



## Tallest Mammal in the World!

Practice your students' anatomy skills as they learn about the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo giraffes and their body parts. Anatomy is the study of parts and structures of a body. See below for a variety of questions to students to generate predictions before watching a short video or read about giraffes!

- ✎ How tall do you think a giraffe is?
- ✎ How would you describe their body parts?
- ✎ What parts of the body do you notice is different from most mammals?
- ✎ What do you think what is the purpose of each body part?
- ✎ [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVWz5e09\\_J0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVWz5e09_J0)

Have students complete the worksheet as they watch the video. Discuss the different body parts of giraffes and their purpose. Although giraffes at our zoo always receive what they need to live long, healthy lives, their wild counterparts face new pressures each year. The giraffes in Africa face limitations of space, food & water supply due to climate change and poaching. You can do your part by going to the zoo to feed them, spread awareness, & celebrate World's Giraffe Day on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Be on the lookout for the giraffe's anatomy at the zoo! Share your lessons with the Fort Wayne Children' Zoo. Tag #fwkidszoo or email [education@kidszoo.org](mailto:education@kidszoo.org) to express how you used these supplemental activities!

### Body Parts:

**Tongue:** Their tongue can reach up to 20 inches long, which allows them to pick through thorns and spines to reach edible leaves. The tongue's color is purple gray, which prevents them from getting sunburnt while searching for food.

**Nose:** Giraffes can close their nostrils in order to protect the sensitive skin from dust and thorns.

**Neck:** Giraffes have seven (very large) vertebrae in their necks, which is the same number as humans. Their long necks allow them to obtain food from tall trees.

**Ossicones:** They are thin and display tufts of hair on top in females and young, while the adult male's end in knobs and tend to be bald on top. They are "horn" like, but they are not horns.

**Humps:** The hump on its back is large, and it creates an anchor for the giraffe's large muscles that support their head and neck. Each time a giraffe lifts its neck, it can be carrying up to 600 lbs.

**Spots:** These spots are amazing at camouflaging them throughout the trees. Under each spot, there is a network of blood vessels that is used to release heat in their hot environments. No two giraffes have the same pattern of spots!

### LESSON GOALS

- ✎ Learn about the anatomy of giraffes
- ✎ Understand the unique adaptation of each body part

### GRADES

2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>

### MATERIALS

- ✎ Pencils
- ✎ Youtube link
- Optional:
  - ✎ Photos of giraffes
  - ✎ Books about giraffes

### STANDARDS

- ✎ SCI.4.3.3
- ✎ SCI.4.3.4

### RECOMMENDED

#### ASSESSMENT

- ✎ Grade worksheet based on completeness & accuracy
- ✎ Assess students on appropriateness of words used to describe giraffes

# Reticulated Giraffe's Anatomy

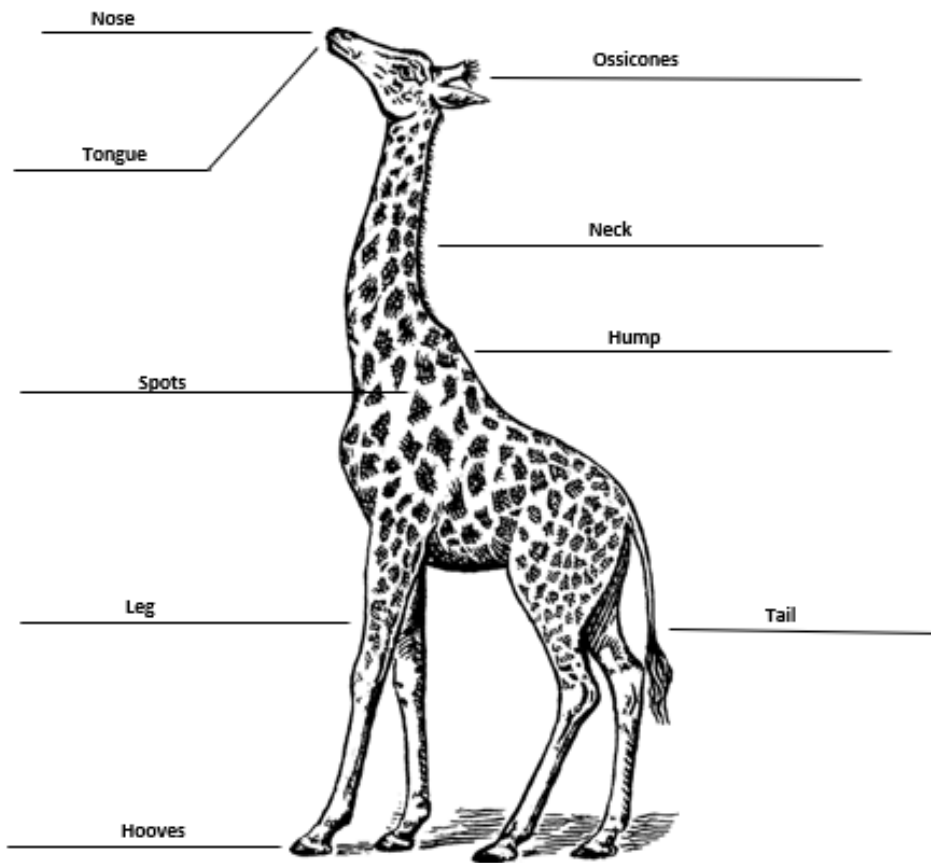


**Tail:** Its tail is also considered to be the longest of all land mammals. The long tail acts like a fly swatter, and it is used as a defense against biting insects.

**Leg:** Their long legs allow them to run at full speed up to 37 mph in order to escape predators. When they walk, they move both legs on the same side, while most mammals move one legs on each side.

**Hooves:** They are even-toed hoofed mammals, where the hooves are used to protect their feet from harmful substances on the ground. The hooves can be up to 12 inches wide, a size of dinner plates.

Answer Key:





# Reticulated Giraffe's Anatomy

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Label each body parts of the giraffe and write a description.

KEY				
Nose	Hooves	Ossicones	Leg	Spots
Tail	Hump	Neck	Tongue	

