

Name: _____

A Spotted Giant

Giraffes live on hot African savannas. They are tall mammals that use many physical adaptations for survival.

Giraffes are the tallest mammals on Earth! These spotted giants can be 15 to 17 feet tall. If you really look at a giraffe its body looks disproportional with long legs, a short midsection, and then a really long neck. In fact, their legs alone can be up to 6 feet tall. That's taller than the average person. A giraffe's height gives it an advantage of eating the leaves at the very top of the trees while watching for predators that might be stalking in the distance.

Even their tongues are really long! This gives them the ability to pull lots of big leaves from tree branches. They are grazing animals that munch all day long just like a horse or cow.

Drink up! Both giraffes and camels can survive days without drinking water. That's because giraffes are able to drink up to 12 gallons of water at one time. In order for giraffes to drink, they have to get down into a very low position with their legs spread wide apart making them defenseless against predators like lions.

Every giraffe's coat, just like a tiger's coat, is a unique pattern, no two are alike. Their beautiful spotted coats let them hide well among the trees.

Giraffes sleep only about half an hour a day, taking short power naps throughout the day. This allows them to be awake and alert for predators.

How are giraffe and tigers alike?



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Directions: Read the article about giraffes then answer the questions that follow. Use details and evidence from the article to support your answer.

1. How does having a long neck help a giraffe to survive?

2. How does a giraffe's coat help camouflage him?

3. Why are giraffes called "Spotted Giants"?

4. How are camels and giraffes alike?

