WILDLIFEDIRECT

Newsletter
Issue #6
June 26th, 2020

WILDLIFE WARRIORS KIDS

Hello Wildlife Warriors!

Stay connected to nature even when you are at home in this sixth edition of the weekly wild update.

Photo of baby Masai Giraffes at Nairobi National Park by Nili Gudkha

This week we joined the world in celebrating three environmental days. World Giraffe day was on **June 21,** and in this issue, we stand tall for the giraffe; World Climate Change Day **was also on June 21** and we will share what you can do to reduce the effects of climate change; lastly we celebrated World Rainforest Day **on Monday June 22.** Did you know Kenya has a rainforest? Find out more in this issue.

Stay with us on this fun filled adventure. Always remember to share with your family and friends.

THIS WEEK ON MY WILD AFRICA!

Cleopatra and Brutus from the Gosa Gang sense an imminent threat while Hutch gets left behind. Will he manage to find his family? Or will he find love from a female meerkat who is from the rival gang?

Find out more on **MY WILD AFRICA**, This Sunday on Citizen TV at 5:30 PM.

Watch the film with your family and tell us what you learnt by sending an **SMS** or **WhatsApp message** to **0746 511787**

ARE YOU PRACTICING THE PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS?

Malachite Kingfisher

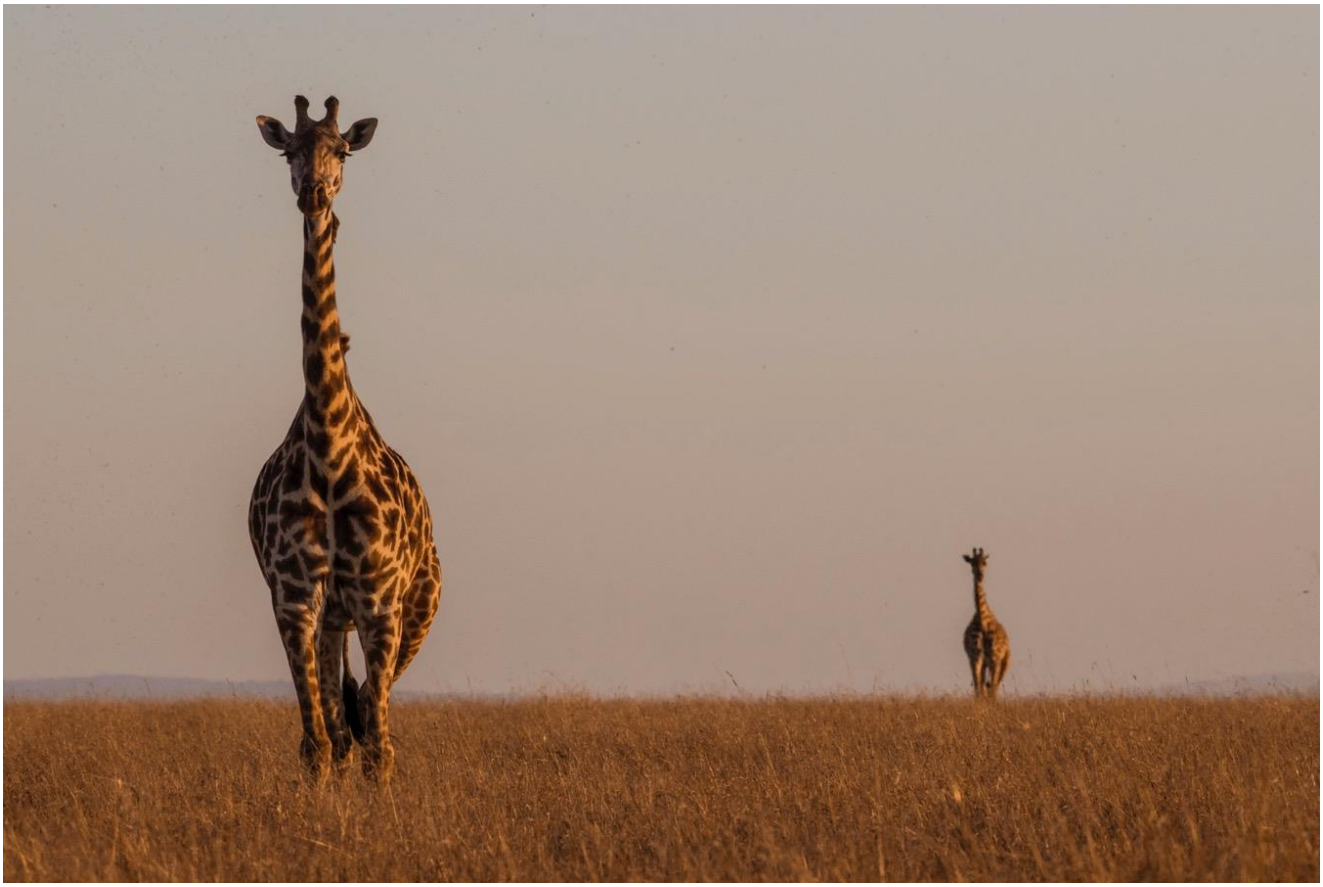
Adarsh Nagda is 11 years old and he submitted so many beautiful photos during the Nature's Treasures Photo Competition!

He is very passionate about nature photography and takes his best shot every time he gets the chance!

Keep practicing and you could win in season two of the photo competition coming up soon.

PHOTOGRAPHY TIP BY USHA HARISH!

Show perspective and get Creative



A good photograph requires you to give the right impression of your subject(perspective).

Creativity makes the photo more appealing.

USHA HARISH
PHOTOGRAPHY

OUR TALL ANIMAL FRIENDS!

Photo of Rothschild's giraffe - Arthur Muneza/GCF

Did you know that…

- Giraffes are already extinct in at least 7 countries in Africa and only exist in 21 countries. They are considered mostly vulnerable but some species are critically endangered.

- Giraffes are the tallest mammals on earth; even newborns at birth can be taller than most humans

- A giraffe's neck is too short to reach the ground, so, when drinking water, they have to spread their legs for their necks to reach the ground.

- Giraffe's sleep for 5 minutes at a time which total to 2 hours per day.

OUR VISIT TO THE GIRAFFE CENTRE!

Children from Olgirgir Wildlife Warriors Club feeding a Rothschild's giraffe at the Giraffe Centre

In June 2019, our teachers told us we would go for a trip to Nairobi. We were all very excited because most of us had never been away from home. None of us had ever been to the Big City!

Our school, Olgirgir Primary is in Laikipia County which is 225kms from Nairobi. We all met in the wee hours of the morning at our assembly ground looking forward to our day!

At exactly 10 a.m., we arrived in Nairobi and our first stop was the Kenya Wildlife Service Headquarters.

Wildlife Warriors Kids Club members at the Education Centre

Here, we had a great time visiting the Safari Walk and seeing the animals from very close.

We then visited the Giraffe Centre! We had only heard stories about this place and we were so happy to finally get here. We first went to the Education centre where we learnt that; female giraffes start having their young when they get to 5 years and that giraffes can live to an average of 25 years. It was amazing to learn that they sleep for only 2 hours a day and drink water once in a couple of days.

Our highlight was feeding the giraffes. They ate straight from our hands!! It was a great trip and we want to visit the centre again!

THE WHITE GIRAFFES!

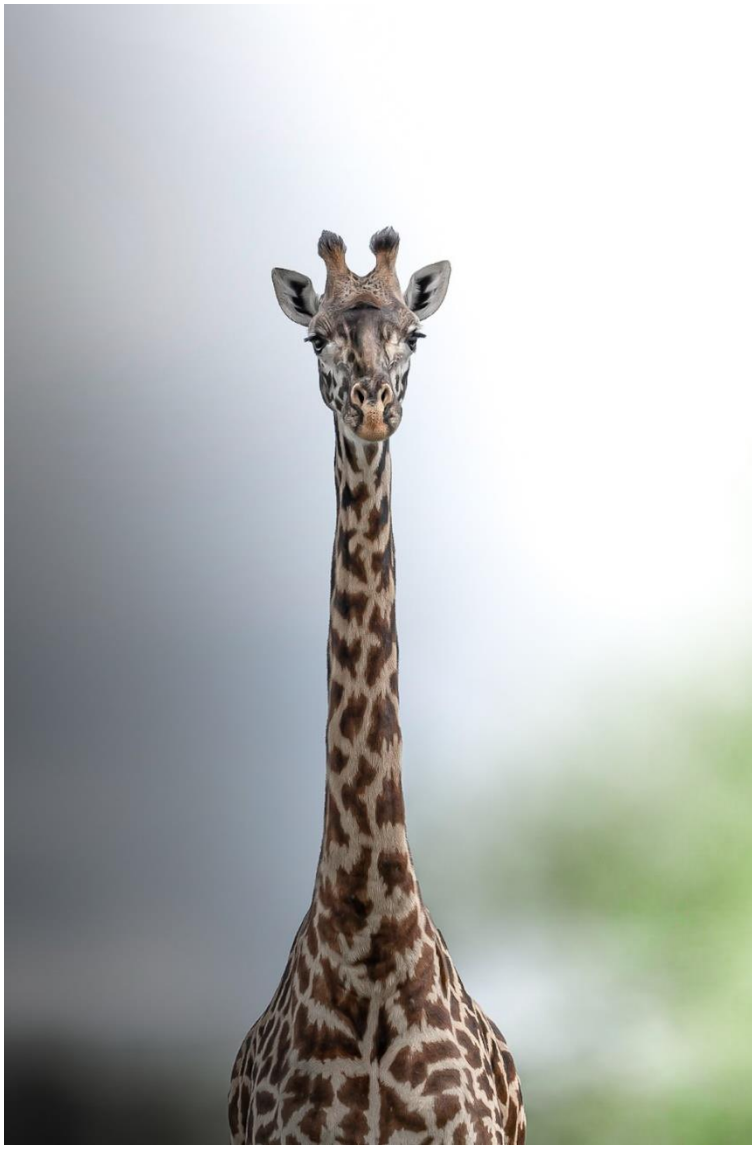
Did you know that there are rare White Giraffes in the world? White giraffes were first seen in Kenya in 2016. Many people mistake them for being Albinos but they have a rare condition called **LEUCISM.** This is a condition where skin cells have no pigmentation whereas albinos have no melanin.

Sadly, two of these extremely rare white giraffes were killed by poachers in north-eastern Kenya in March of this year. Rangers found the carcasses of the female and her calf in a village in north-eastern Kenya's Garissa County.

A white giraffe on the left and a Reticulated Giraffe on the right Photo credits: Caters News Agency/AFP via Getty Images

Fortunately, a third white giraffe is believed to be still alive. It is thought to be the only remaining one in the world according to conservationists at the Hirola conservancy.

THREATS TO GIRAFFES!



Masai Giraffe by Dhir Jakharia

Giraffes are killed by poachers for their skin, bones and meat.

They are also affected by loss of their habitat due to overgrazing, cutting down of the trees they feed on and pressure from livestock.

In Swahili, giraffe is known as *'twiga'* What do you call giraffes in your language?

Every week you can share your story about a special wild place in Kenya by sending an **SMS** or **WhatsApp message** with up to **100 words** to **0746 511787.**
Include your full names.

CAN YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE?

The coat of the giraffes is one way of differentiating them. Can you identify the giraffes in these two photos?

Hint:

The Reticulated Giraffe has rich orange-brown patches. The patches are surrounded by a network of striking white lines. The lower legs are often, the broad, striking white lines that surround the patches which continue through the entire length of their legs.

The Masai Giraffe is recognisably darker than other species. The patches are large and dark-brown and are shaped distinctively like vine leaves. The edges are jagged. The patches are surrounded by a creamy brown colour. The lower legs of the Masai Giraffe are the same creamy brown which surrounds the patches, there are no patterns.

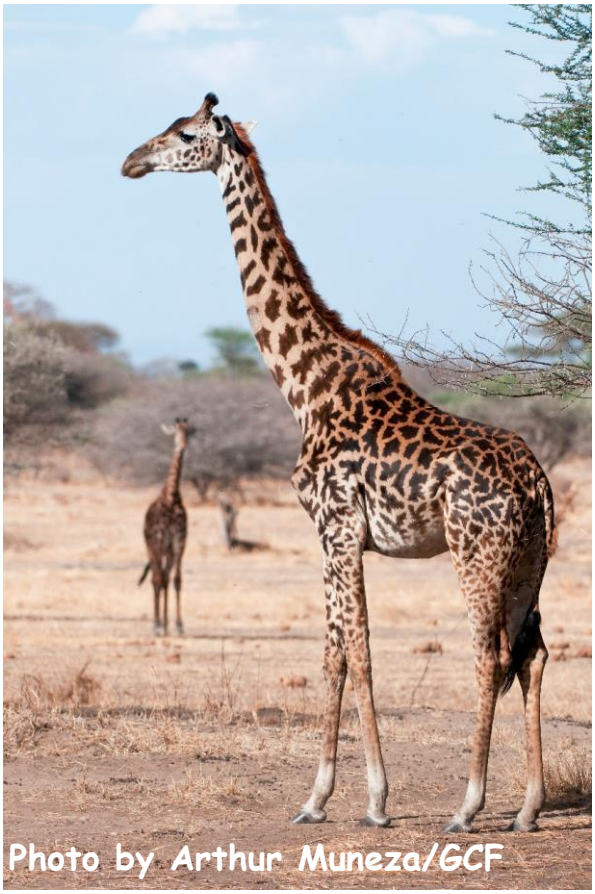
Send your answer via **text** or **WhatsApp message** to **0746 511787.**

PS: We have shared clues through out this week's newsletter.

The winner will be mentioned in the next issue

CAN YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE?

1



2

Last week's Wild Quiz winner was:
Derrick Miheso (16)
He correctly identified the Male Speke's Weaver

Send your answer via **text** or **WhatsApp message** to **0746 511787.**

PS: We have shared clues through out this week's newsletter.

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HERE ARE THE ANSWERS TO LAST WEEKS PUZZLE!

Z	A	C	J	F	B	L	O	W	S
T	O	X	P	W	R	G	I	H	K
W	S	Q	T	H	E	N	Y	C	N
B	O	W	I	N	D	X	P	E	V
R	H	U	M	T	G	E	O	D	Z
E	E	V	E	R	Y	Q	N	B	J
A	K	R	V	H	C	I	D	W	S
K	W	I	N	D	W	B	L	E	W

Find the following words: **blows, wind, time, the, every**

Rearrange these words to form a sentence.
Every time the wind blows

How many times has the word wind been repeated?
4 times

WILD JOKES!

Joshua: Why are giraffes so slow to apologize?
Timothy: **Because it takes them a long time to swallow their pride**

Submitted by Joshua and Timothy T. , Cheltenham, Pennsylvania

Seth: What do you call it when a giraffe swallows a toy jet?
Jake: Tell me.
Seth: **A "plane in the neck.**

Submitted by Jake P. from Vaihingen, Germany

KENYA'S RAINFOREST!

Do you know what a rainforest is? Rainforests are forests characterized by high and continuous rainfall.

In Kenya, we have only one rainforest located in Kakamega and Vihiga counties in Western Kenya. It is a lowland tropical rainforest, given the altitude of the region. This forest once stretched from Guinea in West Africa, through Central Africa, Congo, Uganda and Kenya. The people living around the forest depended on it for medicinal plants, and water. Rainforests have many tall and old trees. Some trees like the *Olea Capensis* (commonly known as Ironwood or African Olive) are believed to be over 400 years old.

KAKAMEGA FOREST!

There are more than 300 species of birds in Kakamega Forest. Some of these birds and many reptiles including snakes can only be found in this forest. Some snakes such as the Gold's Cobra and Kaimosi Blind Snake are even facing extinction. The forest also has mammals such as the De Brazza's Monkey, Colobus monkeys, Pottos and many plants.

The Forest is facing threats due to increased human activity like illegal cutting of trees, charcoal burning and encroachment for farming by the local communities.

Did you know that 25% of the medicines we use come from trees found in the rainforests in the world?

AMAZING GIRAFFE FACTS BY JESSICA MWANGI!

Nubian Giraffe Photo by Julian Fennessy/GFC

- The number of bones in the giraffes neck is the same as the number of bones in your neck
- Giraffe patterns are unique just like our finger prints. No two giraffes have the same pattern.
- Giraffes can run 56 Km per hour for short distances.

You can send us **essays, drawings and paintings** like Jessica on WhatsApp to **0746 511787**

COMING UP… DON'T MISS!

Photo of Masai giraffe by Anthony Wachira

- Wildlife Warriors on Switch TV at 2:00pm on June 28th, 2020
- My Wild Africa on Citizen TV at 5:30pm on June 28th, 2020

FOR PARENTS!

- Please send us your feedback, ideas and thoughts by filling the second part of bit.ly/WWKIDS and we will get back to you.

- If you love this newsletter and would love to support Wildlife Warriors Kids, please make a donation to:

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Email us: info@wildlifedirect.org

Contact us on: +254 746 511 787

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