

Reading

A Read the text.

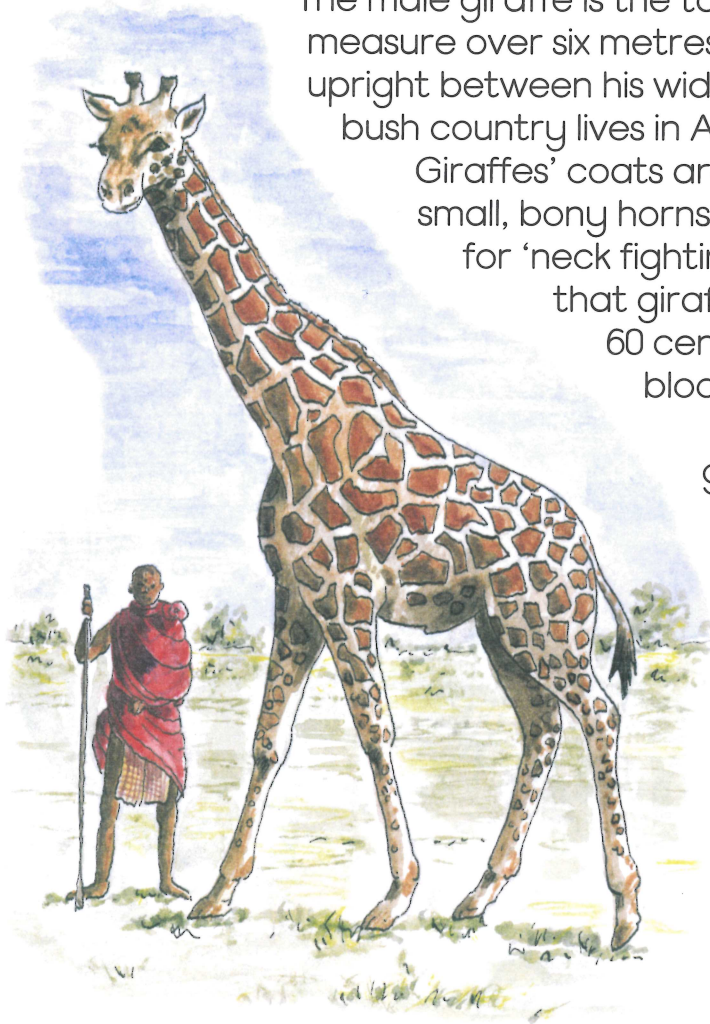
The Giraffe

The male giraffe is the tallest animal in the world. He can measure over six metres. A grown man can easily stand upright between his wide front legs. This king of the open bush country lives in Africa.

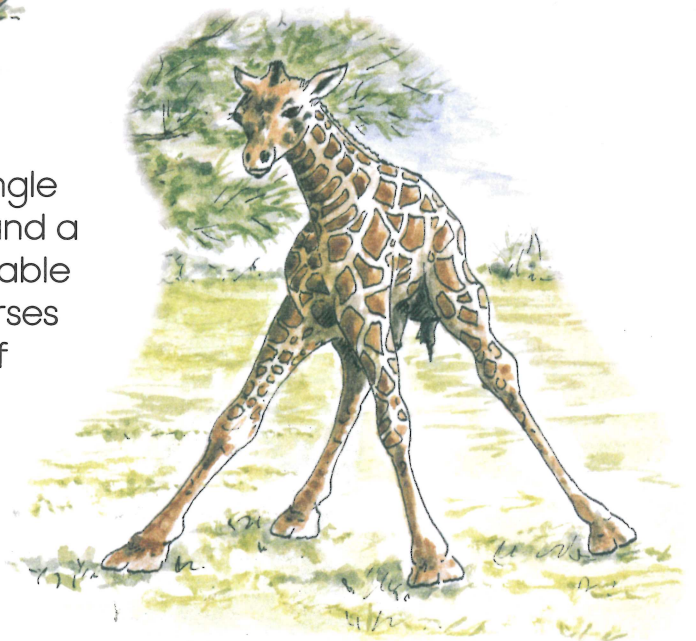
Giraffes' coats are covered with pretty patterns. The small, bony horns on the top of the head are used for 'neck fighting' with other giraffes. Did you know that giraffes are so tall that the heart is over 60 centimetres long, in order to pump the blood to the top of the head?

It is an amazing sight to see the giraffe plucking the leaves and shoots of the tall acacia tree with its long, black tongue. Its thick, hairy lips protect it from prickly thorns and brambles.

Giraffes prefer to sleep standing up so that it can defend itself against attack. A kick from its powerful hind legs could break a man's neck.



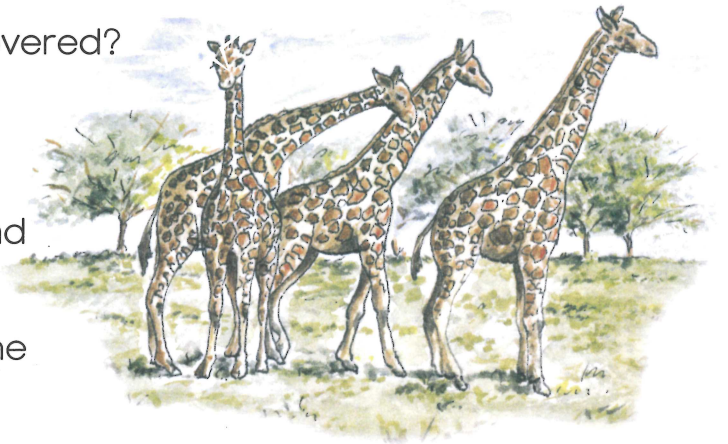
The female giraffe gives birth to a single calf. The newborn baby is about one and a half metres tall and at first is very unstable walking on its long legs. The mother nurses and cares for her 'baby'. At the end of the year the young giraffe is strong enough to defend itself. It roams with the rest of the herd, across the open plains of Africa.



Activities

A Answer these questions.

1. In what country does the giraffe live?
2. How tall can the giraffe grow?
3. How is the giraffe's coat covered?
4. What food does the giraffe like to eat?
5. How does the giraffe defend itself against attack?
6. How does the giraffe use the bony horns on its head?
7. Why do giraffes sleep standing up?
8. What is a young giraffe called?
9. How tall is the newborn giraffe when it's born?
10. Why does the giraffe need a large heart?



B Make a new word from each word below. Not all letters need to be used.

- giraffe _____
- animal _____
- pump _____
- blood _____
- tongue _____
- upright _____
- attack _____
- herd _____
- roams _____
- plains _____

