



# Plains Zebra

## Fast Facts



**Scientific Name:** *Equus burchelli*

**Other Names:** Plains Zebra

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

Extinct      Threatened      Least Concern



**Body Length:** 2.2–2.5 m

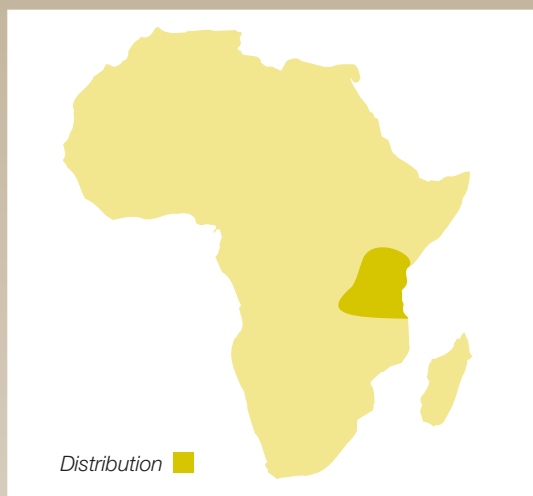
**Weight:** 200–300 kg

**Gestation:** 11.5 months

**Number of young:** 1

**Habitat:** Open grassy plains

**Distribution:** Eastern Africa



Distribution ■

## Description

Zebras are smaller than horses. They have a mane on their neck and a long-haired tail. Zebras have black skin with white fur. Each zebra has its own individual stripe pattern.

## Diet

Zebras are herbivores and eat mostly grass.

## In the wild

Zebras live in close-knit family groups called a harem with the male controlling the group and protecting it from rivals or predators. Group members rely on each other to look out for danger. Zebras stay close to each other when they migrate in herds of 10,000 or more. When migrating, zebras slow their pace for weak or young members and never leave them behind. The zebra's natural predators are lions, Spotted Hyenas and African Painted Dogs.

## Threats

There are three subspecies of zebra: Plains, Grevy's and Burchell's. The Plains species is common in Africa but its numbers have reduced due to habitat destruction.

## At Perth Zoo

Our Plains Zebras share their African Savannah home with Giraffes.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Zebras have several ways of protecting themselves when attacked by predators. The group will huddle together to form a mix of black and white stripes that will confuse the predator that will be unable to tell which end has the head and which end has the tail. The herd may also run away. Zebras can reach speeds of up to 65 kph. As a last resort, zebras can also use their strong hooves and sharp teeth against a predator.**