

ALPHABET ZOO FACTSHEET

storytime™

Letter
XYZ
Animals

XERUS



1. **Xerus** is another name for an African ground squirrel. You say the 'X' like a letter 'Z'.
2. There are four different types of African ground squirrels – Cape, Damara, striped and unstriped.
3. Their claws aren't strong enough to climb trees, but they can dig underground burrows with them.
4. When they need to get clean, they bathe in dust.
5. If they spot a predator, lots of ground squirrels rush at it at the same time and try to block it with their bushy tails.

CUTE!

They talk to each other in chirps and squeaks, but it's not all cute – they can also growl.

1. Thanks to their double coats, yaks can survive temperatures as low as -40°C. **Yak** fur makes cosy wool.
2. **Yaks** even go for icy lake baths when the temperature is very low.
3. There aren't many wild **yaks** left – most yaks are domesticated.
4. Even though they are big, they still have predators, such as the Tibetan wolf, bears and snow leopards.
5. In treeless parts of Tibet, people use dried **yak** dung to make fire instead of firewood.

YAK



YUM!

Yak cheese, milk and butter are all delicacies in Tibet.

ZEBRA



1. **Zebra** stripes provide camouflage when they're in tall grasses. When they are in large groups together, the stripes also confuse predators.
2. Each **zebra's** stripes are unique and a foal can recognise its mum from her stripes.
3. Foals are born with brown and white stripes.
4. **Zebras** can gallop at speeds of up to 65 kilometres (40 miles) per hour. They really can outpace a lion.
5. Every year, they migrate over 2,800 kilometres (1,800 miles) looking for grass to eat.

WOW!

Zebra foals can run just a few hours after being born.

X IS BEST

Can you circle the letters that spell the word **XERUS**?

HA HA!

Which nursery rhyme do children in Tibet like best?
Yak and Jill.



A X I P O J
W Z Y B K
E F R L
A Q Y
M H J
D I S
K Z W
N C T
Q U G Y

SAVE STRIPE!

Stripe the Zebra has lost her stripes.
Can you draw them on?

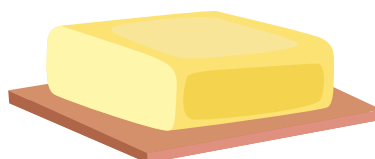
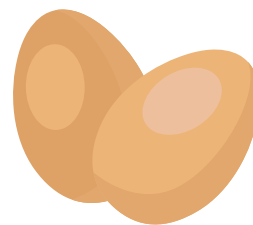
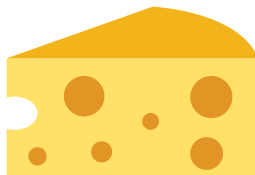
TEE-HEE!

If a quadruped has
four legs and a
biped has two legs,
what is a zebra?
A stri-ped!



USEFUL YAK!

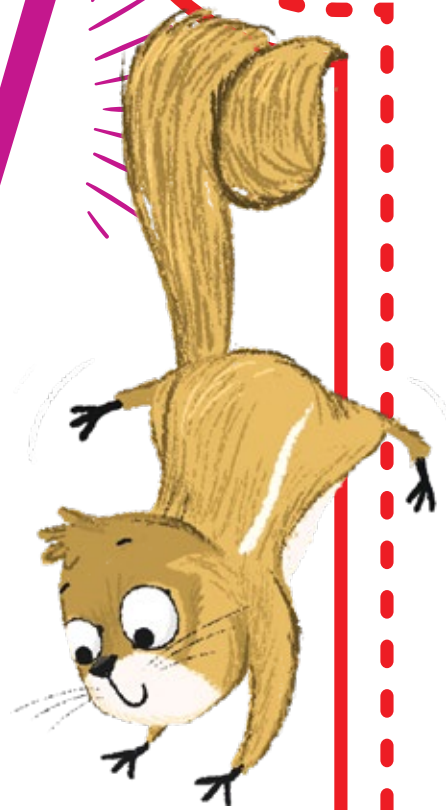
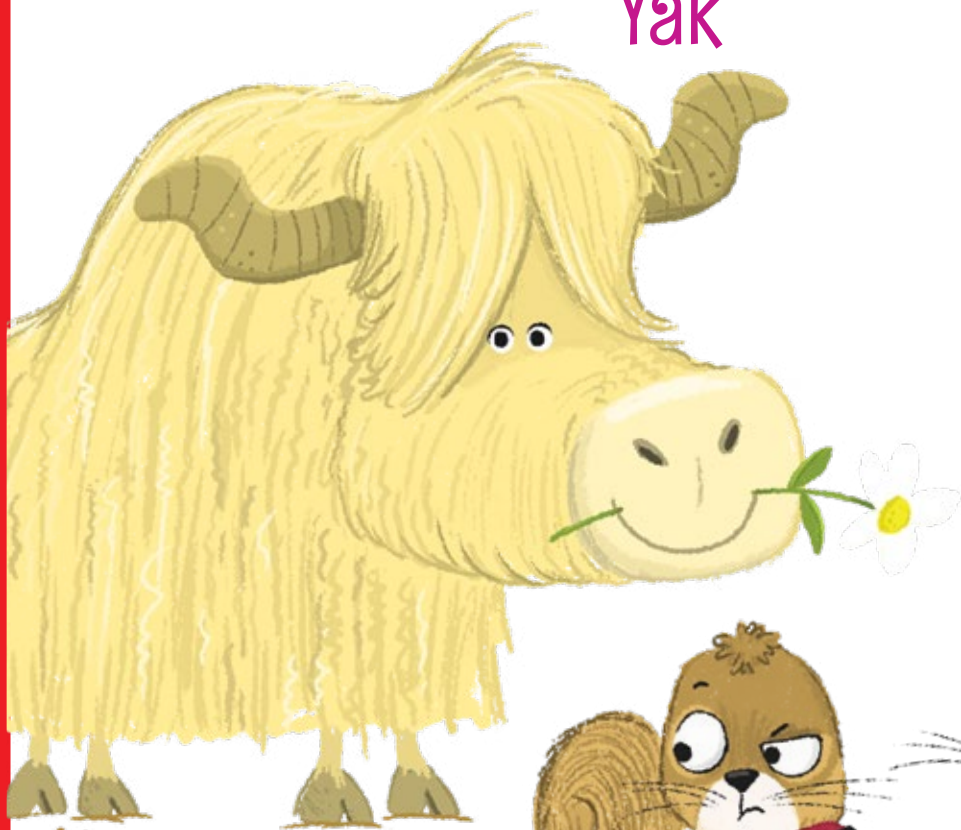
Which of these products doesn't come
from a yak? Circle the odd one out.



Answers: Eggs are the odd one out.

Xx Yy

Xerus
Yak



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Zz

Zebra



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