

# DANCING GIRAFFES

**Become a pro puppeteer with animal expertise!**

## What you'll need:

- 2 empty toilet paper rolls
- Markers or paint and paint brushes
- 2 popsicle sticks
- Glue
- Construction paper
- A ruler
- Scissors
- String or ribbon
- Decorative items, like googly eyes (optional)

## Create:

1. Start by preparing your two empty toilet paper rolls. Cut one tube to about two-thirds of its original size—this will be the giraffe's head. The full-sized tube will represent the giraffe's body.
2. Use your markers or paint to colour the tubes, then set them aside to let them dry.
3. Take two popsicle sticks and glue them together in the centre to create a cross. Place the cross aside to dry.

4. Once your cardboard tubes are dry, use your markers or paint to add classic giraffe patches. Get creative with your colours, shapes and sizes! Set the tubes aside when you're done.
5. To create legs and a long neck, you will need two sheets of construction paper of any colour. Using two different colours works best.
6. Cut one sheet of construction paper into 12 long, even strips measuring about 1.5 cm wide. Repeat this step with the other piece of paper. You should now have 24 strips.
7. Take two strips of the same colour and glue the ends together to form one very long strip. Repeat this step until you have 12 long strips of paper.
8. Take two different coloured strips of construction paper. Place the end of one strip on top of the end of the other strip. Fold the bottom strip completely over the top one. Then, fold the other strip completely over that fold. Continue this until the two pieces are joined in an accordion shape.



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- Repeat step 8 with the rest of your paper until you have six accordion-shape strips.
- Ask a grownup for help with this step. Once your toilet paper rolls are dry, use a pen or sharp object to poke small holes in them. On the smaller tube (the giraffe's head), pierce a small hole on top towards the end. On the larger roll (the giraffe's body), add a small hole to each side.
- To assemble your giraffe, glue four of the accordion strips to the bottom of the giraffe's body to represent legs. Glue a fifth piece to the top of the body to represent the neck, then glue the head to the other end of the neck.
- Get creative and use your markers or other craft materials to add ears, eyes and a tail to your giraffe.
- Gather three strands of ribbon or string: two measuring roughly 50 cm and one measuring about 38 cm.
- Thread the shorter piece of string or ribbon through the hole you pierced in the head section of your giraffe. Tie a small knot on the inside end to keep the string in place. Repeat this step with the other two strings and holes.



- Tie the ends of your three strings to the popsicle-stick cross you made earlier. Each string should have its own end on the cross—be careful not to get the strings twisted up!



- It's time to play with your puppet! Pick up your sticks and use the strings to make your new giraffe friend dance.

### Play:

Have you ever wondered how a giraffe moves? Make your new giraffe friend walk, jump and dance as you play with your puppet. Give your friend a name and make up a story about their life in Africa. Create more giraffe friends with their own stories to share, then put on a dancing giraffe show for your family!



## DANCING GIRAFFES

### Learn:



In the wild, giraffes live in the savannas of Africa in groups of around 15 members.

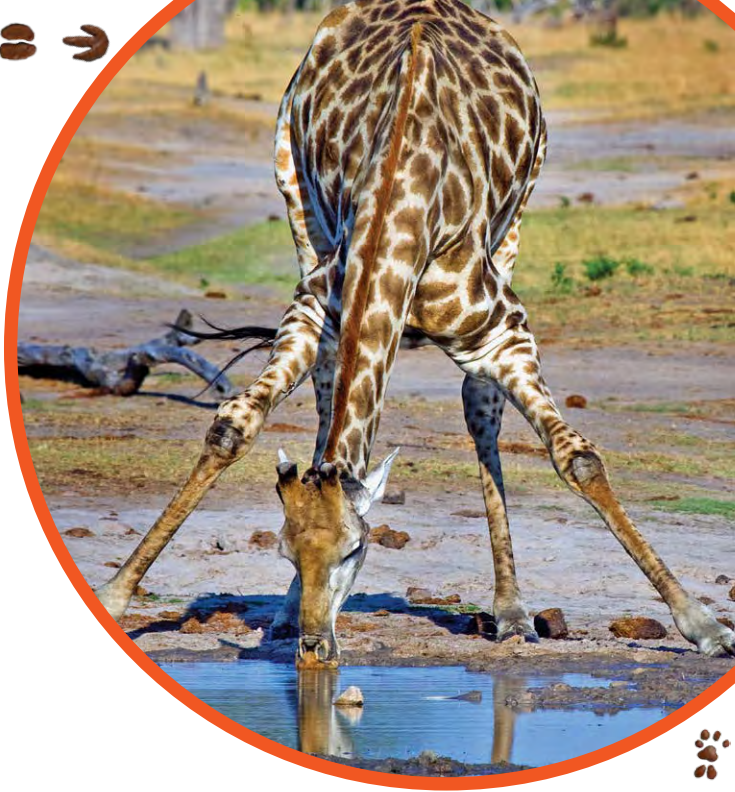
Savannas are places that are very hot and have a dry season and a rainy season, and they are covered in both tall and short grasses, low-lying shrubs and scattered tall trees. A group of giraffes is called a **tower**. Giraffes are the tallest mammals in the world. Their legs alone are taller than most human beings at almost 2 metres tall, and their necks are just as long!



With their long necks, giraffes can look out over the plains and spot predators, like lions. They can also reach leaves on tall branches of their favourite tree, the **Acacia**, which is covered in long, pointy thorns.

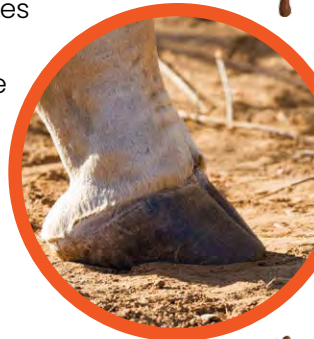


Giraffes have large, strong tongues to grab leaves. Their tongues are dark purple to prevent sunburn, and they can be over 53 centimetres long—that's 7 times longer than a human tongue!



Giraffes eat up to 34 kilograms of food every day, but they only drink water a few days each week. Giraffes

have to spread their legs wide so they can bend down to reach the water. In this position, they are vulnerable to predators like crocodiles, hyenas and lions. Sometimes, giraffes have to use their long legs and sharp hooves to protect themselves and other members of their tower.



Female giraffes usually have one baby at a time, and they give birth standing up. The result? Newborns enter the world with a 1.5-metre drop to the ground! Despite this big fall, baby giraffes stand within 30 minutes of being born, and in just a few hours, they can run with their mothers.

### Did you know?

Just like every person has their own unique fingerprints, each giraffe has its own pattern of patches!



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