

How Zebra Got Stripes and Giraffes Blotches

In the early days, everyone had a fair colour. Leopard lived in a place called High Veldt where there was sand and sandy coloured rock and sandy yellowish grass. All the animals that lived there, Zebra, Giraffe and others, were sandy-yellow-brownish all over. Leopard too had the same colour. He used to hunt with Ethiopian, the hunter, who was a greyish-yellowish-brownish man. Leopard hunted with his claws and teeth and Ethiopian with his bows and arrows. This was bad for Zebra and Giraffe and the rest of the animals

The two friends, Zebra and Giraffe went away from the High Veldt to a great forest full of trees and bushes and stripy, speckly, patchy-blotchy shadows. They hid in the forest for a long time. Standing half in shade and half out of it, with the slippery, slidy shadows falling on them, Giraffe got large irregular blotches and Zebra got stripes on their bodies. They became one with the shades and the shadows of the forest one could hear them and smell them but not see them. They were happy in the forest.

1. Answer these questions.

a. Where did the animals live in the early days?

b. What did the animals look like?

c. Why did Zebra and Giraffe leave High Veldt?

d. What happened to Giraffe and Zebra in the other forest?

2. The writer has fun with words in this story, so speckled become "speckly". Find the original words for three such words used by the writer.

a. stripy _____

b. blotchy _____

c. slidy _____