**Zebras** ([/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:IPA_for_English)[ˈzɛbrə](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:IPA_for_English#Key)[/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:IPA_for_English) [***zeb****-rə*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Pronunciation_respelling_key) or [/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:IPA_for_English)[ˈziːbrə](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:IPA_for_English#Key)[/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:IPA_for_English) [***zee****-brə*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Pronunciation_respelling_key))[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zebra#cite_note-0) are several species of [African](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African) [equids](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equids) (horse family) united by their distinctive black and white stripes. Their stripes come in different patterns unique to each individual. They are generally social animals that live in small [harems](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harems)to large [herds](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herds). Unlike their closest relatives, [horses](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horse) and [asses](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donkey), zebras have never been truly[domesticated](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domesticated).

There are three species of zebras: the [plains zebra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plains_zebra), the [Grévy's zebra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gr%C3%A9vy%27s_Zebra) and the [mountain zebra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain_zebra). The plains zebra and the mountain zebra belong to the subgenus *Hippotigris*, but Grevy's zebra is the sole species of subgenus *Dolichohippus*. The latter resembles an [ass](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asinus), to which it is closely related, while the former two are more horse-like. All three belong to the genus *Equus*, along with other living equids.

The unique stripes of zebras make these among the animals most familiar to people. They occur in a variety of habitats, such as [grasslands](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grasslands), [savannas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Savanna), [woodlands](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woodland), thorny [scrublands](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scrubland),[mountains](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain), and coastal [hills](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hill). However, various anthropogenic factors have had a severe impact on zebra populations, in particular hunting for skins and habitat destruction. Grevy's zebra and the mountain zebra are endangered. While plains zebras are much more plentiful, one subspecies, the [quagga](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quagga), went extinct in the late 19th century, though they have now been rebred from zebra DNA.