

# 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 NAME

My name, '**GIRAFFE**', comes from the Arabic word "zarāfa" or "zarāfah", which means "one who walks swiftly". We can also run up to 60km per hour!

**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.

Our droppings carry seeds from the plants we eat. When we cross the plains, the seeds fall to the ground and grow into new plants. We have a big role to play in the world, just like you do!

## 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. We don't need to drink often as we get water from the plants we eat. We use our long blue tongues like fingers to pick yummy leaves from thorns, and our mouths are protected with armour-like 'papillae' (little bumps on the tongue) to protect us from those sharp thorns!

**What is your favourite food?**

## MY FAMILY

A group of giraffes is called a 'tower'. We play, learn, and explore together.

**Do you like to play with your brothers and sisters?**

## 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 standing up?**

## TOP THREATS

We face threats from predators like lions and crocodiles 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 the last 30 years!

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

