MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

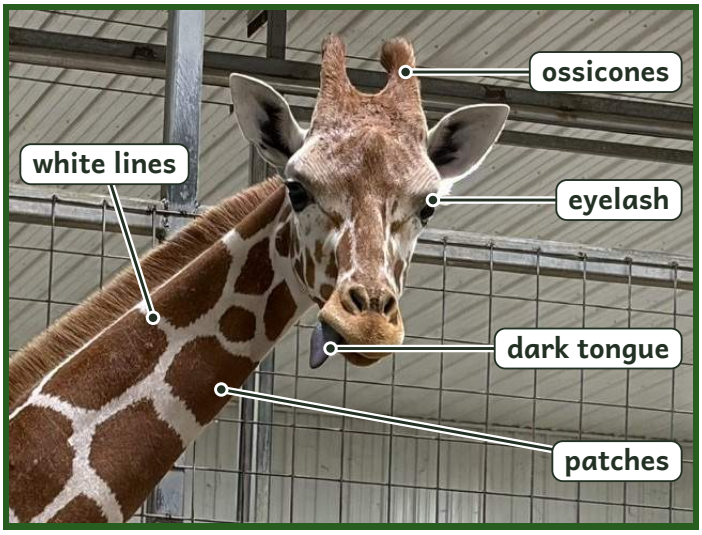
GIRAFFE

Reticulated giraffe

GRADES K–2

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · © 2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.
Teachers may copy and share this sheet freely as long as they credit Plumpton Park Zoo.

Teachers: read this page aloud, one part at a time (about 5 minutes). Children follow along and say the bold words.



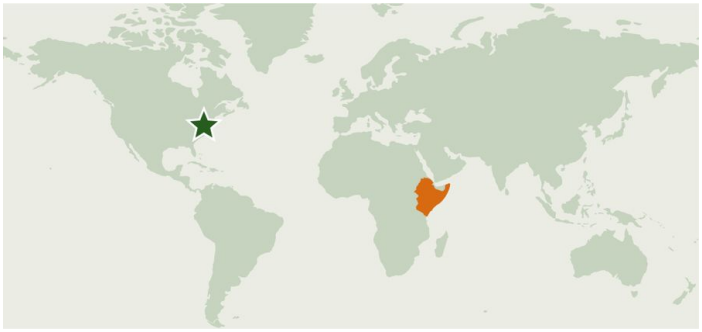
This is Kazar. Can you see the dark tongue?

Its body

A giraffe is the tallest animal.
It has a long neck and legs.
Its coat has brown patches.
White lines run between them.

Its home (habitat)

Wild giraffes live in Africa.
This kind is **endangered**.
People work to help them.
Three live at our zoo.
Their names are Kazar, Jill and Asha.



■ Lives in parts of this area ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

Its food

It eats leaves and flowers.
It eats fruit too.
A long neck helps it reach food.
Its tongue is dark purple.

Its babies (life cycle)

A baby giraffe is a **calf**.
A new calf is about 6 feet tall.
It stands up in about 1 hour.
Then it drinks its mother's milk.

Fun facts

Your neck has 7 bones.
A giraffe's neck has 7 too!
No two **patterns** are the same.

Words to know

calf: a baby giraffe
endangered: at risk, so it needs help
ossicones: the knobs on a giraffe's head
pattern: the shapes and lines on its coat

Talk about it

1. How does a long neck help a giraffe?
2. How is your neck like a giraffe's neck?
3. What does a new calf have to do to get milk?

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/giraffe/ · **Sources:** IUCN Red List; Giraffe Conservation Foundation; Peoria Zoo; Plumpton Park Zoo records.
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: K-LS1-1 (3.1.K.A) · 1-LS1-2 (3.1.1.B)
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GIRAFFE

Before and after your visit

GRADES K–2

Page 2 of the giraffe fact sheet for grades K–2 · **© 2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.**
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Name _____ **Date** _____

Before you visit · 5 minutes

What do you think? Circle **YES** or **NO**.

1. A giraffe is very tall. **YES** **NO**
2. All giraffes have the same pattern. **YES** **NO**
3. A giraffe eats leaves. **YES** **NO**
4. A giraffe has a short neck. **YES** **NO**

At the zoo · with a partner

Check each one you see.

- ☐ long neck
- ☐ eyelashes
- ☐ patches
- ☐ ossicones
- ☐ dark tongue
- ☐ white lines

What is it doing? Circle one.

eating · walking · watching · resting

After your visit · 10 minutes

Draw a giraffe reaching for leaves. Give it your own pattern.

Draw here

A giraffe has a long _____

I learned that _____

ADJUST IT Kindergarten: read everything aloud; children talk and draw, and an adult writes their words. **Grade 2:** children read page 1 on their own. **Grades 3–5:** use the regular giraffe sheet on Teacher Resources. **Second source:** read about this animal in your class database or a library book too, then ask what both said and what was new. **No zoo trip?** Check off what you can find in the photo on page 1. **Answers:** 1 yes, 2 no, 3 yes, 4 no.

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/giraffe/ · Page 1 of this sheet has the words and picture this page refers to.
Science, grades K–1: Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): K-LS1-1 · 1-LS1-2 · Pennsylvania (STEELS): 3.1.K.A · 3.1.1.B
Reading and writing, grade 1: Maryland and Delaware: RI.1.1 · RI.1.7 · RI.1.9 · W.1.8 · Pennsylvania: CC.1.2.1.B · CC.1.2.1.G · CC.1.2.1.I · CC.1.4.1.W
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