

EDZOOICATION ACTIVITY: WORLD GIRAFFE DAY



Giraffes, an iconic species, are the tallest land animal. There are four distinct species – Reticulated, Northern, Southern and Masai, with several subspecies. Although they tower over the plains of Africa and help alert other animals of an approaching threat, they are now recognized as an endangered species due to poaching and habitat loss. The Virginia Zoo's tower, or group of Masai giraffes – Billy, Noelle, Imara and her new calf Kylie, can be seen in the Africa – Okavango Delta.

HELP FEED THE GIRAFFE

Giraffes are significant herbivores that eat vegetation that is too high for other animals to reach. This includes the Thorny Acacia Tree; which giraffes have two kinds of specialized adaptations: a long tongue to maneuver around the thorns and thick saliva that coats the throat if a thorn is ingested. Help the giraffe eat by drawing her tongue through the thorny maze to forage for food!

