

# Giraffe

Giraffes are the tallest mammals in the world.

At birth, pups can be the same height as a human adult  
1.80 meters (6 feet approx.)

They live in East Africa or in Angola and Zambia in Southwest Africa.  
They inhabit the fields, forests, savannas and grasslands.

Their habitat has been reduced in recent years because to human activity.

There are four species of giraffes and nine subspecies.

- Masai giraffe
- Reticulated Giraffe
- Southern giraffe
- Northern Giraffe

They live in groups of approximately **10** members

In the wild they live up to **25 years**

In captivity up to **36 years**

Up to 6 m height and a weight of **1.000 kg**

Females are **smaller**

The spots are unique, like fingerprints on humans.

The spots on the skin help camouflage oneself predators.

The darker the spots, the older the giraffe

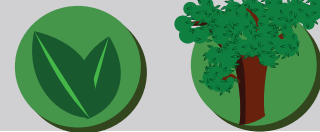
The horns allow to distinguish its sex.  
Females have horns covered in hair on top, while males do not.

Their tongue measures up to **45 cm**

They are ruminants, that is to say have a stomach with four compartments per the ones the food must pass.

They swallow, regurgitate and then swallow their food again.

## Diet



They are herbivorous. They eat up to 29 kg. at one time. Their long neck allows them to reach the fresh leaves and fruits from the treetops.

They can go up to three days without drinking water, since they obtain it from the leaves and fruits they consume.

They rest standing. They are mainly nocturnal.

Sleep only **2 hr** daily

Pregnancy lasts **15 months**

Although their neck is very long it only has **7 vertebrae**

vertebrae of a **giraffe**  
**28 centimeters**

vertebrae of a **human**  
**10 centimeters**

They use their legs to defend themselves from predators. A kick is capable of severely injuring a lion.

## A Powerful Heart



The heart pumps with great force so that the blood reaches the head, but when the head is in a low position a series of valves prevent the blood from flowing back and the pressure bursts the blood vessels of the brain, this network controls the pressure of blood in the brain.

They weigh 10 kilograms and are 60 centimeters long. In order to pump blood, their heart developed thick muscle walls that allows them to pump blood up to their heads.

The specialized valves in the vessels of the neck



They control the pressure of blood in the brain.

## Predators

Due to its size it has few predators, among which are lions, leopards and hyenas, which mainly attack the young.