

Another name for a baby giraffe is a **calf**.

The mother giraffe sleeps only 30 minutes a day. And never longer than a few minutes at a time.

Adult giraffes sleep standing up, but baby giraffes sleep on the ground. They use their hips as a pillow!

the giraffe

At birth, the baby giraffe drops over 6 feet to the ground! That's because the mother giraffe is standing up when her calf is born.

A baby giraffe inherits its spotted pattern from its mom. Their spotted fur provides camouflage in the savannah and desert regions where they live.

Newborn giraffes can stand up within half an hour!

Mother giraffes take turns caring for the little ones, offering a giraffe version of a daycare center. That way, every mom has a moment to herself to nap or eat quietly.

How tall are you if you stretch with your arms up?

Hello world! I'm ready to start my new adventure. Oh, but walking is hard!

Can I do this? My legs feel so wobbly. What if I fall?
"Come on," a warm voice says.
"You can do it; just take one step at a time."



GESTATION: 8.5 months * WEIGHT: 3 pounds * LENGTH: 12 inches

the gorilla



A newborn gorilla can't hold onto its mother very tightly yet. That's why mother gorillas carry their babies with one arm, holding them firmly against their chest.

Gorillas use baby talk with their children. When moms and their babies talk to each other, they touch each other a lot. That way, they understand each other better.



Baby gorillas imitate the big gorillas in their group, learning important lessons. And they have plenty of choices because a family can consist of up to thirty gorillas. It looks like a small village.

Baby gorillas are also called **infants**.
(Just like human babies.)

Have you ever heard your mom shout, "Time to eat!"? Well, a mother gorilla does the same thing in her own way. She hums and sings so her baby knows it's time to eat. And baby gorillas sing and hum back to let Mom know they think the food is delicious.

Nothing feels nicer than hugging. Gorillas know this, too! The first month after their birth, babies and their mothers hug a lot. The mother gorilla doesn't let go of her little one.

After three months, baby gorillas are ready to ride on their moms' backs. They travel with Mom until they're three to four years old. Now and then, they dare to explore a little further. But they keep Mom in sight, of course!



 Do you sometimes hang upside down like a monkey?

I can't wait to get out there and climb trees on my own! For now, I like looking for secrets hidden behind the smallest leaves. I love the way grass tickles my bare toes and makes me laugh. I crawl into Mom's arms when I get tired after learning about my world. Tomorrow, I'll explore some more.

