

Giraffes — The Tallest Animals on Land

Reading Worksheet — Level C | tahricteaches.com

A **giraffe** is the **tallest** animal in the world. It has a very **long neck** and four strong **legs**. A giraffe can grow as tall as a two-story building! Its body is covered in a beautiful pattern of brown spots on light skin.

Giraffes live in Africa, where it is warm and sunny. They love to **eat** leaves from the tops of **trees**. A giraffe has a very long tongue — almost 45 centimeters — to pull leaves right off the branches. Giraffes spend many hours eating every day.

Giraffes also need to **drink** water, but it is not easy. A giraffe must spread its long front legs wide and bend all the way down to reach the water. This looks very funny! While bending, a giraffe is in danger because it is hard to escape quickly.

A **baby** giraffe is called a calf. A newborn calf is already taller than most adult people! It can stand up and walk just one hour after being born. The mother giraffe stays close and protects her calf from danger.

Giraffes live in small groups on the open land. They use their **heads** to look around and watch for danger. They can also **run** very fast to escape. Giraffes are some of the most amazing animals in the whole world!

A. Vocabulary

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|---------------|---|
| 1. tall ____ | a. the top part of the body that holds the brain, eyes, and mouth |
| 2. long ____ | b. to put food in your mouth, chew it, and swallow it |
| 3. neck ____ | c. to take liquid into your mouth and swallow it |
| 4. leg ____ | d. having great height; measuring a lot from bottom to top |
| 5. eat ____ | e. measuring a great length from one end to the other |
| 6. tree ____ | f. the part of the body that connects the head to the shoulders |
| 7. drink ____ | g. one of the long body parts used for walking or running |
| 8. baby ____ | h. a large plant with a long wooden trunk and many branches |
| 9. head ____ | i. a very young child or animal |
| 10. run ____ | j. to move quickly on your legs, faster than walking |



B. True or False

1. A giraffe is the tallest animal in the world. ____
2. A giraffe has a very short neck. ____
3. Giraffes live in Africa where it is warm and sunny. ____
4. Giraffes eat leaves from the tops of trees. ____
5. A giraffe's tongue is about 10 centimeters long. ____
6. It is easy for a giraffe to bend down and drink water. ____
7. A baby giraffe is called a calf. ____
8. A newborn calf can walk just one hour after being born. ____
9. Giraffes always live alone without other giraffes. ____



C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: neck, eat, tall, baby, drink

1. A giraffe is the _____ est animal in the world.
2. Giraffes have a very long _____ to reach leaves high in the trees.

3. Giraffes love to _____ leaves from the tops of trees every day.
4. A _____ giraffe is called a calf and can walk just one hour after being born.
5. To _____ water, a giraffe must spread its legs wide and bend all the way down.

D. Comprehension Questions

1. What does a giraffe look like, and where does it live?
2. How does a giraffe eat leaves from tall trees?
3. Why is drinking water difficult and dangerous for a giraffe?
4. What can a baby giraffe do just one hour after it is born?
5. How do giraffes protect themselves from danger?

E. Discussion Questions

1. What do you think is the most amazing thing about giraffes?
2. Why is it important to protect animals like giraffes?
3. If you could visit Africa to see giraffes in the wild, what would you most want to see them do?



Answer Key

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A. Vocabulary: 1-d, 2-e, 3-f, 4-g, 5-b, 6-h, 7-c, 8-i, 9-a, 10-j

B. True/False: 1-T, 2-F, 3-T, 4-T, 5-F, 6-F, 7-T, 8-T, 9-F

C. Fill Blanks: 1-tall, 2-neck, 3-eat, 4-baby, 5-drink

D. Comprehension:

1. A giraffe has a very long neck, four strong legs, and brown spots on its body. It lives in Africa where it is warm and sunny.
2. A giraffe uses its very long tongue — almost 45 centimeters — to pull leaves right off the branches of tall trees.
3. A giraffe must spread its long front legs wide and bend all the way down to reach the water. While bending, it is hard for the giraffe to escape from danger quickly.
4. A baby giraffe can stand up and walk just one hour after being born.
5. Giraffes use their heads to look around and watch for danger. They can also run very fast to escape, and they kick hard with their strong legs.

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