## (sPOT THE DIFFERENCES



In the picture below, fifteen things are missing.
Compare it to the picture above, and then draw a circle around the place where each thing is missing.


them giraffe giraffe Masai
nature conservation Kordofan animals longneck Reticulated herbivore ossicones South African desert Africa Afric

## DID YOUKNOW?

Giraffe's horns are called ossicones. When they are born, giraffe's ossicones lie flat on their head. As they grow older their ossicones grow straight, and after TOUTZTTTE STPAFPE Giraffe can live for at least 25 years. S

2. How many different species of giraffe are there?
a) One
b) Four
c) Nine


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4. Giraffe numbers in Africa are
a) Increasing
b) Unchanging
c) Decreasing
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To learn more about giraffe, visit our website giraffeconservation.org

## Conservation Status

- There are only about 111,000 giraffe remaining in Africa.

Their number has dropped by approx. 30\% in the last three decades.

- While giraffe roamed widely in most of sub-Saharan Africa in the 1700 s, their distribution is now patchy throughout their range.

- Scientists recently discovered that there are four distinct species of giraffe, not one: Masai giraffe, Northern giraffe, Reticulated giraffe and Southern giraffe
- Giraffe (as only one species) are currently listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. As and when they are reassessed as four species, this will like show three of these species as highly threatened.


## Threats

- The combined impacts of habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation, human population growth, poaching (illegal hunting), disease, war and civil unrest greatly threaten the giraffe numbers and their distribution throughout Africa.

DID YOUKNOW THAT GIRAFEEAREINTROUBLE?
The Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) is the only NGO in the world that concentrates solely on the conservation and management of giraffe in the wild throughout Africa. GCF is dedicated to securing a future for all giraffe populations in Africa and currently works with its partners in 15


## Fascinating Giraffe Facts

- An average adult male giraffe is 5.3 m tall and $1,200 \mathrm{~kg}$, an average adult female giraffe is 4.3 m and 830 kg . The heaviest recorded giraffe weighed $1,900 \mathrm{~kg}$.
- Every giraffe looks different and can be identified by their pattern. Just like human fingerprints, no two giraffe have the same coat pattern.
- Giraffe are almost exclusively browsers and mainly feed on tree leaves, fruits, pods and shoots. They rarely eat grass.
- Giraffe tongues are bluish-purple and between 45 and 50 cm long. They are prehensile and can move swiftly around thorns when feeding.
- Giraffe 'horns' are not horns at all, but 'ossicones'. Both male and female giraffe have ossicones. At birth, they are soft cartilage, which is not attached to the scull. They ossify and fuse with the skull later in life.
- Giraffe have a gestation period of approx. 15 months.
- Giraffe adjust their social
 systems, known as fissionfusion, by individuals or smaller groups readily merging with or splitting from the herd.
- A giraffe's neck is too
 short to reach the ground.
To drink, giraffe first have to splay their forelegs and/or bend their knees, and only then can they lower their necks to reach the water.
- Giraffe do not depend on free water and only drink once every few days.
- While giraffe are not aggressive but they defend themselves and their calves by kicking. These kicks can be lethal.
- To protect the giraffe's brain from sudden changes in blood pressure when it lowers its head to drink, it has valves to stop the backflow of blood and elastic-walled vessels that dilate and constrict to manage flow. NASA has done research on the blood vessels in giraffe legs to get inspiration for human space suits.

World Giraffe Day is celebrated on 21 June - the longest day or night depending which hemisphere you live - for the tallest animal. World Giraffe Day is an initiative of GCF. For more information visit worldgiraffeday.org
giraffeconservation.org

For more information on giraffe and GCF's important work in Africa, please visit our website.
To stick your neck out for giraffe, follow GCF on social media or consider donating.

f) giraffeconservationfoundation
save_giraffe giraffe_conservation

