

## **Fun and interesting facts (About the zebra)**

### **1. Do you know what is unique about Zebra?**

In humans, each and every person has a unique fingerprint pattern. Just like a human, each and every zebra has unique stripes, which help to identify the zebra. A zebra can identify its family with the help of these unique stripes. These stripes also help to regulate their temperature. The zebra's black-colored stripes take up heat and enhance their body temperature, while white-colored stripes give out heat, leading to a reduction in body temperature. These black stripes also create confusion among predators, like lions and tigers. Predators are unable to identify a single zebra in a group of zebras and, hence, save their lives. It also discourages insects like **horseflies** and leads to prevention of infection. They are able to sleep in a standing position. They communicate with each other with distinct sounds like snorts, barks, and facial expressions. They have strong eyesight. They are capable of viewing during the day as well as at nighttime.

### **2. What is the average life span of a zebra?**

They have an average lifespan of about 20–25 years, but when they are kept in places like zoos, they can survive 30 to 40 years.

### **3. Do you know the ancestor of the zebra?**

The zebra, horse, and donkey have evolved from the same ancestor. They all evolved from a horse-like animal called **Eohippus**. They appeared on the earth the size of a dog or fox and had an arched back, a short face, and a striped coat. Their forepart feet had four toes, and their backside feet had three toes. They existed on earth about 55 million years ago in the **Eocene epoch**. They belong to the family **Equidae**. They had very tiny-sized brains.

### **4. What is responsible for the black and white stripes on the zebra's body?**

There is a melanin pigment in the zebra, which is responsible for the black-colored stripes on the zebra. In white-colored stripes, there is no melanin pigment, so the body appears white. This chemical substance is produced in specialized skin cells known as melanocytes and brings it toward the growing hairs, which makes them black, while in white-colored stripes, genes that are responsible for **melanin** production are deactivated.

## **References**

- <https://www.britannica.com/animal/zebra>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zebra>
- <https://www.britannica.com/animal/dawn-horse>