MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

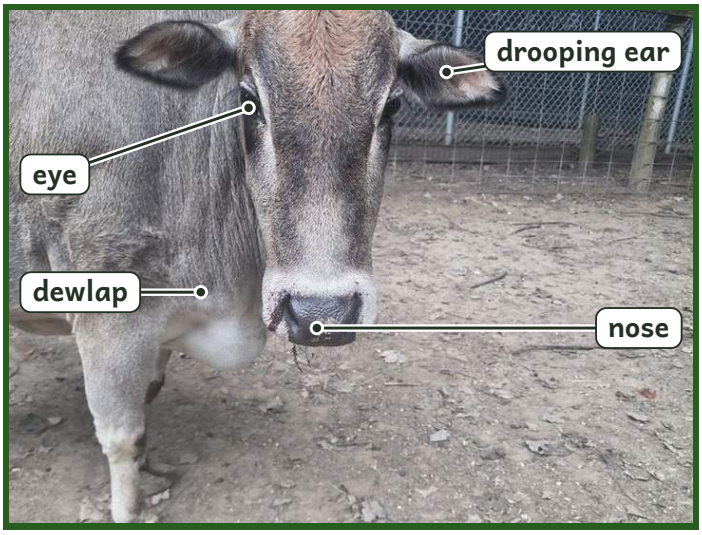
ZEBU

Bos taurus indicus

GRADES K–2

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · © 2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.
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Teachers: read this page aloud, one part at a time (about 5 minutes). Children follow along and say the bold words.



A zebu at our zoo.

Its body

A zebu has a **hump**.
The hump is mostly muscle.
It has drooping ears.
Skin hangs at its throat.

Its home (habitat)

It first came from Asia.
Now it lives in many lands.
Grace, Loki and ZeeZee live at our zoo.



First raised here ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

Its food

It eats grass and hay.

With people

People first tamed them over 8,000 years ago.
Zebu can pull plows and carts.

Fun facts

The skin at its throat is a **dewlap**.
A dewlap helps it lose heat.

Words to know

dewlap: loose skin under its throat
hump: a big muscle on its shoulders

Talk about it

1. What is inside a zebu's hump?
2. How does a dewlap help a zebu?
3. How do people work with zebu?

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/zebu/ · **Sources:** Pérez-Pardal et al. 2018; Gangal et al. 2014; ICAR-NBAGR; Oklahoma State University Breeds of Livestock; Colorado State University AgNext; Phaniraja and Panchasara 2009; Heath 1979; Utsunomiya et al. 2019; Animal Diversity Web
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: K-LS1-1 (3.1.K.A)
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ZEBU

Before and after your visit

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GRADES K–2

Name _____ **Date** _____

Before you visit · 5 minutes

What do you think? Circle **YES** or **NO**.

1. A zebu has a hump. **YES** **NO**
2. The hump is full of water. **YES** **NO**
3. A zebu eats grass. **YES** **NO**
4. A zebu has short, stiff ears. **YES** **NO**

At the zoo · with a partner

Check each one you see.

- ☐ hump
- ☐ dewlap
- ☐ drooping ears
- ☐ nose
- ☐ tail
- ☐ hooves

What is it doing? Circle one.

eating · walking · watching · resting

After your visit · 10 minutes

Draw a zebu. Show its hump and long dewlap.

Draw here

A zebu has a _____

I learned that _____

ADJUST IT Kindergarten: read everything aloud; children talk and draw, and an adult writes their words. **Grade 2:** children read page 1 on their own. **Grades 3–5:** use the regular zebu sheet on Teacher Resources. **Second source:** read about this animal in your class database or a library book too, then ask what both said and what was new. **No zoo trip?** Check off what you can find in the photo on page 1. **Answers:** 1 yes, 2 no, 3 yes, 4 no.

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/zebu/ · Page 1 of this sheet has the words and picture this page refers to.
Science, grades K–1: Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): K-LS1-1 · Pennsylvania (STEELS): 3.1.K.A
Reading and writing, grade 1: Maryland and Delaware: RI.1.1 · RI.1.7 · RI.1.9 · W.1.8 · Pennsylvania: CC.1.2.1.B · CC.1.2.1.G · CC.1.2.1.I · CC.1.4.1.W
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