

PAIRED TEXTS

Record-Setters

The giraffe is a gentle giant. Female giraffes are usually around sixteen feet tall. Males are usually nineteen feet tall. Giraffes are the tallest mammal on land. Its height isn't the only thing setting records, though. Its stilt-like legs are six feet long, and so is its long neck. Along with having the longest legs and longest neck in the animal kingdom, it also has one of the longest tongues. A giraffe's bluish-black tongue is about twenty inches long!

Giraffes are grazers. This means that a giraffe will eat small amounts all day long rather than one large meal. Giraffes are herbivores. It lives in the savannas of Africa, and it eats the leaves from the trees that are much higher than other animals can reach. It loves the leaves from acacia (uh-kay-shuh) trees. Its long, flexible tongue helps it eat around the thorns and ants that protect the acacia trees. It will eat about 100 pounds of leaves and limbs per day!

The giraffe does not set the record for having the longest pregnancy, but it is certainly high up on the list. The female giraffe is pregnant for up to 465 days (that's about 15 months). A baby giraffe is called a calf. When a calf is born, it will already be six feet tall and weigh about 150 pounds! But, it can't protect itself the way an adult can. A baby giraffe is very vulnerable. Predators like lions, leopards, and hyenas also live in the savannas. Babies are easy prey. An adult giraffe is able to kick a predator in defense. A giraffe can kill a lion with a hard enough kick. A calf will be up on its feet quickly after birth, but it will still need the protection of its mother and the rest of the herd. Less than half of baby giraffes make it to adulthood in the wild.

Another way a giraffe can escape a predator is by running. It can sprint short distances up to 35 miles per hour. It certainly isn't setting any records with its speed, but luckily it has the greatest range of vision of any land animal! It can see a predator using its sensitive eyes long before it arrives.



Should There Be Zoos?

There is a great debate over the topic of zoos. Some people feel zoos are necessary for animal conservation, while others feel that zoos are cruel places for animals to be kept. What do you think?

PROS

People don't need to travel to learn about animals. There are animals in zoos that wouldn't survive in the wild.

CONS



We have been working through these paired texts and the kids love reading and learning about things they weren't aware of. The questions bring up great discussions and sometimes even research opportunities too! Great resource!

Scientists, like zoologists, can learn more about animals, and in turn, help conserve them.

Many people visit zoos to enjoy the animals, but some people are mean to the animals. They might yell or throw things. This can cause the animals to feel stress. It can even cause death.

whole group or small
group modeling

read and annotate the texts together, then provide the questions for comprehension check, allowing students to use the annotated passages

completely independent
practice for students
reading above 4th-5th
grade level

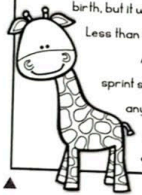
The giraffe is a gentle giant. Female giraffes are usually around sixteen feet tall. Males are usually nineteen feet tall. Giraffes are the tallest mammal on land. Its height isn't the only thing setting records, though. Its still-like legs are six feet long, and so is its long neck. Along with having the longest legs and longest neck in the animal kingdom, it also has one of the longest tongues. A giraffe's bluish-black tongue is about twenty inches long!

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Less than half of baby giraffes make it to adulthood in the wild.

Another way a giraffe can escape a predator is by running. It can sprint short distances up to 35 miles per hour. It certainly isn't setting any records with its speed, but luckily it has the greatest range of vision of any land animal! It can see a predator using its sensitive eyes long before it arrives.



Should There Be Zoos?

There is a great debate over the topic of zoos. Some people feel zoos are necessary for animal conservation, while others feel that zoos are cruel places for animals to be kept. What do you think?

PROS

1. Zoos provide a safe environment for animals that are endangered or injured in the wild.

2. Zoos allow people to see and learn about animals that they might not otherwise see.

3. Zoos can help fund research on animal behavior and conservation.

4. Zoos can provide a source of income for the local community.

5. Zoos can help educate the public about the importance of animal conservation.

CONS

1. Zoos are often criticized for being cruel to animals, who are kept in small, artificial environments.

2. Zoos can be expensive to maintain, and the cost is often passed on to the public.

3. Zoos can sometimes breed animals for profit, rather than for conservation.

4. Zoos can sometimes be a source of entertainment, rather than education.

5. Zoos can sometimes be a source of stress for animals, who are often kept in cages.



CONS

PROS

- People don't need to travel to learn about animals. There are animals in zoos that people wouldn't safely get to see in the wild.
- The percentage of most animals kept in zoos is very small in comparison to those that live in the wild.

Zoos can treat a sick or injured animal with medicine and care that would die in the wild without help.

Many animals live longer in a zoo because they are protected and cared for.

Zoos protect endangered species. They can even bring back some of the population by allowing the animals to breed.

Scientists, like zoologists, can learn more about animals, and in turn, help conserve them.

Many people visit some people are might yell or throw animals to feel stre-

CONS

Some animals are captured in order to be placed in a zoo.

Animals' ways of life can be destroyed when they are in captivity. For example, they cannot move around as much. They also would not hunt for food.

...have freedom. They are
...their enclosure.
...cannot create an exact habitat that the
...are used to. Temperature
...ey, etc. or

Zoos protect endangered species even bringing back some of the population allowing the animals to breed.

Scientists, like zoologists, can learn about animals, and in turn, help conserve them.

<p>Zoos protect endangered species. They can even bring back some of the population by allowing the animals to breed.</p> <p>Scientists, like zoologists, can learn more about animals, and in turn, help conserve them.</p>	<p>to adapt to it.</p> <p>Many people visit zoos to enjoy the animals, but some people are mean to the animals. They might yell or throw things. This can cause the animals to feel stress. It can even cause death.</p>
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Name: _____ Date: _____

Read the text and answer the following questions.

Use both hints to answer the questions.

1. According to **Record-Setters**, of all animals, giraffes have the longest:

- legs
- neck
- tongue
- all of the above

2. In paragraph 3 of **Record-Setters**, what does the word **vulnerable** mean?

- safe
- in danger
- harmless
- predator

<p>3. What is the author's purpose of <u>Should There Be Zoos?</u>?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> to convince readers to close zoos to persuade readers to support zoos to inform readers about the positive and negative facts about zoos to explain the difficulties zoos have to remain open 	<p>4. What can you infer about giraffes after reading <u>Record-Setters?</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Giraffes eat one big meal a day. Female giraffes have longer legs than male giraffes. Most baby giraffes become prey to carnivores. Giraffes live alone.
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5. Which of the following statements is NOT true about zoos?

- Zoos provide a place for scientists to learn more about animals.
- Zoos teach an animal how to live in the wild.
- Zoos teach people about animals they don't get to see.
- Zoos protect animals.

6. Which quote from *Should I Stay or Should I Go?* shows what would be a positive effect for giraffes?

- "Many animals live longer in a zoo..."
- "Zoos cannot create an exact habitat that the animals are used to."
- "People don't need to travel to learn..."
- "Some animals are captured in order to be placed in a zoo."

7. Which sentence **DOES NOT** support giraffes being "gentle giants" in **Record-Setters**?

a. Giraffes are the tallest animals on land.

b. Giraffes are herbivores.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Support your answer to the question with evidence from both texts.

Should giraffes be kept in zoos?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue lines, typical of notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run diagonally across the page. In the top right corner, there is a small, simple black-and-white line drawing of a person sitting at a desk, possibly writing or reading. The drawing is stylized and appears to be part of a larger illustration or a sticker. The overall appearance is that of a clean, unused page from a notebook or binder.

1. According to Record-Setters, of all animals, giraffes have the longest: *

☐ legs

☐ neck

☐ tongue

☐ all of the above

1 point

2. In paragraph 3 of Record-Setters, what does the word vulnerable mean? 1 point

☐ in danger

☐ harmless

☐ safe

☐ predator

3. What is the author's purpose of Should There Be Zoos? *

☐ to explain the difficulties zoos have to remain open

FOR THIS PAIR:

two levels of each
passage for
differentiation

digital (self-grading) and
printable formats

seven multiple choice
questions (each
question assessing a
different standard)

one constructed
response essay prompt

two styles of articles:
2-column and full page

RECORD-SETTERS

The giraffe is a gentle giant. Female giraffes are usually around sixteen feet tall, while males are generally nineteen feet tall. Owing the title of tallest mammal on land, its height isn't the only thing setting records. Its still-like legs are six feet long, and so is its long neck. Along with having the longest legs and longest neck in the animal kingdom, it also has one of the longest tongues. A giraffe's bluish-black tongue is about twenty inches long!

Giraffes are grazers. This means that a giraffe will eat small amounts all day long rather than one large meal. This herbivore lives in the savannas of Africa, and it eats the leaves from the trees that are much higher than other animals can reach. It loves the leaves from acacia (uh-kay-shuh) trees. Its long, flexible tongue helps it eat around the thorns and ants that protect the acacia trees. It will eat about 100 pounds of leaves and limbs per day!

Although the giraffe doesn't set the record for having the longest pregnancy, it is certainly high up on the list. The female giraffe is pregnant for up to 465 days (that's about 15 months).

When a baby giraffe (called a calf) is born, it will already be six feet tall and weigh about 150 pounds! But, it can't protect itself the way an adult can. A baby giraffe is very vulnerable. Sharing the savanna with predators like lions, leopards, and hyenas makes it easy prey. An adult giraffe is able to kick a predator in defense. With a hard enough kick, it can actually kill a lion. Even though a calf will be up on its feet within a few minutes of being born, it will need the protection of its mother and the rest of the herd. Less than half of baby giraffes make it to adulthood in the wild.

Another way a giraffe can escape a predator is by running. It can sprint short distances up to 35 miles per hour. It certainly isn't setting any records with speed, but luckily it has the greatest range of vision of any land animal so it can see a predator with its sensitive eyes long before it arrives.



SHOULD THERE BE ZOOS?

There is a great debate over the topic of zoos. Some people feel zoos are necessary for animal conservation, while others feel that zoos are cruel places for animals to be kept. What do you think?



PROS

People don't need to travel to learn about animals that they wouldn't safely get to see in the wild.

The percentage of most animals kept in zoos is very small in comparison to those that are still in the wild.

Animals are hunted for the fur, meat, teeth, and bones in the wild. In zoos they are protected.

Zoos can rehabilitate a sick or injured animal that would die in the wild without help.

Many animals live longer in a zoo because they are protected and cared for.

Zoos protect endangered species and can even bring back some of the population by allowing the animals to breed.

Scientists, like zoologists, can learn more about animals, and in turn, help conserve them.

CONS

Some animals are captured in order to be placed in a zoo.

Animals' ways of life can be destroyed when they are in captivity. For example, they cannot move around as much or hunt for food.

The animals no longer have freedom. They are confined to their enclosure.

Zoos cannot create an exact habitat that the animals are used to. Temperature, plants, mates, prey, etc., are all things that will not be identical to their natural home.

Animals that are born in zoos don't know how to survive in the wild since they have never had to adapt to it.

Although many people visit zoos to enjoy the animals, some people are mean to the animals. They might yell or throw things. This can cause the animals to feel stress and can actually cause death.

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Name: _____ Date: _____
Use both texts to answer the following questions.



1. According to **Record-Setters**, of all animals, giraffes have the longest:

- a. legs
- b. neck
- c. tongue
- d. all of the above

2. In paragraph 3 of **Record-Setters**, what does the word vulnerable mean?

- a. safe
- b. in danger
- c. harmless
- d. predator

3. What is the author's purpose of **Should There Be Zoos**?

- a. to convince readers to close zoos
- b. to persuade readers to support zoos
- c. to inform readers about the positive and negative facts about zoos
- d. to explain the difficulties zoos have to remain open

4. What can you infer about giraffes after reading **Record-Setters**?

- a. Giraffes eat one big meal a day.
- b. Female giraffes have longer legs than male giraffes.
- c. Most baby giraffes become prey to carnivores.
- d. Giraffes live alone.

5. Which of the following statements is **NOT** true about zoos?

- a. Zoos provide a place for scientists to learn more about animals.
- b. Zoos teach an animal how to live in the wild.
- c. Zoos teach people about animals they don't get to see.
- d. Zoos protect animals.

6. Which quote from **Should There Be Zoos?** shows what would be a positive effect for giraffes?

- a. "Many animals live longer in a zoo..."
- b. "Zoos cannot create an exact habitat that the animals are used to."
- c. "People don't need to travel to learn..."
- d. "Some animals are captured in order to be placed in a zoo."

7. Which sentence **DOES NOT** support giraffes being "gentle giants" in **Record-Setters**?

- a. Giraffes are the tallest animals on land.
- b. Giraffes are herbivores.
- c. An adult giraffe is able to kick a predator in defense.
- d. Giraffes protect their babies.

Name: _____ Date: _____
Support your answer to the question with evidence from both texts.

Should giraffes be kept in zoos?



TWO LEVELS PROVIDED OF EACH PASSAGE

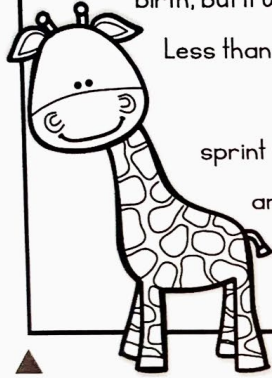
on grade level for 4-5

AND

on grade level for 6-7

discreet symbols on the
passages to denote the
level of passage

the same questions can
be answered no matter
the level given



- Although the giraffe is certainly high up on the list. T
about 15 months). When a br
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giraffe is very vulnerable.
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check
it out!

[illegible]