



YUMMM Veggies!

Practice your students' observation skills, while they learn about the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo giraffes and their diet. Each giraffe will be doing something different while eating, so join us and help us identify their feeding behaviors. Studying giraffe's behaviors allow researchers to understand their diet more. See below for a variety of questions to engage your students even further:

- 🍴 What do you think giraffes usually eat?
- 🍴 How many different plant species do you think they eat?
- 🍴 How many lbs of food do you think they consume per day?
- 🍴 Do you think they get excited when you feed them? How do they react?
- 🍴 How do you think what's the feeding behavior like for your pets? Will it be different for giraffes? Why?

Giraffes sure love their veggies, and they are herbivores, meaning that they only eat plants, especially from tall trees. Remind the students that they are **not** allowed to pet the giraffes because they are wild animals and are much more comfortable when you respect their personal space. Have the students write down their observations when they feed the giraffes. Read the questions and take responses from students. If student choose to not feed, you can still facilitate questions based on their feeding observations.

Although the 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 21st. Be on the lookout for the giraffe's behaviors at the zoo! Share your lessons with the Fort Wayne Children' Zoo. Tag #fwkidszoo or email education@kidszoo.org to express how you used these supplemental activities!

What's Their Diet Like?

In the wild, giraffes can eat up to 60 different plant species, but their diet consists mostly of acacia tree leaves. Their tall height allows them to reach the trees easily, and their long tongues can move around the thorns to eat the leaves. An average giraffe will eat 70-80 lbs of food per day. They obtain most of their water intake from plants. Lastly, giraffes are a part of the ruminant class of herbivorous mammals. This means that, like cows, sheep, and goats, they go through a process of re-chewing their cud to further break down their food and stimulate digestion. Cud is a term for partially digested food that has been regurgitated from their stomachs to their mouths.

PROGRAM GOALS

- 🍴 Observe giraffes and record observations
- 🍴 To understand giraffes' behaviors and their diet

GRADES

3rd to 5th

MATERIALS

- 🍴 Pencils
- 🍴 Clipboards
- 🍴 Tokens for giraffe feeding (1 token/feeding)

STANDARDS

- 🍴 SCI.4.3.3
- 🍴 SCI.6.3.5

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- 🍴 Grade worksheet based on completeness
- 🍴 Discuss observations and diets of giraffes

