

# Zebras

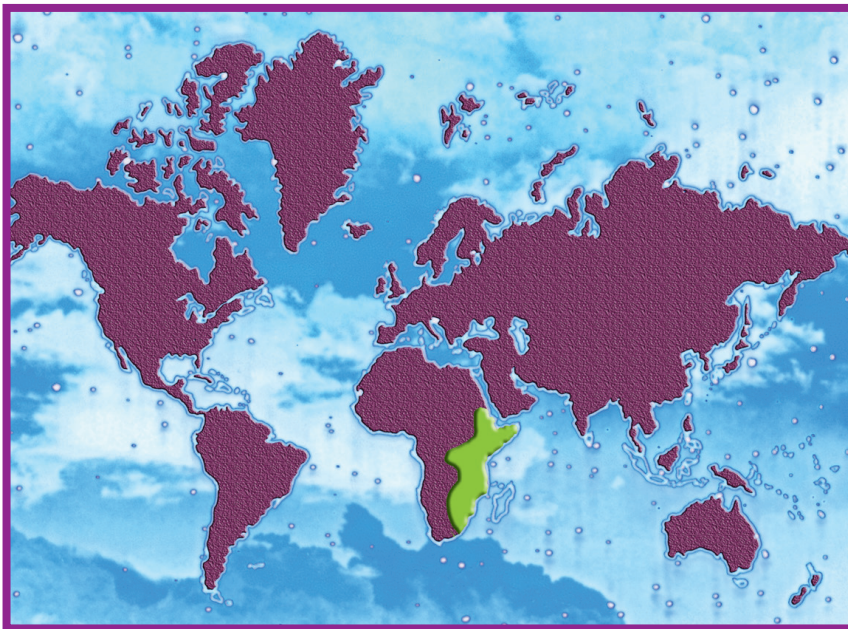
# Zz

"Z" is a very satisfying letter. It's pretty easy to learn, maybe because it comes at the end of the alphabet song or maybe because the uppercase and lowercase "Z"s look exactly alike. The downside of "Z" is that we don't use it frequently, but *Zebras* is packed with them. Help your child find "Z"s on every page.



Some things are as obvious as **black** and **white**, and a zebra may seem like one of them. But did you know that some zebras (Grevy's zebras) are actually brown and white? If your child is ready for this subtle distinction, revisit the pages of *Zebras* with him and see if you can find zebras of each kind.

## Where in the WORLD? ● Zebras



## Reading Resource

Every title in the *Zootles* series is designed to be used for fun and learning, and as a reading resource as well. The pages are written simply and address various stages of emerging literacy, and they encourage new readers to exercise their new skills at just the right level. Reading *Zootles* together will provide "together time" for you and your child—and reinforce vocabulary, comprehension, and early reading skills, too.

## It's a ZOO out there!

Zebras are wonderful to watch. If you're fortunate to live near a zoo or park that has a spacious hoofed animal habitat, your family may enjoy a trip there after reading *Zebras*. You'll reinforce learning and foster careful observation skills if you look for the zebra features and behaviors mentioned in *Zootles*. Here are some additional questions to consider:

- Does the zebra have stripes on its mane?
- What parts of the zebra don't have stripes?
- In what way does a zebra look like a horse?
- Study the zebra's hooves. How many toes does it have? Is this similar to or different from other hoofed animals in the zoo?

# The AMAZING ZEBRA Maze

Zz

This poor zebra has lost her way. Can you help her follow the **black lines** of this maze to find her way back to the herd?

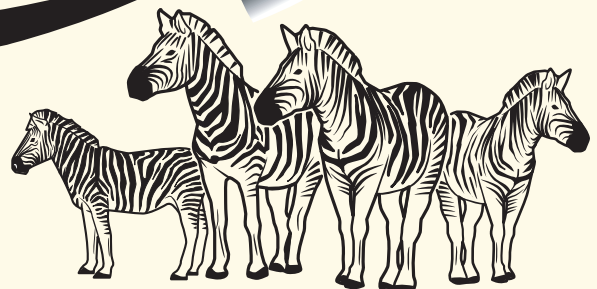
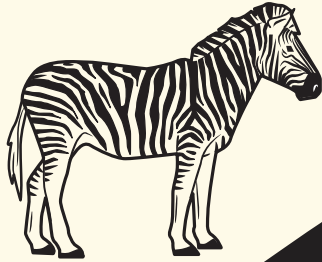


illustration by Mo Ulicny



# Animals in Black and White

**Black**  
**White**

Some animals are **black**, some animals are **white**, and some, like zebras, are **black and white**. Can you find two animals on this page that are **black**? How about two animals that are **white**? How about two animals that are **black and white**?



Now have fun by making space alien zebras. Cut a large oval shape out of **white** paper and glue on stripes of **black** paper. Then cover a **black** oval with stripes of **white**. Think of names for your aliens that begin with **Z**.

## What ELSE can we DO?

- **Zooming in on Zebras (p. 2–3)** Every zebra has its own unique set of stripes.
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Humans have stripes, too . . . sort of. Have your child press her thumbs on a washable ink pad and then on a piece of paper. Examine the prints with a magnifying glass. Isn't it amazing that with all of the people in the world, everyone's fingerprints are unique?
- **There's Safety in Numbers (p. 4–5)**  
While camouflage may be a fashion statement for some people, zebras wear their camouflage for protection.
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** The waving grasses of the savannah provide even further protection for zebras. Cut a piece of paper into a fringe and pass it back and forth over the *Zillions* picture as your child tries to count the zebras.
- **Zebra Babies (p. 6–7)** Having our children walk on the day they were born might have made life easier, but galloping away? Probably not. The young of every species develop at their own special rate.
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** This may be a fun time to show your child pictures or home videos of when she first smiled, sat up, or took her first step.
- **Zebra Safety Check (p. 8–9)** Did your mother ever say that she had eyes in the back of her head? Zebras have a simple way to see in two directions at once: "You look north, I'll look south."
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Get hold of a hand mirror and show your child how he can hold it just so to see what's behind him. Stand behind him and pull an odd assortment of things from a bag. Hold them up for him to see and identify in the mirror.
- **Living Together (p. 10–11)** Plains zebras live together in families. A family is made up of one male, a few females, and their foals. Families come together to form large herds, sometimes mingling with other species such as wildebeests for greater protection.
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Children like to draw pictures of their families; it makes that abstract concept more concrete. After drawing a picture of your immediate family, help your child then draw one

of the larger family that might show up for major holidays, and then perhaps one that includes all the "wildebeests" that show up for birthday parties.

- **Lost and Found (p. 12–15)** What child hasn't experienced that sense of panic when she's wandered down the wrong aisle of the grocery store? The fear of being lost and the relief of being found are primal emotions that emerge in those early years when we first bond with our children.
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** After you and your child have read this story once or twice, act it out using paper bag puppets. Help your child glue some construction paper stripes onto two small paper bags (a baby and a mom). Turn the bags so the bag bottoms can be used as faces, and add ears, eyes, and noses. When the leopard comes, your child can make the baby run and hide until you call. You can play it again, but this time you be the baby.
- **You Can Be A Scientist, Too (p. 17)** Helping our children engage with nature teaches them how to open their eyes to the world about them. It arouses their curiosity and helps them to be lifelong learners, eager to ask questions and search for answers.
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** When it comes to feeding the birds, sometimes the higher priced brand of wild bird food is worth the extra dollar or two—it attracts more interesting birds. Check with a local bird watching group or Audubon Society for suggestions.
- **Otto and Allie (back cover)** Good old Allie always manages to get the last laugh!
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Zebra may be easier to say than "horses with pajamas," but see if your child can wrap his tongue around, "Zelda Zebra sipped a zillion sodas," or "Zeigfeld's zebra, Zeke, zipped his zipper." (And you might try, "The sixth zebra shelled shiny zucchinis.")

