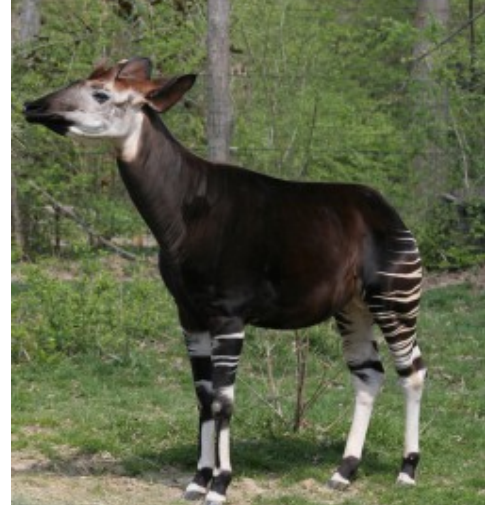


Name: _____

Okapi: Half Giraffe, Half Zebra

By Mikki Sadil

Have you ever seen an animal that looked like it was made from parts of two other animals? That's not as creepy as it sounds! There really is a rainforest animal, known as the okapi (Oh-COP-ee), that looks like it came from two different animals, the giraffe and the zebra.



The okapi resembles a giraffe because he has a long neck and a head shaped like the giraffe's, with the same large, upright ears. The males even have two small horns in the middle of their foreheads. They have longer front legs than back ones, and both legs move together on each side of the body when they walk, instead of each leg moving separately. Okapis are not as tall as their giraffe cousins, but they can stretch their necks far enough to reach branches 10 feet above the ground.

The okapi's hindquarters and all four legs have brown and white stripes, much like the zebra. These stripes act as camouflage in the forest, and make the okapis hard to see among all the trees and foliage. This camouflage protects them from the rainforest leopard, their main

pred
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The only natural habitat in the world for the okapi is the Okapi Wildlife Reserve in the Ituri Rainforest in Central Africa. The okapi were not discovered there until the year 1900. While this may seem like a long time ago, it was actually the last large mammal to be discovered. Since then, new animals have been discovered all over the world, but none have been large mammals like the okapi. Even today, many people have never heard of this unusual creature.

Name: _____

Okapi: Half Giraffe, Half Zebra

By Mikki Sadil



1. Where do wild okapis live?
 - a. in the rainforests of South America
 - b. in deserts of Africa
 - c. on the plains of Australia
 - d. in the rainforests of Africa

2. Besides eating, what do okapis use their long tongues for?

3. What is the okapi's main predator?

4. W



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5. Which fact about okapis is true?
 - a. Male okapis have horns on their foreheads.
 - b. Okapis are taller than giraffes.
 - c. The tongue of an okapi is bright red.
 - d. Okapis have longer back legs than front legs.

6. What specific things would an okapi eat?

Name: _____

Okapi: Half Giraffe, Half Zebra



Before Reading

Look at the picture of an okapi to the right. What questions do you have about this animal?

Question 1: _____

Question 2: _____

Question



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Now read
the answer

te

Answer 1: _____

Answer 2: _____

Answer 3: _____

If your questions were not answered with information in the article, where else might you look for answers? List a specific book or website.

Name: _____

Okapi: Half Giraffe, Half Zebra

By Mikki Sadil

The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.



1. _____ tronrafies

hint: jungle

2. _____ ds ub

hint: parts of plants that grow into flowers

3. _____ pelpur



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5. _____ vecodedisr

hint: found for the first time

6. _____ giafole

hint: plant leaves

7. _____ parleod

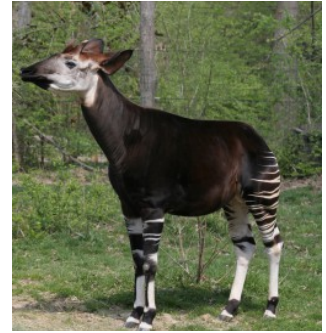
hint: spotted cat

Name: _____

Okapi: Half Giraffe, Half Zebra

By Mikki Sadil

In the article, "Okapi: Half Giraffe, Half Zebra", you learned about a real African animal that is a cross between a giraffe and a zebra.



Invent your own animal that is a cross between two other animals. For example, what would a cross between a tiger and an elephant look like? Or what about an animal that was part parrot and part fish? Use your imagination.

Draw a picture of your imaginary animal and write a paragraph to describe it.

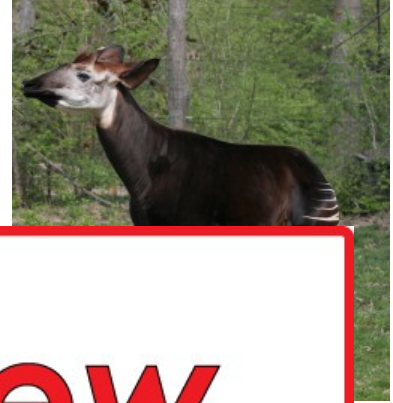


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ANSWER KEY

Okapi: Half Giraffe, Half Zebra

By Mikki Sadil



1. Where do wild okapis live? **d**
- a. in the rainforests of South America

2. Be
cl

3. W
ro

4. W

5. W

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- b. Okapis are taller than giraffes.
- c. The tongue of an okapi is bright red.
- d. Okapis have longer back legs than front legs.
6. What specific things would an okapi eat?
tree leaves, buds, grass, ferns, and fruit

Name: _____

Okapi: Half Giraffe, Half Zebra

By Mikki Sadil

The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.



1. rainforest

tr onrafies

hint: jungle

2. buds

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3. purp

4. diffe

5. disc

6. folia

7. leopard

parleod

hint: spotted cat