

# GIANT Giraffes



## 1. Adaptation

Giraffes are the tallest living land mammals in the world. Their height helps them to reach the leaves high up on the trees. We have 7 bones in our necks. Find out how many bones giraffes have in their long necks.

## 2. Feeding

**Giraffes are herbivores;** this means that they eat plants. They eat lots of different plants but through studying wild giraffes, researchers have found that their favourite is the acacia tree. Acacia trees have leaves that giraffes love to eat, but they also have sharp spiny thorns. To get around this, giraffe will use their long, flexible tongue to wrap around the leaves and rip them from the branches! A giraffe's tongue is roughly 45 cm long! A giraffe can use its tongue to clean its ears! Can your tongue reach your ears? (Some people can touch their nose with their tongue - can you?)

## 3. Classification

### Giraffes are mammals

All mammals have a backbone | All mammals have fur or hair (at the least for part of their lives) | All females have glands that can produce milk | Most baby mammals develop inside their mothers (not inside an egg) | Mammals are warm blooded

Can you see any mammals from your home? Any pets? Anything through the window? How about in the mirror? (Humans are mammals too.)

## 4. Native

What can you find out about our native mammals? How many mammals are native to the UK? Which is the tallest?

## 5. Did you know?

Life for giraffes, both wild and captive, starts out the same. After a 15 month pregnancy, a female giraffe will give birth to her calf, but will do it standing up. This means that the first thing a giraffe calf will experience is roughly a 2 m drop! This may seem a bit extreme but is perfectly normal for a giraffe.

Using our **webcam** Keep a record of how many giraffe are in the house. Does it change at different times of day or in different weather?

### Giraffe Diary

## 7. Make and do

Head over to our website for more giraffe facts, crafts and activities.

[here](http://www.marwell.org.uk/zoo/explore/animals/2/rothschilds-giraffe) [www.marwell.org.uk/zoo/explore/animals/2/rothschilds-giraffe](http://www.marwell.org.uk/zoo/explore/animals/2/rothschilds-giraffe)

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Giraffes [here](#) on pages p.7 & 8 [www.marwell.org.uk/media/other/KS1\\_Look\\_Learn\\_and\\_Do\\_At\\_Marwell\\_Zoo!.pdf](http://www.marwell.org.uk/media/other/KS1_Look_Learn_and_Do_At_Marwell_Zoo!.pdf)

Colouring and craft pages [here](#) p.18 & 19

[www.marwell.org.uk/media/other/giraffesv2\\_10032015091310.pdf](http://www.marwell.org.uk/media/other/giraffesv2_10032015091310.pdf)



Giraffes have  neck bones

So that's the same number as a human!

