

Zebras

LIFE SPAN: Average 25 years

SIZE: Up to 60 inches tall at shoulder

WEIGHT: 440–990 pounds.
That's about 3 to 6 adult men
put together!

MANE: Hair sticks up and is striped, unlike a horse's mane

COAT: Shiny, eliminates 70 percent of heat

MOUTH: Eats mostly grasses and roots

TEETH: Delivers a painful bite used for protection

STRIPES: Act as camouflage to break up outline of zebra's body

TAIL: Tufted at tip, unlike a horse's tail

LEGS: Can run 35–40 miles an hour

HOOVES: Protect feet over rough terrain. Powerful kick fights off predators.

Survival Stripes

Every zebra has a different stripe pattern—like a human fingerprint. A newborn zebra learns its mother's pattern right away so it can identify her.



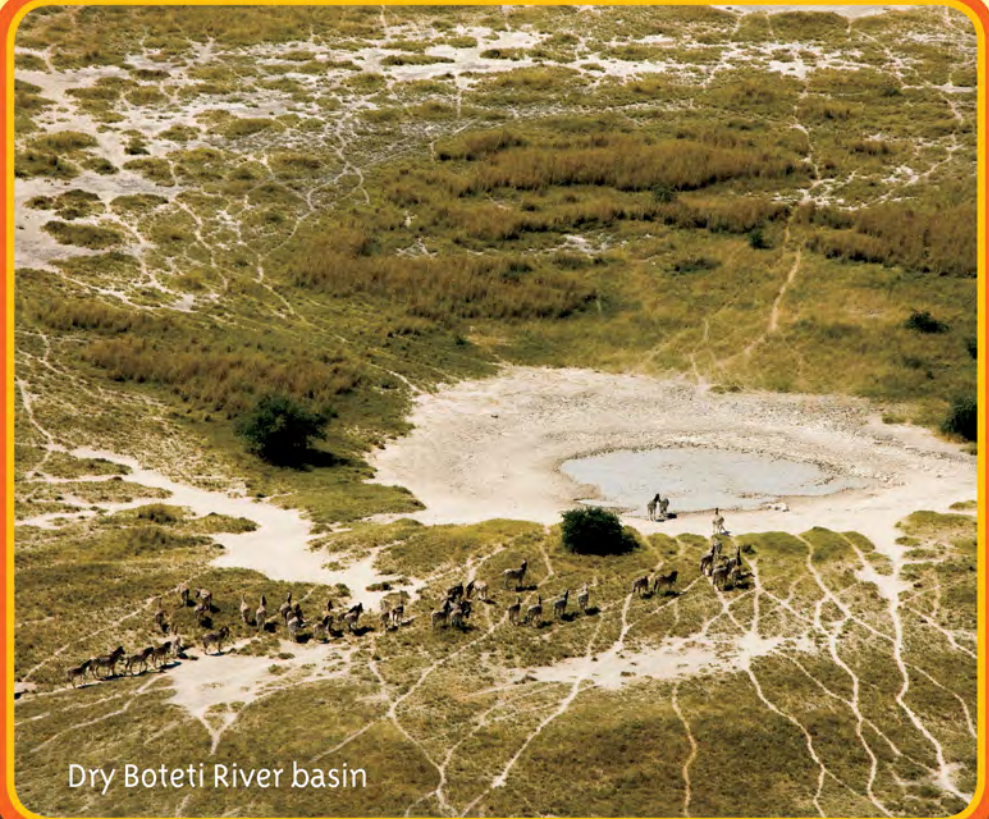
Word Wise

CAMOUFLAGE: An animal's natural color or form that allows it to blend in with its surroundings

Water Emergency

In recent years, cattle owned by local people were drinking the water and eating the grasses along the Boteti River area. But there was a problem. There was not enough food and water for all of the cattle and wild animals. Zebras were getting pushed out. They had to find water holes farther away from the Boteti River.

Zebras in other parts of Africa usually travel less than ten miles from their water source to find food. But in the Makgadikgadi, zebras had to travel as many as 21 miles. Sometimes zebras went without water for a whole week. Many zebras got sick and died.



Dry Boteti River basin

**weird
but
true**

Zebras can move their large ears without moving their body. This lets them find and identify a sound without attracting attention.