



GIRAFFE

Giraffa camelopardalis



As the tallest mammal, the giraffe is best known for its height. Just as each zebra has a distinct pattern of stripes, giraffes have a unique pattern of chestnut colored blotches, varying in size and color. Each pattern is different from the rest in the herd. These herds cover distances reaching up to a half mile in search of foliage to feed on. At times a giraffe can gather a full water supply from food sources alone and go for days without drinking. The giraffe rarely falls prey to predators due to its enormous height. However, young calves are often vulnerable victims for skilled hunters like the lion and spotted hyena.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

The giraffe is known as the world's tallest mammal, averaging an overall height of 18 feet.

WEIGHT

The male giraffe will weigh between 2,400 and 4,200 pounds, while females reach between 1,500 and 2,600 pounds.

FOOD HABITS

During the rainy season, giraffes will feed on broad-leafed trees, using their 18 inch tongues to grasp tall branches. Dry spells force the mammals to eat from evergreens.

HABITAT

Giraffes prefer arid, dry-savannah zones with tall leafy trees.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Today most giraffes are found around or in African national parks and reserves.

FUN FACT

Adult giraffes will gather close to 75 pounds of food each day.