CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Striped Polecat

Ictonyx striatus

The striped polecat, commonly referred to as the zorilla, is a small carnivorous mammal native to sub-Saharan Africa. It is easily recognized by its striking black and white striped pattern, which ru…

Quick facts

Classification: Mammal
Family: Mustelidae
Habitat: Savanna
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 7-13 years
Weight: 0.6-1.3 kg
Scientific name: Ictonyx striatus

Did you know?

- The zorilla's spray is so potent that it can cause temporary blindness in predators or humans if it gets into the eyes.
- Zorillas are sometimes called 'African skunks' due to their appearance and their powerful defensive spray. Despite their fierce odor, they play a ben…

What I learned

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