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## Stripes Under Threat: Predators and Dangers to Zebras



Zebras, with their iconic black-and-white stripes, face many dangers in the wild. These threats come from predators, environmental changes, and even human activities. Despite their speed and sharp senses, zebras must constantly stay alert to survive.

One of the biggest dangers to zebras is predators. Lions, hyenas, and cheetahs are the main animals that hunt zebras. These predators usually target the young, sick, or injured zebras, as they are easier to catch. Lions often work together to ambush a zebra herd, while cheetahs rely on their incredible speed to chase down a single zebra. Hyenas, on the other hand, are persistent and will work in packs to tire out their prey.

Apart from predators, zebras also face threats from environmental changes. Droughts can make water and food hard to find, forcing zebras to travel long distances in search of resources. Habitat loss caused by farming or building projects is another serious problem. As humans take over the land, zebras lose the grassy plains they need to survive.

Zebras also have to deal with diseases and parasites. Ticks, for example, can attach to a zebra's skin and suck its blood, which can make the zebra weak or sick. Zebras sometimes roll in the dirt to get rid of these pests, a behavior called dust bathing. This simple action helps keep them healthy.

To stay safe, zebras rely on their herds. Living in groups provides protection, as many eyes and ears can detect danger. If one zebra spots a predator, it warns the others with a loud bark. Zebras also use their strong hooves and sharp kicks to defend themselves. A zebra's kick can seriously injure a predator, giving it a chance to escape.

Despite all these challenges, zebras are strong and resourceful animals. Their ability to live in herds, stay alert, and adapt to changing conditions helps them survive in the wild. By protecting zebras and their habitats, we can ensure that these incredible animals continue to roam the African plains for years to come.