

MEET THE GIRAFFE

ABOUT ME

I am a giraffe, a majestic creature with a long neck and slender legs. With my patchy coat and incredible height, I stand out in the animal kingdom.

I have a very long neck.
Do you have a long neck too?

MY NAMES

My name, '**GIRAFFE**', comes from the Arabic word "zarāfa" or "zarāfah," which means "one who walks swiftly."

We can also run up to 60kmph!

Do you know what your name means?

WHY WE ARE IMPORTANT

As giraffes, we're important because we have a special job in the world. Our long necks help us eat leaves from tall trees and we also use them for fighting, (called 'necking'). When we eat those leaves, it helps keep the trees healthy and make room for other trees and plants to grow too.

When we cross the plains, we carry seeds in our poop. Those seeds then fall to the ground and grow into new plants. This helps spread and grow different kinds of plants in our habitat.

We have a big role to play in the world, just like you do!

DID YOU KNOW?

We have unique markings on our bodies, just like your fingerprints! No two giraffes have exactly the same pattern of spots, making each one of us special and one-of-a-kind. We have **HUGE** hearts, that can weigh up to 11kgs!

Do you know how much a human heart weighs?

DID YOU KNOW?

We are the tallest animal in the world, growing to over 5,5m tall!

We sleep for just a few minutes at a time and can even sleep standing up!

Can you sleep while you stand?

TOP THREATS

We face threats from predators like lions and hyenas who try to sneak up on us. We have to be careful and stay alert to stay safe. Humans can also be a threat when they harm our habitats or hunt us, but there are people who work hard to protect us and keep us safe in the wild. Our numbers have dropped 30% in 30yrs!

It's important for everyone to protect our habitat AND us before we disappear!

MY FAMILY

Giraffe families are tight-knit and supportive. We live in herds, with our moms, dads, and brothers & sisters. We play, learn, and explore together.

Do you like to play with your brothers and sisters?

WHAT WE LIKE TO EAT

We are **HERBIVORES**.

We love to eat the leaves of acacia trees, and can eat up to 45kgs of leaves and twigs a day, and really don't need to drink often, we get the moisture needed from the leaves. We use our long blue tongues like fingers to pick yummy leaves from thorns, and our mouths are protected with armour-like 'papillae' to protect us from those sharp thorns!

What is your favourite food?

