



Teacher's Notes: Giraffes are Mammals

Science Standard:

Learning Objectives:

The students will be able to identify giraffes

The students will be able to explain/identify/point to physical characteristics of giraffes that make it a mammal (teeth, fur)

The students will be able to explain/identify/point to giraffe/mother relationships that make it a mammal. (born live from mother's womb, drinks mother's milk, needs help from mother).

Activities

1. Take student temperatures. Talk about how the inside of their bodies stays the same temperature unless they are sick.
2. Get a collection of magazines. Have students look for pictures of giraffes to cut out. Depending on group you could use the pictures for different things:
 - Students glue pictures of giraffes on a collage
 - Students divide poster into sections labeling all or some of the characteristics of giraffes (warm blooded, hair, take care of young, drinks milk, teeth, grows inside mother, born live). Have students find pictures that represent the characteristics listed.
3. Clothespin Art Activity. Attach 3 clothespins to a oval cut out. Paint or color the cut out and clothespins yellow with brown spots. Attach a pompom for a face.

<https://stylesatlife.com/articles/giraffe-craft/>



General Tips: The goal is to build background knowledge while leading an engaging discussion on any and all information that can be talked about on a given page. The items that you choose to bring up or focus on can be modified for the students you are working with. For example, if you have a student who can point to something in the picture, answer yes/no questions be sure to incorporate a lot more of that as you go through the book. On the same token, be sure to ask a lot of comprehension questions and critical thinking questions at the level appropriate for students. There is something for everyone.

Page 1: This book is about giraffes. We are going to read it and see if giraffes are mammals. We already read our mammal book.

Point: cat, fur, ears, legs

WH Questions: Look at page 1, what animal is this?

Yes/No: Is this a picture of a dog? Is this a picture of a giraffe?

Opinions/Experiences: Do you think giraffes are mammals?

Page 2: Unborn giraffes grow in their mother's womb. They grow in their mother's belly. When the unborn giraffes are grown and ready, they come out of their mother's womb. Everyone touch your belly. Giraffes do not lay eggs. The baby comes out of the mother's womb.

Point: giraffe's stomach.

WH Questions: Where do baby giraffes grow? Where is the womb? Point to your stomach.

Yes/No: Do unborn giraffes grow in eggs? Do unborn giraffes grow in their mother's womb? Is the womb in the stomach? Do mammal babies grow in their mother's womb?

Opinion/Experiences: Have you ever seen a pregnant giraffe? Have you ever seen a pregnant woman? Unborn babies and unborn giraffes both grow in their mother's stomach. All mammals are born this way.

Peer to Peer Interaction: After you read Page 2, ask students, "Where do unborn giraffes grow?" The answer is the main idea card "womb." Students will find the main idea picture or word card and show it to their partner. The students will point to where the unborn giraffes grow.

Page 3: Baby giraffes come out of their mother's body alive. Have the students view the following video of a mother giraffe giving birth. Pause periodically to have students point and to discuss.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26U9k6DnoYE>

Point: mother giraffe, baby giraffe

Questions: Are baby mammals alive or in an egg when they come out of their mother's body?

Yes/No: Are baby giraffes born inside an egg? Do baby giraffes come out of their mother's body alive?

Opinion/Experiences: Do you know any babies? They came out of their mother's body live? Baby giraffes come out of their mother's body alive too.

Peer to Peer Interaction: After you read Page 3, ask students, "Are baby giraffes alive or in an egg when they come out of the mother's body?" The answer is the main idea card "born live." Students will find the main idea picture of word card and show it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to talk or point to the baby kitten and mother cat.

Page 4: After a baby giraffe is born, its mother's body starts to make milk. The baby giraffe drinks its mother's milk. A baby giraffe cannot eat leaves and plants yet. It is too young. When a human baby drinks milk from his/her mother, we call it nursing. The mother is nursing her baby. That means the baby is drinking milk that her body has made. Have the students view the following video of baby giraffe drinking milk from their mother's body.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNmMKvabB-Y>

Point: baby giraffe, grass, mother giraffe

Questions: What do baby giraffe drink?

Yes/No: Can baby giraffe eat leaves? Do baby giraffes drink milk? Does the milk come from their mother's body?

Sharing Opinion/Experiences: Have you ever seen a baby drinking milk from its mother's body?

Peer to Peer Interaction: After you read Page 4, ask students, “What do baby giraffes drink?” The answer is the main idea card “milk.” Students will find the picture or word main idea card and show it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to talk to their partner about how a baby giraffe drinks.

Page 5: Baby giraffes cannot live on their own. They need their mother’s help. All mammals are this way. People, cats, dog, elephants, etc. They all need their mothers to take care of them. The mothers get them food. The mothers keep them warm. The mother’s keep them clean.

Point: mother giraffe, baby giraffe

WH Questions: What do baby giraffes need? Who helps baby giraffes?

Yes/No: Can baby giraffes live on their own? Do baby giraffes need help? Do baby giraffes need their mother?

Sharing Opinion/Experiences: Do you know any babies? Do you think those babies could live without their mother? Could you live without the help of your parents? How do your parents help you? Baby giraffes are the same way. They need help from their mother.

Peer to Peer Interaction: After you read Page 5, ask students, “What do baby giraffes need?” The answer is the main idea card “need help.” Students will find the main idea picture or word card and show it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to talk to each other about how a mother giraffe helps her babies.

Page 6: All giraffes have teeth. Giraffe use their teeth to bite and chew food.

Point: giraffe, tongue, teeth

WH Questions: What do all giraffes have? What are teeth used for?

Yes/No: Do giraffes have teeth? Do giraffes use their teeth to chew food? Do all mammals have teeth?

Opinion/Experiences: Do you have teeth? How do take care of your teeth? Have you ever seen a giraffe’s teeth? Have you ever been bitten by a cat? Giraffe’s teeth are sharp!

Peer to Peer Interaction: After you read Page 6, ask students, “What do all giraffes have?” The answer is the main idea card “teeth.” Students will find the main idea work/picture card and read or show it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.

Page 7: All mammals have hair on their bodies. For animals we use the word **fur**. For people we use the word **hair**. Giraffes have fur on their bodies. Have students view the following video of giraffes with unique fur markings.

WH Questions: What do all mammals have? What do giraffes have on their bodies?

Yes/No: Do mammals have hair? Do mammals have fur on their bodies?

Opinion/Experiences: Have you ever petted a giraffe’s fur. How does a giraffe’s fur feel? Is it soft or rough? What color is a giraffe’s fur?

Peer to Peer Interaction: After you read Page 7, ask students, “What do giraffes have on their bodies?” The answer is the main idea card “hair.” Students will find the word or picture main idea card and show/read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to talk to each other about giraffes’ fur.

Page 8: Giraffes are warm blooded. That means that the blood inside their body stays the same temperature. It doesn’t matter if the weather is hot or cold, a giraffe’s blood temperature will stay the same. The only time a giraffe’s temperatures will change is if they are sick. Have you ever had a fever?

A fever means that you are sick. A fever means that your blood temperature is warmer than it usually is. Have students view the following video which explain the difference between warm and cold blooded.

Point: giraffe, thermometer

Questions: Is a giraffe warm or cold blooded? Does a giraffe's blood temperature change when it is healthy? Does a giraffe's blood temperature go up when it is sick?

Yes/No: Is a giraffe warm blooded? Does a healthy giraffe's temperature change with the weather? Does a healthy giraffe's blood temperature stay the same?

Opinion/Experiences: Have you ever had a fever? Have you ever had your temperature taken? A thermometer sees if your blood temperature is ok or too warm.?

Peer to Peer Interaction: After you read Page 8, ask students, "Is a giraffe warm or cold blooded?" The answer is the main idea card "warm blooded." Students will find the main idea word or picture card and show/read it to their partner. Teacher will prompt them to ask their partner some of the questions talked about above.

Page 9: A giraffe is a mammal.

Point: giraffe

WH Questions: What are some of the things that make a giraffe a mammal?

Yes/No: Does a giraffe have teeth? Does a giraffe have hair called fur? Do baby giraffes drink milk from its mother? Do unborn giraffes grow in their mother's body? Are giraffes born live? Are giraffes warm blooded? If you answered yes to all of these questions, then a giraffe is a mammal.

Opinion/Experiences: Giraffes are mammals. Are you also a mammal?

Peer to Peer Interaction: Have students talk to each other about what why giraffes are mammals. Students can also show some of the picture flashcards to show why a giraffe is a mammal.