



### LESSON GOALS

- 🍃 Practice observation and recording skills
- 🍃 To understand giraffes' behaviors and actions

### GRADES

6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>

### MATERIALS

- 🍃 Pencils
- 🍃 Clipboards

### RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- 🍃 Grade worksheet based on completeness
- 🍃 Discuss observations of giraffes

## What Are They Doing?

Practice your students' observation skills as they learn about the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo giraffes and their habitat. Each giraffe will be doing something different in their habitat, so join us and help us identify the behaviors of the giraffes. See below for a variety of questions to engage your student even further:

- 🍃 How would you describe their habitats?
- 🍃 How many giraffes are there?
- 🍃 What are the giraffes doing?
- 🍃 Can you describe how they are moving?
- 🍃 Why do you think this giraffe is behaving in a certain way?

Students will draw out the giraffes' habitat and choose one giraffe to observe at the zoo for about 12 minutes. They should write down any interesting behaviors that their giraffe demonstrated. Ask a zoo staff to help identify the giraffes and how to distinguish them apart. Studying giraffe's behaviors allow researchers to understand how they interact with each other and their environments. Be on the lookout for the giraffe's behaviors at the zoo! Share your lessons with the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo. Tag #fwkidszoo or email [education@kidszoo.org](mailto:education@kidszoo.org) to express how you used these supplemental activities!

### Behaviors can include:

**Eating:** They could be eating lettuce or alfalfa hay (in the racks). They can go through at least 7 bales of alfalfa hay a day, or up to 80 lbs of food per day to obtain a healthy, balanced diet.

**Drinking:** Most of the water in their diet is provided by plants. If they need to drink water, they spread their legs and bend their knees before bending their head down to the water, where the front legs often make a V-shape.

**Running:** When they run at full speed, they bring both hind legs in front of the front legs, like how rabbits run. They can run up to 37 mph to escape from predators.

**Walking:** They have a unique gait. When walking, they move both legs on the same side, while most mammals move one leg on each side.

**Kicking:** Giraffes can kick in all four directions with all four feet. A well-placed kick can kill or seriously injure any predator.

**Talking:** Giraffes have vocal chords, where they can grunt, bellow, moo, or scream to communicate.



# Become a Giraffe Researcher

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

Draw a map of the zoo's giraffe yard on the grid below. Show landmarks such as trees, fences, paths, buildings, etc.

1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.

Pick a giraffe to observe at the zoo.

Jelani

Faye

Zuri

Ezeji

Mystic

Luna

For every 2 minutes, record the time. Write down the area of the grid in which your giraffe is standing. Describe what your giraffe is doing & why.

Time	Area #	Observations