

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.

