

Name _____

How Do Giraffes Communicate?

Giraffes are fascinating animals known for their towering height and graceful movements. But did you know they have unique ways of communicating with one another? Giraffes use a combination of sounds, body movements, and even scents to share information with their herd.

While giraffes are often quiet, they do make sounds. Calves can produce soft bleats to call their mothers, and adults may grunt or snort when feeling threatened. Interestingly, giraffes also hum to each other at night, using low-frequency sounds that humans often cannot hear. These quiet noises help giraffes stay connected with their group, even when they are far apart.

Giraffes also use body language to communicate. When a giraffe feels threatened, it may raise its head high and stare at the danger. If danger persists, a giraffe might run or kick with its powerful legs. Giraffes also use neck movements in a behavior called "necking," where males swing their necks and heads to compete for dominance.

Another way giraffes communicate is through scent. Giraffes have special glands on their legs that release scents to mark their territory or send messages to other giraffes. For example, a mother giraffe can use her scent to help her calf find her in a crowd.

One fascinating behavior occurs when giraffes gather around waterholes. They often take turns drinking while others keep watch for predators. This cooperation shows how giraffes work together and communicate for safety.

Giraffe communication is subtle yet effective, helping these gentle giants survive in the wild.

