Photograph Analysis Tool

Who(m)?

Who created it?
Gardiner F. Williams, who is a photographer for National Geographic

Whom was it created for?
Readers of National Geographic, who are mostly adults interested in science

What:

What is it?
“Zebras,” a photograph of two zebras standing next to each other, and another animal standing behind them, on a grassy plain by a stand of trees

What about it stands out?
The fact that the zebras, as well as the other animal, seem to be paying very close attention to the photographer

Where?

Where was it created?
On a grassy plain by a stand of trees

Where can it be viewed?
In the June 1906 issue of National Geographic and online

When?

When was it created?
June 1906 or earlier

When can it be viewed?
June 1906 or later
Why/How?

*Why may it have been created?*

Possibly to inform its viewers of what zebras and their environments look like, and that they live near other animals without trouble

*How can you tell it was created for this reason?*

Williams’s decision to focus on the zebras, but not the other animal, suggests that he wants viewers to pay attention to the zebras

Using the photograph’s details, find evidence of its creator’s attitudes.

*I think that Williams’s decision to focus on the zebras, but not the other animal, is evidence that he admires the zebras’ appearance, and that he is more interested in them than in animals they may live near. His focus also suggests that he values these zebras as individual animals, not just as representatives of their species.*

Using the photograph’s details, predict its effect on viewers’ attitudes.

*I think that seeing the zebras up close may cause viewers to admire their beauty, and that seeing the other animal in the background may cause viewers to discount his or her species’s importance. Seeing them up close may also cause viewers to value them as individuals, not just as representatives of their species.*

Do you have any other comments or questions about the photograph?

*I would really like to know what the article connected to the photograph was about, and whether it included other photographs. Knowing that information would help me better understand the photograph’s context and, as a result, Williams’s attitudes. Right now, I’m not confident that I know them.*

*Adapted from the National Archives and Records Administration’s “Photo Analysis Worksheet” (http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/photo_analysis_worksheet.pdf)*