

# october 2021

INDIVIDUALITY // GIRAFFE // ORANGE

**If you were gazing out across an African savanna,** it would be hard to miss a giraffe.

The world's tallest land mammal, these gentle giants possess distinct characteristics for life among the treetops. Though its neck is amazingly long, a giraffe actually has the same number of vertebrae (bones) in its neck as humans do: seven.

Giraffes look down from a height of 14 to 20 feet tall. (Think of three tall adult humans stacked on top of each other.) Males are taller than females. Even a newborn baby giraffe, called a calf, is the size of a human adult – six feet tall and 150 pounds! It can be up and walking within an hour of its birth.

Acacia leaves are a favorite meal for giraffes, and their long bluish-purple tongues help them strip snacks from branches. They must eat most of the time, hundreds of pounds of leaves each week. Like cows, goats, and other ruminants, giraffes regurgitate their food to chew as cud. Then it passes back to the four chambers of their stomachs.

A giraffe is most vulnerable when drinking at a water hole. Its neck is longer than its legs, and it must maintain an awkward

position to drink. Good thing they only need water every few days; most of their water needs are met by their leafy diet. They sleep standing up.

Giraffes live in groups of about six individuals. The name for a small herd of giraffes? A tower! And while giraffes from the same area might look like their coats all came from the same closet, each individual's pattern is one of a kind.

**INDIVIDUALITY:** *Discovering who you are meant to be*

**Giraffes have amazing adaptations, and the patterned coat of each one is unique.**