

Name _____



What Do Giraffes Eat?

Giraffes are fascinating animals with long necks that help them reach their food high in the trees. They are herbivores, which means they only eat plants. Giraffes do not eat meat at all. Their favorite food is the leaves from acacia trees, which are tall and perfect for their long reach. These leaves are full of nutrients that keep giraffes healthy and strong.

Giraffes have a special way of eating. They use their long, prehensile tongues to wrap around leaves and pull them into their mouths. Their tongues can be up to 20 inches long! The tongue is also dark purple, which helps protect it from sunburn as they feed for many hours each day. Giraffes also have thick lips to help them avoid the sharp thorns on acacia trees.

In addition to acacia leaves, giraffes eat other plants, fruits, and flowers when they are available. They need to eat about 75 pounds of food each day to stay healthy. Giraffes get most of their water from the leaves they eat, but they will also drink water from ponds and rivers when necessary. Drinking water can be tricky for giraffes since their long legs make it hard to bend down. To drink, they have to spread their legs wide and lower their necks carefully.

Giraffes play an important role in their habitat by helping to shape the landscape. As they eat leaves from tall trees, they make space for other plants to grow. This helps keep the ecosystem balanced and provides food for many other animals.