



**THIS IS NATHAN**



**THIS IS DANTE**



**THIS IS GUMU**

**UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS**

Stripes give zebras a uniform appearance, but also mark them as individuals. Just as each of us has a unique pattern of fingerprints, each zebra has a unique pattern of stripes. This helps family members, and members of a herd, identify each other. As with fingerprints, it takes a close look to find the pattern.

**ZEBRA SPECIES**

There are three species of zebras. Gumu, Nathan, and Dante are all Grevy's zebras, named for a French president, Jules Grevy, who received a gift of one of them from the emperor of Abyssinia (now Ethiopia) in 1882.

The other two species are mountain zebras and plains zebras. Grevy's zebras are the most donkey-like of the three. The other species look more like horses.



**LOOK CLOSELY . . .**

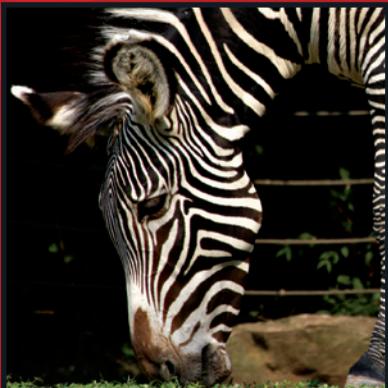
at the pictures above and below to identify Nathan, Dante, and Gumu, three zebras at the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, D.C. The answers are hidden somewhere on this page.

**HARD TO TELL THEM APART?**

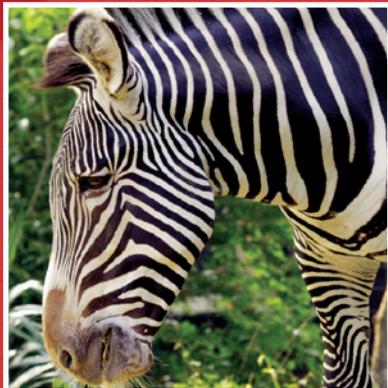
There's a reason for that. A zebra's stripes are confusing to lions and other predators. A lion moving toward a herd of zebras sees a big mass of stripes, like a huddle of referees on a football field. The lion has a hard time deciding which set of stripes—which uniform—to focus on.

Smithsonian Institution  
**WHO'S WHO**  
at the national ZOO  
Learn more about these zebras and others: NATIONALZOO-SI.EDU  
Find more fun: SMITHSONIAN EDUCATION. ORG/STUDENTS

**WHO IS THIS? \_\_\_\_\_**



**WHO IS THIS? \_\_\_\_\_**



**WHO IS THIS? \_\_\_\_\_**



**HERE'S GUMU AGAIN.**

Try to reproduce his unique stripes as you draw him.

ANSWERS: ZEBRAS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: GUMU, NATHAN, DANTE. PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANN BARTOBE AND MEGAN MURPHY, SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL ZOO. © 2009 SMITHSONIAN CENTER FOR EDUCATION AND MUSEUM STUDIES