



Read Aloud
15 MINUTES
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15 Fun Facts About Giraffes!

- 1 Giraffes are found among the open plains and woodlands in Africa.
- 2 These gentle giants are the world's tallest animals. An adult male can grow to around 18 feet – that's taller than three adult humans!
- 3 A giraffe's height is helpful for keeping a look out for predators, such as lions and hyenas.
- 4 Giraffes have the largest heart of any land mammal. It takes a powerful heart to move blood up the long neck into the brain.
- 5 Giraffes are herbivores, which means they only eat plants. Their favorite food is the acacia tree, and they use their long necks to reach the leaves and buds in the treetops.
- 6 Giraffes' long tongues (which grow up to 20 inches!) also help them pull down leaves growing way up high.
- 7 They spend most of their time eating, and can guzzle up to 99 lb. of leaves and twigs a day!
- 8 Giraffes do not drink much water, as they get most of their water from their leafy meals, and only need to drink once every few days.
- 9 A giraffe's neck is too short to reach the ground. As a result, it has to awkwardly spread or bend its front legs to reach the ground for a drink of water.
- 10 Giraffes are very social animals and roam around in groups, called towers.
- 11 To see who is stronger, males (called bulls) fight by butting their long necks and heads.
- 12 Female giraffes give birth standing up. Their young fall up to 6 feet to the ground and can stand up within an hour of birth.
- 13 In the wild these beautiful creatures live for around 25 years. In captivity they live longer, and have been known to reach 40 years old.
- 14 Giraffe feet are the size of a dinner plate with a diameter of 11 inches.
- 15 Just like human fingerprints, no two giraffes have the same coat pattern.

