplies are shrinking. They must fight with farmers for grazing land and water, which is scarce. One species of zebra has already died out. The quagga lived in South Africa and died out during the 1860s after being hunted to extinction. The name *quagga* comes from the sound of the animal's call, a mix between a dog's barking and a horse's neighing. Unlike other types of zebras, the quagga was brown, with a white tail and white legs. It had stripes only on its head, neck and the front of its body.

Finding Main Idea

1. The article tells mainly about
- (A) a zebra's habitat.
 - (B) a zebra's stripes.
 - (C) a zebra's future.
 - (D) a zebra's habits.

Recognising Cause and Effect

4. What happens to zebras that have abnormal stripe patterns?
- (A) They keep to themselves.
 - (B) They go to live in the desert.
 - (C) They live alone in the grasslands.
 - (D) They are not allowed into the herd.

Recalling Facts and Details

2. Which of these is not an enemy of the zebra?
- (A) lions
 - (B) hyenas
 - (C) elephants
 - (D) leopards

Comparing and Contrasting

5. In the article, the stripes of a zebra are compared to
- (A) grass.
 - (B) horses.
 - (C) grasslands.
 - (D) fingerprints.

Understanding Sequence

3. When do zebras develop their stripe patterns?
- (A) when they are born
 - (B) as they grow
 - (C) when they are adults
 - (D) as they near old age

Making Predictions

6. What will most likely happen if zebras continue to have difficulty finding food and water?
- (A) Farmers will stop farming.
 - (B) Farmers will share land and water with the zebras.
 - (C) Many zebras will die.
 - (D) Zebras will move to another country.

<p>Finding Word Meaning in Context</p> <p>7. Which of these is the best meaning of the word <i>buddle</i>?</p> <p>(A) 'remain in one place' (B) 'gather together in a group' (C) 'eat together' (D) 'prey upon'</p>	<p>Identifying Author's Purpose</p> <p>10. The article was written mainly to</p> <p>(A) describe the different kinds of stripes zebras have. (B) explain the importance of a zebra's stripes. (C) get readers to do more to help zebras. (D) entertain readers with information about an unusual animal.</p>
<p>Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences</p> <p>8. From the article, you can conclude that</p> <p>(A) zebras do not eat meat. (B) zebras are active hunters. (C) most zebras look alike. (D) zebras are found all over Africa.</p>	<p>Interpreting Figurative Language</p> <p>11. You can tell that the words <i>single out</i> mean</p> <p>(A) 'remark'. (B) 'examine'. (C) 'detect'. (D) 'glimpse'.</p>
<p>Distinguishing Between Fact and Opinion</p> <p>9. Which statement from the article expresses an <i>opinion</i>?</p> <p>(A) No two sets of zebra stripes are exactly alike. (B) Its night vision is as keen as an owl's. (C) The hunting of zebras must be stopped. (D) A zebra spends most of its time eating.</p>	<p>Summarising</p> <p>12. What is a good summary of the article?</p> <p>(A) The future for zebras is not certain. (B) There are three species of zebras found in Africa. (C) Zebras are often hunted for their meat and their hide. (D) A zebra's stripes are important for many reasons.</p>

