

THE WONDEROUS GIRAFFE

by Lanny and Marilyn Johnson

(Based on the article at www.discovercreation.org/documents/kids/MayandJun1996)

What long legs and a long neck the giraffe has! An adult male giraffe can be up to 20 feet tall. That is high enough to look over the top of your house. The giraffe uses those long legs and neck to eat food from the tops of trees and to see his enemies from afar. Having those long legs and a long neck can be very helpful, but it has its problems too.

Think of how far the giraffe's heart is away from its brain in its head. To help you compare, take one of your hands and place it over your heart. Now

take your other hand and put it on top of your head. Your heart is a pump that pumps blood to all parts of your body, especially to the brain



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that is in your head. Look at how far your heart has to pump blood to your brain. Not very far, is it? Now think of the giraffe. It has to pump blood uphill, sometimes as high as 8 feet! That's about the distance from your floor to your ceiling! Whenever you pump things uphill, it is hard to do because of gravity.

It takes a powerful pump, which the giraffe has. The giraffe's heart is 5 times stronger than most other animals. Take a look at your fist. Your fist is about the size of your heart. The giraffe's heart is 2 to 2 1/2 feet long! Wow! The giraffe's heart pumps lots of blood at high pressure uphill. This is hard to do.

It sprreaads its legs out! Now the head is down and can reach the water, but there is another problem to solve. The giraffe's powerful heart,



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When the giraffe cannot get enough water from the leaves of the trees that it eats, it goes to a watering hole to drink. Even though the giraffe has a long neck, it can't bend over that far to reach the water. So how does it do it?

When the giraffe cannot get enough water from the leaves of the trees that it eats, it goes to a watering hole to drink. Even though the giraffe has a long neck, it can't bend over that far to reach the water. So how does it do it? which was pumping lots of blood at high pressure uphill, is now pumping lots of blood at high-pressure downhill. How many of you have ever blown up a balloon and put too much air pressure in it? The balloon pops with a BANG! When the giraffe puts its head down, and all that blood pressure hits it, its head should also pop off with a bang! But it doesn't!

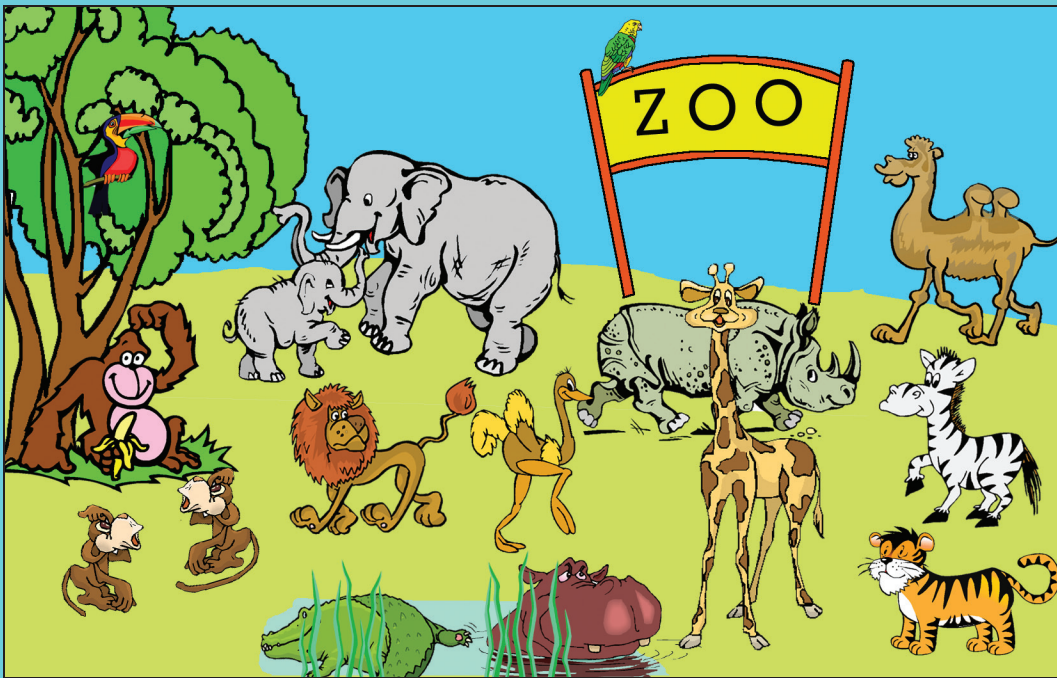
God designed several safety features in the giraffe to keep that from happening. As it spreads its front legs apart, the brain is a little closer to the heart, reducing blood pressure to the brain. At the same time, as blood is being carried from the brain back to the heart through one-way valves in the giraffe's jugular vein, the valves close, preventing blood from flowing back down into the brain. Another safety design is a special mesh of arteries at the base of the brain. This slows down the amount of blood to the brain and turns it aside into a web of small blood vessels called the 'wonder net' (or 'marvelous net'). The wonder net gently expands to lessen the increased blood pressure. The wonder net relaxes when the giraffe raises its head, allowing more blood into the brain. This prevents the giraffe from getting dizzy, fainting, and having a hungry lion eat him.^{1,2}

What a wonder the giraffe is! Only an awesome God could have made such a creature. It could never have happened by chance or by accident. The giraffe is certainly no mistake!

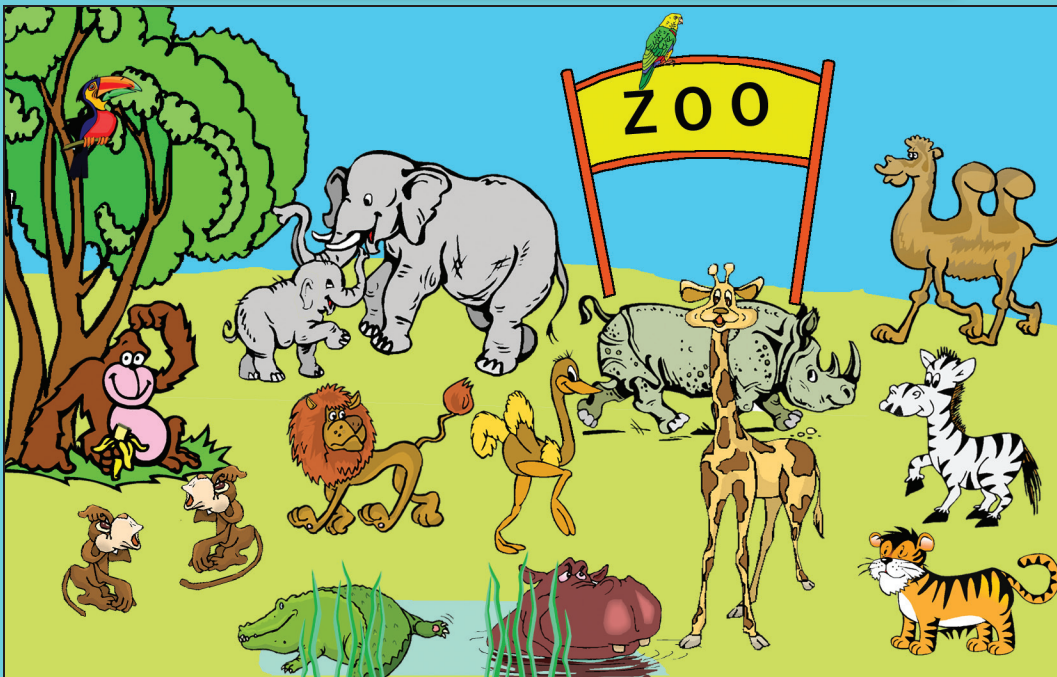
References:

¹<https://creation.com/do-drinking-giraffes-have-headaches>

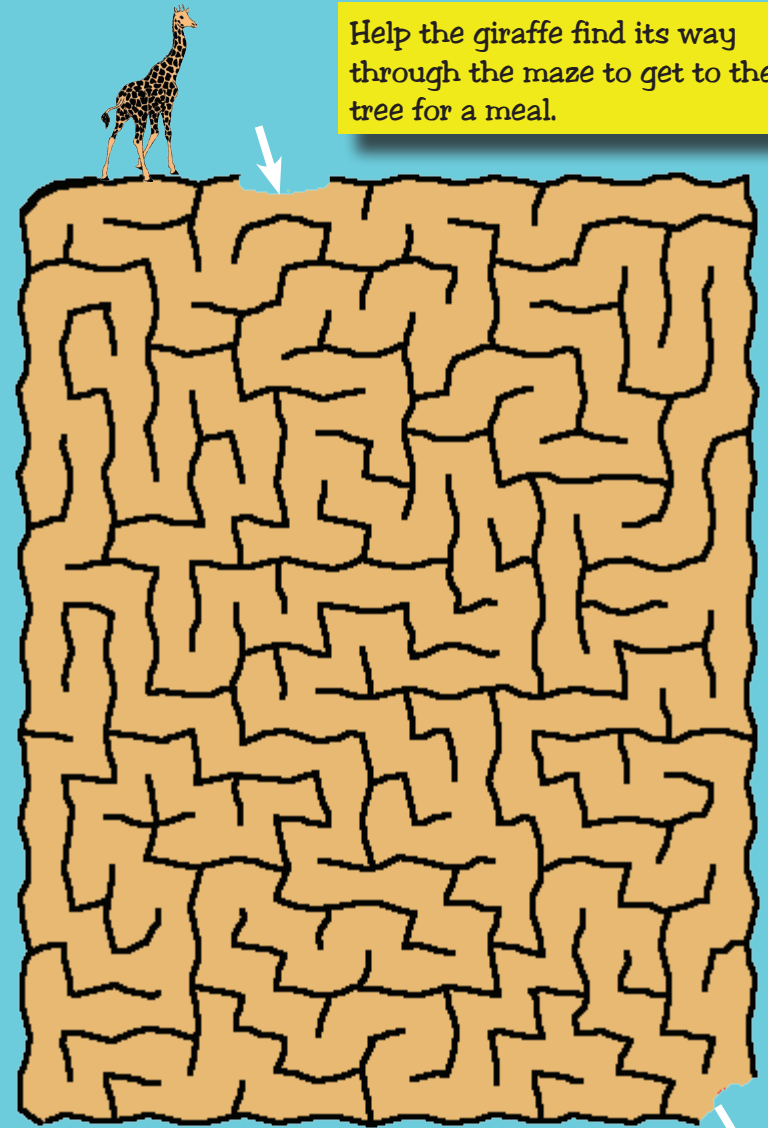
²<https://creation.com/giraffe-neck-design>



ANIMALS YOU MIGHT SEE AT A ZOO
Find the (18) 17 differences between the 2 pictures.



Help the giraffe find its way through the maze to get to the tree for a meal.



FOR ANSWERS, GO TO:
www.discovercreation.org/kids/newsletteranswers.htm

Puzzles by Lanny Johnson
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