

Read the text and choose the correct answers

### THE ZEBRA MYSTERY



For many years scientists have wondered \_\_\_\_\_ zebras have black and white stripes. Some believe that the stripes create an optical illusion which hides a zebra's movements and in this way protects it from being attacked. When lions see a group of zebras, the stripes make it difficult for them to assess the zebras' size and speed. However, one study has found that lions are particularly good catching zebras.

There have been other popular theories too. One claims that each zebra has a unique pattern of stripes so \_\_\_\_\_ individual can recognise another. There is also a theory that suggests that the stripes help zebras with thermoregulation and protect them from the strong African sun.

A team of US researchers has \_\_\_\_\_ found evidence that the zebra got its stripes for different reasons. The zebra's short hair makes it easy for dangerous African flies to bite and infect the animal with different \_\_\_\_\_. It seems that flies find it harder to land on stripes and during their evolution zebras have developed a perfect way to keep the flies away. The stripes are narrow on the lower legs and on the head, the areas which attract flies the most.

