

## Lesson 3

## READ THIS STORY #1, Basic

## Giraffes

If you were to describe giraffes, you might begin by saying that they are the tallest mammal in the world.

Their spotted exteriors are covered with unique brown patterns. Their heads have nubby horns covered with skin and tufts of hair. Their heads sit atop eight-foot-long necks that are supported by only seven bones. Also, because giraffes have very keen long-range vision, they can observe other giraffes miles away.

Giraffes are born six feet tall. Within five minutes of being born, they can stand on their spindly legs. Within a month, the babies begin eating leaves.

Adult giraffes spend sixteen to twenty hours every day browsing among trees searching for food. A giraffe can extend his tongue up to eighteen inches. Every day they consume about 140 pounds of foliage, and thorns pose no problem.

Giraffes will drink water, but they are able to subsist for weeks without it. Although it is reported that giraffes can grunt and bleat like a goat, they seldom utter a sound.

Giraffes are able to sleep for hours standing up. Experts say they often lie down to sleep, but those naps only last from one to twenty minutes.