

# ANIMAL FUN FACTS

## THE GIRAFFE

Giraffes call the savanna their home. They thrive in the open plains and woodlands of this region.

A giraffe spends all day eating. They have been known to eat 99 pounds of leaves, primarily acacia leaves, and twigs in a day. Because acacia leaves contain a great deal of water, giraffes oftentimes do not drink water in the same way other animals in the savanna do.



The giraffe is the tallest living animal in the world. The adult male is taller than 3 human grown ups stacked one atop the other.

The giraffe's favorite food source is the acacia tree. The giraffe is able to eat the leaves and tender buds at the top of the tree by stretching its long, long neck as far as it can.

Giraffes are very social animals. They stick together in groups called "towers." Each tower, led by an dominant adult male, consists of about 15 members. The rest of the group is made up of weaker giraffe males, females, and the very young.

A giraffe's tongue measures about 20 inches long. Its tongue is very strong and is quite helpful in pulling down leaves that grow high in the acacia tree. The dark blue color of a giraffe's thick tongue protects from the burning rays of the sun.

Giraffe's heart, one of the biggest in mammals, can weigh 24 pounds with super-charged thick walls that pump 16 to 20 gallons of blood per minute, allowing the blood to travel up their long neck and reach their brain properly. However, their dynamic anatomy also prevents the brain from getting too much blood when the giraffe lowers its head to drink water.

Because the giraffe has such a tall neck, with the same number on neck bones as humans, they are able to locate predators approaching from a long distance away.

Giraffe's have a life span of 25 years in the wild and 40 years in captivity.



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