MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

GRANT'S ZEBRA

Equus quagga boehmi · also called a plains zebra

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · © **2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.**
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Fast facts

ANIMAL GROUP	Mammal (horse family, Equidae)
NATIVE REGION	East Africa
HABITAT	Grasslands and savanna woodlands, near water
DIET	Grazer: almost entirely grasses
HEIGHT	4.2 to 4.6 feet
WEIGHT	Males 485 to 710 lb; females 385 to 550 lb
LIFESPAN	About 25 years
STATUS	Near Threatened (plains zebra)
OUR ZEBRAS	Debbie Mae, Zoe and Ralph



Photo: Plumpton Park Zoo

Did you know?

- Every zebra's stripe pattern is unique, like a human fingerprint.
- The skin under a zebra's stripes is striped too: dark under the dark stripes and pale under the light ones.
- Biting flies land on stripes far less often. In a 2019 study, flies failed to slow down in time to land.
- A zebra foal weighs 66 to 77 pounds at birth and can stand within minutes.
- The quagga, a plains zebra with fading stripes, went extinct in 1883.

Words to know

Grazer: An animal that feeds mainly on grass.
Harem: A zebra family group: one stallion, several mares and their young.
Subspecies: A group within a species that lives in one area and looks a little different.
Extinct: Gone forever; none are left alive.

Where it lives in the wild



Lives in the wild ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

Think about it

1. When is a zebra's stripe pattern set?
2. What does the strongest evidence say zebra stripes are for?
3. How can you tell the three zebra species apart? (Hint: look at the rump.)
4. Why can't zebras be ridden like horses?
5. What happened to the quagga, and what is the Quagga Project trying to do?

Draw it

Draw your own zebra and give it a stripe pattern no other zebra has. Label its mane, ears, rump stripes and hooves.

STANDARDS · GRADES 3–4 **WRITTEN FOR GRADES 3–5**

Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): **3-LS3-1 · 4-LS1-1**
Pennsylvania (STEELS): **3.1.3.C · 3.1.4.A**

Draw here

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/zebra/ · **Sources:** IUCN Red List; Live Science (Tim Caro, UC Davis); National Geographic; The Quagga Project; Plumpton Park Zoo keepers.
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: 3-LS3-1 (3.1.3.C) · 4-LS1-1 (3.1.4.A)
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GRANT'S ZEBRA

Before and after your visit

Page 2 of the Grant's zebra fact sheet · © 2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.
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Before you visit · 5 minutes

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Predict: where in the wild does the Grant's zebra live?
Circle one (or more if it lives on more than one):

Africa | Asia | Australia | Europe | North America | South America

2. Predict: what does it eat?
☐ plants ☐ other animals ☐ both

3. Word hunt: find these words on page 1. Put a check by each one you already know.
☐ Grazer ☐ Harem ☐ Subspecies ☐ Extinct

Pick one word and write what it means in your own words:

4. My question: one thing I want to find out when I see the Grant's zebra.

At the zoo · look closely

Watch for one minute. What is it doing?
☐ resting ☐ eating ☐ moving ☐ watching
☐ with others

Draw or describe one body part that helps it survive, and say how it helps.

Draw here

After your visit · talk it over

1. Check your prediction. Native region: East Africa. Was your guess right?
☐ yes ☐ no ☐ partly

2. Diet check. The fact sheet says: Grazer: almost entirely grasses. What did you learn about how it finds or eats food?

3. Discuss with a partner, then write your best answer.

- What does the strongest evidence say zebra stripes are for?
- How can you tell the three zebra species apart? (Hint: look at the rump.)

4. Exit ticket.

One thing I learned: _____

One thing I still wonder: _____

ADJUST IT
Grades K–2: talk and draw instead of writing; read the questions aloud. **Grades 6–8:** add evidence from the fact sheet and the animal page to every answer.

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/zebra/ · Fact sheet page 1 has the fast facts, map and vocabulary this page refers to.
Grades 3–4 · Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): **3-LS3-1 · 4-LS1-1** · Pennsylvania (STEELS): **3.1.3.C · 3.1.4.A**

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