

Teaching Guide -The Safwa People

Instructions for Leaders or Teachers

- Study all the material yourself before sharing it with others.
- Introduce the people group to the children.
- Listen to the audio information that describes the people group.
- Listen to any additional information provided.
- Do these things in the order listed. Some points can be skipped over if not usable.
- Use a map of globe to locate the area where the people group lives.
- Have children do map work that is age appropriate.
- Talk about the location of the Safwa people group in relation to the equator.
- Ask “Do the Safwa people live close to the equator?” If the answer is “Yes”, this indicates a hot/tropical climate.
- Ask, “Do the Safwa people live in a mountain area?” If the answer is “Yes”, this will indicate a colder/cooler climate.
- Have the children name the countries surrounding the country where the Safwa people group live.
- Look at the map included and see if the country has any access to an ocean or a river which would allow transport of goods.
- Talk about the ways the Safwa people group provide for basic human needs:
 - Food
 - Clothing
 - Shelter
 - Human relationships
 - Compare the answers with the way your own people provide these needs.
 - Are these customs of the Safwa people different from the way you live?
 - Talk about the importance of color and the meaning of color.
 - Talk about festivals and music.

- Talk about the animals that live in this country where the Safwa people live. Are the animals helpful to the people? Are the animals a danger to the people?
- What are the main spiritual beliefs of the Safwa people?
 - Have any of these people placed their faith in Jesus Christ?
 - Is there a church where these people may gather together to worship and study?
 - Do any Christians in this group face persecution, (treatment in a harsh or cruel way) for their beliefs?
- Ask your group of children if the Safwa people have any part of God's Word (The Bible), translated into their own language?
- Ask if they have any other Christian material?
 - Bible stories
 - Christian radio
 - Christian music Christian drama
 - Christian audiocassettes
- Pray for the Safwa people group using the prayer points you have heard. Are the children able to think of other things for which to pray?
- Are there people groups in your country who are still waiting to hear the message of God's love for all peoples? Pray for them too!
- Are there children or adults in your group who might like to train as Bible Translators? A Bible Translator put the words of the Bible into the words of a different language.
- Review the names and countries of other people groups you have already studied.
- If a craft or color page is included this week and is useful for your group of children to work on, do it now.



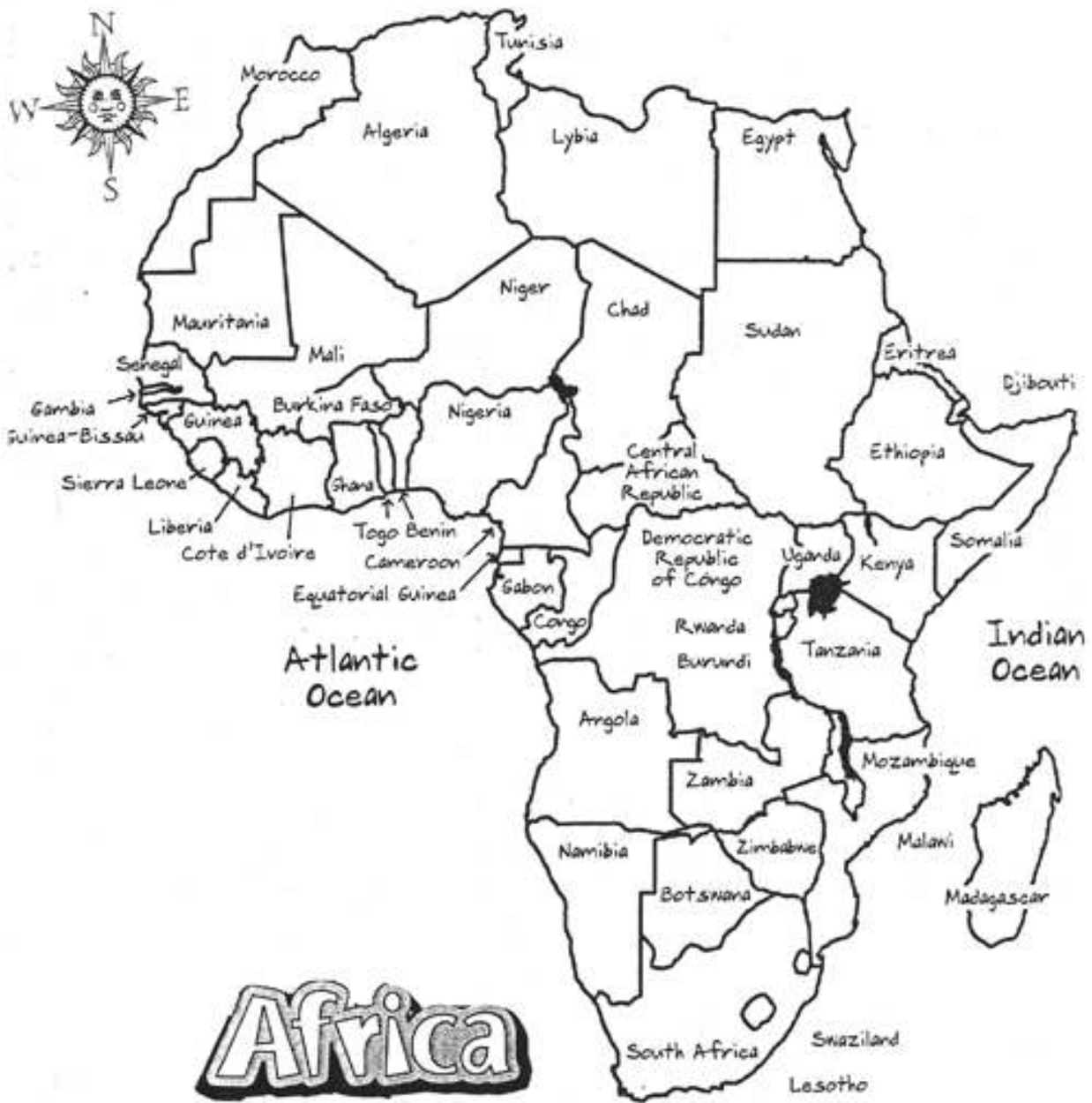
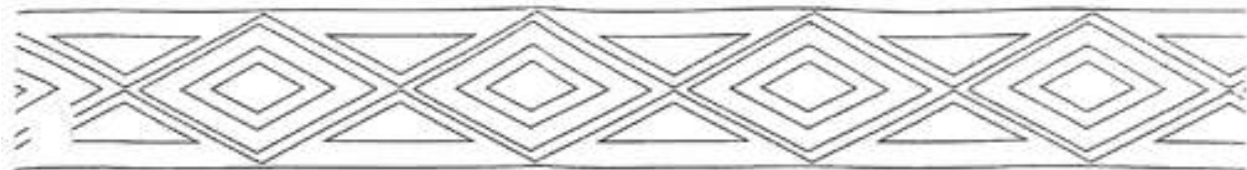
S

Safwa
(Sa-fwa)

Outside the house, behind the fence-sticks, giggles and jokes bubble. Sisters and brothers and cousins laugh and jostle each other. It is fun to peek at people passing by. Today everyone is in a hurry. It is market day, and it is going to rain. People buy bananas and peanuts and sweet tomatoes. Some men ride bicycles on the dirt roads, but most people walk.

The Safwa people live on the mountainsides of the Rift Valley in Tanzania. Their mud-brick homes glow in the afternoon sunshine. Rain clouds hover over thatched and tin roofs. Dry season is over at last.

The Safwa people do not have the Bible in their own language.



The Safwa People

Continent: Africa

Country: Tanzania

Geographical Information:

Tanzania is a country on the coast of East Africa.

- To the north are the countries of Kenya and Uganda.
- To the west are the small countries of Rwanda and Burundi.
- To the south are the countries of Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique.
- The Indian Ocean lies along the whole eastern border.

Can you find these countries and the Indian Ocean on the map of Africa?

- The Safwa people live in and around the mountains and valleys in the southern highlands of south-central Tanzania.
- Three kinds of interesting wild animals you might see in Tanzania are:
 - Lions
 - Giraffe
 - Red-billed Oxpecker.

Facts about the Safwa People:

- The Safwa are mainly farmers.
- They grow maize, rice, sunflowers, cassava, wheat and peas.
- They raise chickens, goats and cows.
- Crops they sell are:
 - Cotton
 - Potatoes
 - Coffee
- The Safwa usually live in small villages away from people who speak other languages.
- The Safwa people live in mud-brick homes. The roofs are made of long grass or corrugated metal.

- Sometimes the outside of their homes are painted in a design with words of welcome for visitors.
- Either wood or coal is used for cooking. Kerosene is used to light lanterns or homemade lamps.
- Young Safwa children help around the house. They sweep floors and yards, collect firewood, run errands and help care for babies.
- Some of the older children go to primary school that is taught in Swahili, which is one of the official languages of Tanzania. Fewer Safwa children attend school than children of other language groups.
- Very few Safwa people can read in any language. Most do not speak or understand the official language of Swahili.
- Most of the Safwa people walk or use bicycles for transportation. All roads in the Safwa area are dirt.
- The religion of the Safwa people demands ritual sacrifices to the spirits of ancestors.
- The Safwa people hope this will bring good harvests, good health and protection from harm.
- They also practice witchcraft, which binds many Safwa in Satan's fearful hold.
- A few Safwa people are Christians. There are also a few very small churches among the Safwa.
- The Safwa people do not have any Scripture or Christian materials translated into their own language because their language has never been written or recorded.

You can pray for the Safwa people.

- Ask God to send someone who can translate Scripture and other Christian materials for the Safwa.
- Pray that the Safwa will listen and accept God's Message of salvation through Christ.
- Pray that they will be released from the fear of witches as they come to trust Jesus to save and protect them.
- Pray that the few Safwa Christians will share their faith and want God's Message in their own language.

Tanzanian Animal Studies

Lions

Lions are large cats that live on the grassy savanna plains in Africa.

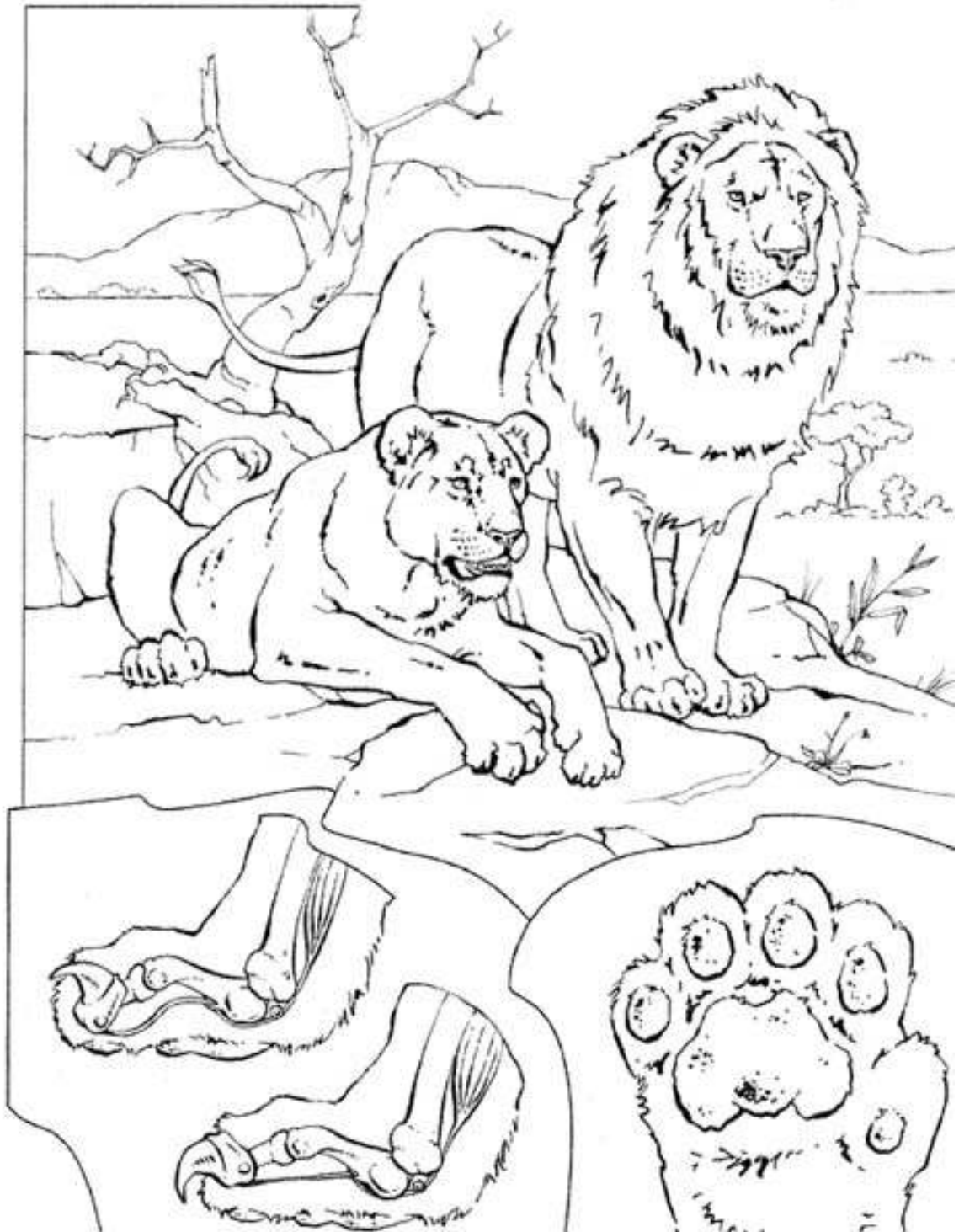
- Lions are a golden color with a black tail tuft, ears and lips.
- Male lions have blond or black manes (long hair growing around the neck). Males grow to be up to 6 feet (1.8 m) long and weigh as much as 420 pounds (190 kg). They can live for about 15 years.
- Lions live in permanent groups that have up to 25 lions. The home territory of this group can cover 100 square miles (260 square km).
- The roar of an adult lion can be heard up to five miles away. This helps reunite scattered group members and warns away other lions not members of the group.
- Female lions do most of the hunting. They often hunt in groups during the darkest, coolest hours of early morning. During most of the day and night they remain inactive. Usually only one out of four hunting trips is successful.
- The male leaders of the group always eat first, then the adult females. The young lions must fight for scraps left over.
- Lions are the largest meat-eating animal found in Africa. They feed on many animals that pass through or share their home area. They hunt antelopes, warthogs, wildebeest, zebras and other large, herding animals.



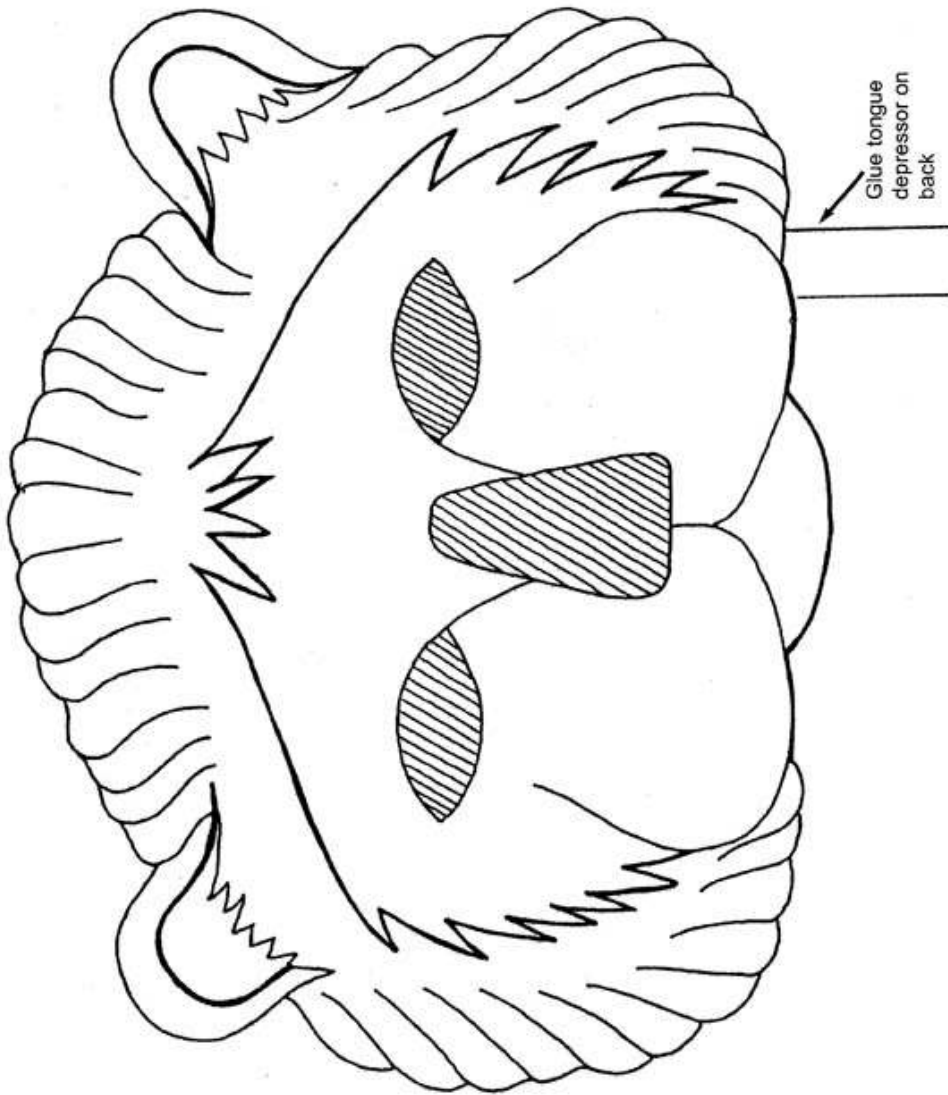
Lions







full-size pattern
lion



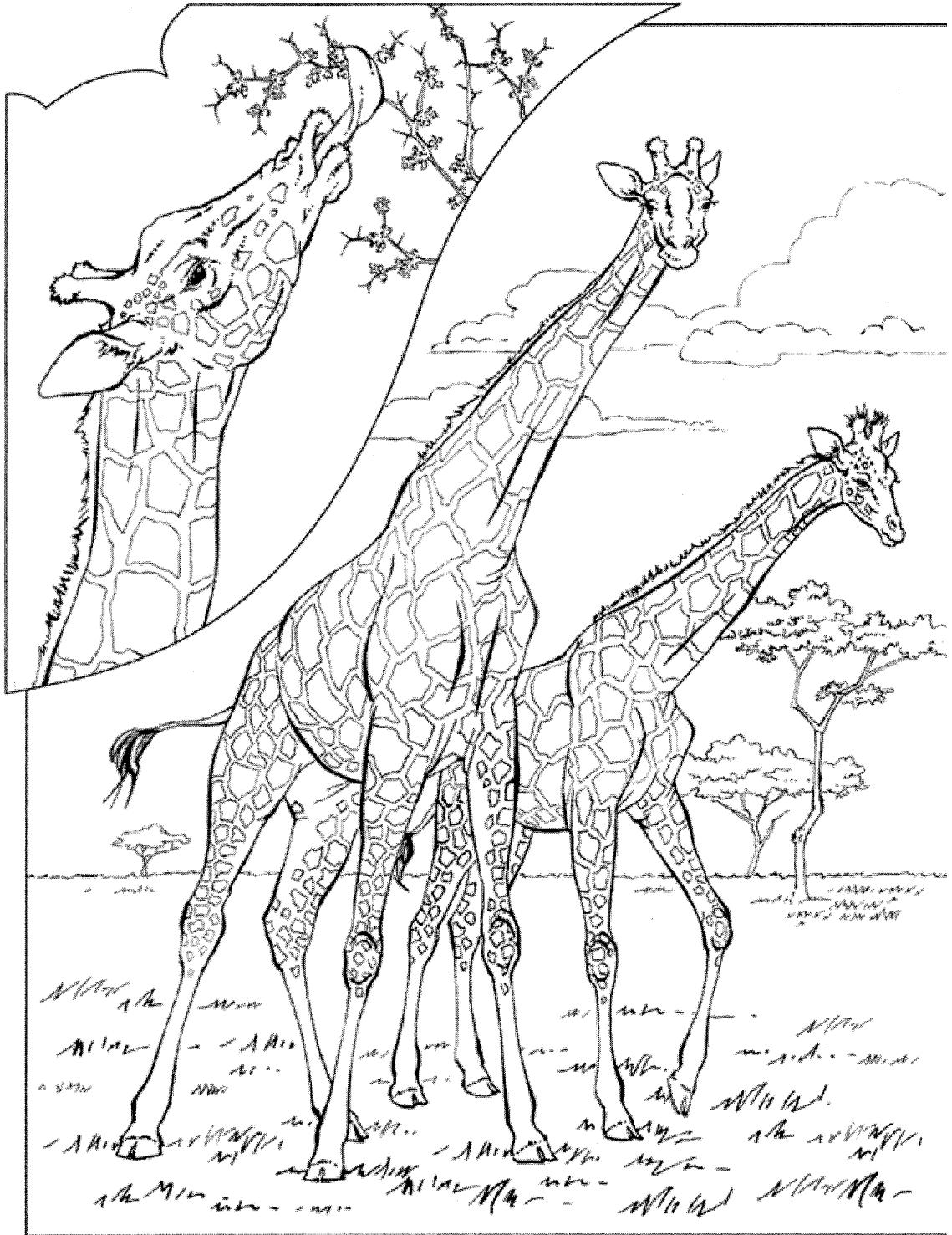
Giraffes

Giraffes are the tallest animals in the world. They can be up to 19 feet (6 m) tall and weigh up to 2,800 pounds (1270 kg). A baby giraffe is called a calf. They weigh about 130 pounds at birth and are 6 feet tall when born.

- Giraffes live in herds (groups) in African grasslands and eat tree leaves. They can go for days without water.
- In order to drink water, a giraffe must spread its front legs and bend its long neck down to the water.
- This position makes it easy for other animals like the lion, to hunt and kill them.
- When being hunted, giraffes can run up to 35 mph (56 kph) for short periods of time.
- The height of the giraffe allows it to eat leaves and twigs from tall trees.
- Giraffes can see farther than any other land animals and this protects them by allowing them to see danger approaching.
- The tan colored hide of giraffes has darker brown spots and provides an excellent way to remain hidden among the trees and bushes.



Giraffes



Red-billed Oxpecker

The Red-billed Oxpecker is a bird often seen perched on large mammals in Tanzania and other parts of southern Africa.

They are brightly colored birds that can easily be seen. Oxpeckers have a short thick red bill. Their eyes are red and are surrounded by large, bright yellow circles. The head, neck, wings and tail are brown-gray. The underside of this bird is pale yellow. They don't have to hide from large African animals.

The oxpeckers are only about 9 inches (22 cm) long but are fearless of large animals like lions and giraffes. They are fearless because they help many of the large animals. Oxpeckers help by eating ticks and fleas and bothersome flies off the large animals. They also eat the dead skin off of the larger animals.

The oxpecker will eat hundreds of these irritating little pests each day. So the large animals welcome their company and don't harm them.

The nest of an oxpecker is a hole in a tree. The female lays 1-5 eggs at one time). Both male and female oxpeckers sit on the eggs to keep them warm until they hatch.





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