



GIRAFFES



(800) 295-5010



Disney's ANIMAL WORLD

GIRAFFES

Objectives

The student in grades K-2 will:

- Become familiar with the physical characteristics of giraffes
- Learn how giraffes adapt to their environment
- Be introduced to the behavior of giraffes and their offspring

Synopsis

Through live-action footage, students observe wild giraffes in Africa. Clips from Disney animated movies such as *The Jungle Book* further illustrate key facts about the world's tallest animal. Students learn that the long necks of giraffes help them reach the newest, tastiest leaves in treetops. Students discover how these calm, graceful creatures protect their calves from predators (such as lions and hyenas) with a good, swift kick. Students also learn that each giraffe's markings are unique. Two short, fun quizzes help students focus on what they've learned.

Preview Questions

1. What makes giraffes different from all other animals? In what part of the world do giraffes live? (Hint: Lions and zebras live there, too.)
2. Is a giraffe's fur all one color or more than one? Do giraffes have patterns on them? What type of pattern do they have—stripes, spots, or squares?

Suggested Activities

1. Help students complete a chart such as the one below that tells how the special physical characteristics of giraffes help them survive.

Special parts of a giraffe's body	How they help giraffes survive
long neck	helps them eat tender new leaves from treetops and see predators coming from a long distance
long legs with hooved feet	help them take long strides to escape predators; hooves help them kick hard if they have to fight
crisscross marking pattern of brown blocks	helps hide (camouflage) them from predators; also helps them recognize each other, since each giraffe's markings are different
extra-long tongue and leathery mouth	helps them pull leaves off trees and eat thorny bushes



Subject:
Science

Running Time:
16 minutes

2. Inform students that George, a giraffe bull living in an English zoo, grew to a height of almost twenty feet; that's about as tall as a two-story building. Help students find other amazing facts about animals. They can draw a picture and write or dictate a sentence about each fact. Compile their pictures and captions in an Amazing Animal Facts book. You might use the following Website as a source for "fun facts" on mammals: <http://www5.wittenberg.edu/academics/biol/courses/mammals/funfacts.htm>.
3. Read students a picture book on giraffes. Nonfiction children's books on this topic include *Giraffes: Long-Necked Leaf-Eaters* by Lola M. Schaefer (Capstone Press, 2001). Fiction stories include *Giraffe Trouble* by Jean Craighead George (Disney Press, 1998) or *Cecily G. and the Nine Monkeys* by H.A. Rey (Houghton Mifflin, 1989). Invite students to tell about parts of the book that reminded them of facts they learned from the giraffe episode of *Disney's Animal World*.
4. If students have learned about several different kinds of African animals, they might enjoy playing the following matching game. Prepare pairs of cards with animal names and special characteristics. Examples: print giraffe on one card and long neck on another; print lion on one card and mane on another. Mix up the cards and place them face down on a tabletop. Students can use them to play a game similar to "Concentration." You might have students illustrate the cards before they play.
5. From this episode of *Disney's Animal World*, viewers learn that the markings of giraffes allow them to blend in with vegetation on the African savannah. This makes it hard for predators to spot them. Inform students that many other animals, such as zebras, arctic foxes, and lions, use camouflage to hide from predators or sneak up on prey. Read them a picture book on this topic, such as *Animals in Camouflage* by Phyllis L. Tildes (Charlesbridge Publishing, 2000). Students may enjoy drawing pictures of animals that blend in with their surroundings.

On the DVD

Scene Selection

The program on this DVD is divided into 5 chapters. This allows the user to enter at different points in the program.

- Chapter 1: Herds of Africa
- Chapter 2: Quiz Time 1
- Chapter 3: Top of the Tree
- Chapter 4: Quiz Time 2
- Chapter 5: Tallest Animal in the World



DVD Activities

These classroom activities, found on the DVD, include relevant short scenes from the program.

What's for Dinner?

Giraffes are herbivores. That means they don't eat meat. People who don't eat meat are called vegetarians. List what you might have for dinner if you were a vegetarian.

Patterns

Each giraffe has its own color pattern. Use cream-colored construction paper as the background and cut giraffe spot patterns from brown paper. Glue the pattern pieces to the background sheet. Use them to decorate the classroom.

Additional Resources

Disney Educational Productions

<http://www.Edustation.Disney.com>

This award-winning site contains additional activities and resources for use with this DVD.

San Diego Zoo

<http://www.sandiegozoo.org/animalbytes/t-giraffe.html>

Facts about giraffes.



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