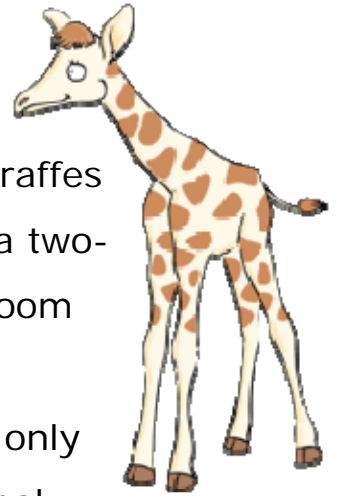


## The Amazing Giraffe

Giraffes are the tallest animals on earth. Male giraffes can grow to a height of about 17 feet. If you lived in a two-story house an adult giraffe could look into your bedroom window on the second floor.



Giraffes only live on the continent of Africa. The only giraffes in the United States are found in zoos or animal parks. Visitors love to see the giraffes because they are so tall. Besides standing on long legs, giraffes have the longest neck of any animal. The neck of a giraffe can be eight feet long.

Giraffes love to eat leaves. With their great height, giraffes easily eat leaves from the tops of acacia trees. Giraffes get enough food because no other animals can reach the same food that giraffes like. Giraffes spend most of their time eating. Giraffes don't sleep much. They just take short naps while standing up.

Giraffes don't drink much water. They get most of the water they need from the leaves they eat. It is very hard for an adult giraffe to get a drink of water from a stream or pool.

Giraffes are beautiful animals. They have an unusual coat that has large brown spots on a cream colored background. There are many different kinds of giraffes across Africa. Each kind of giraffe has a slightly different shape to their spots. A giraffe's coat pattern helps it to blend in with the landscape in which they live.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Multiple Choice

Circle the correct answer.

1. Which word best describes giraffes?

- a. Fastest
- b. Tallest
- c. Biggest

2. Where do giraffes naturally live?

- a. Africa
- b. Australia
- c. Asia

3. What do giraffes eat?

- a. Grasses
- b. Leaves
- c. Rodents

4. When do giraffes sleep?

- a. All night
- b. All afternoon
- c. They take short naps

5. Why do giraffes have a spotted coat?

- a. It is beautiful
- b. It blends with the landscape
- c. It stands out in water



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Short Answer

1. Locate the continent of Africa on a map of the world.
2. Giraffes can grow to 17 feet tall with a neck that is 8 feet tall. As a group, use a long tape measure and mark out 17 feet and 8 feet to figure out the size of a giraffe.
3. Have you ever seen a giraffe at a zoo? Tell the story about your visit to the zoo.
4. Explain how giraffes get enough to eat.
5. Why is it hard for a giraffe to take a drink of water from a stream like other animals do?



6. These pictures show the pattern of spots on three different giraffes. Make your own drawing of a giraffe's coat.



## Answer Key

### Multiple Choice

1. b.
2. a.
3. b.
4. c.
5. b.

### Short Answer

1. Individual response
2. Individual response
3. Individual response
4. With their great height, giraffes easily eat leaves from the tops of tall trees. Giraffes get enough food because no other animals can reach the same food that giraffes like.
5. A giraffe is so tall that it has trouble getting its head down to ground level or below to get a drink from a stream or pool.
6. Individual response
7. Individual response

