

Survival Tactics

by Joanne Young

To survive, animals need food, water, protection from predators, and shelter. Many have all kinds of weird and wonderful ways of surviving in the wild.



A giraffe's tongue can extend up to 18 inches!

Walk Tall

The giraffe is the tallest mammal in the world and is famous for its long legs and neck. This amazing animal can grow up to 18 feet tall. Its height allows it to spot predators and to find food on the African grasslands.

Giraffes are big eaters. They graze for up to 20 hours each day! Their favorite food is the thorny leaves of the tall acacia tree. They use their long sticky tongue and tough upper lip to gather food.

Giraffes have excellent eyesight, and they can see enemies such as lions and leopards from a great distance.

Their long legs help them to make a quick getaway, and they can reach speeds of up to 35 miles per hour. A giraffe defends itself by kicking its enemies with its powerful front legs and sharp hooves. Although it appears to be a graceful creature, a giraffe is a tough fighter when defending itself!

Coat of Armor

Unlike the giraffe, the ant-eating pangolin is a shy, slow-moving creature. It doesn't need to run away from lions, leopards, and other predators because it's built like an armored tank. Its body is covered in rows of overlapping scales made from horn, which provide an excellent coat of armor.

The pangolin uses clever tactics to defend itself. To protect its soft belly and face from a predator's sharp teeth or claws, it curls into a ball. At other times, a pangolin

will swipe an attacker with its long tail or spray it with urine.

The nocturnal pangolin lives on grasslands and in forests of Asia and Africa. It comes out at night when most of its predators are asleep and uses its long, sticky tongue to catch insects such as ants and termites. During the day, the pangolin sleeps in a burrow. It has been known to occupy the homes of other burrowing animals. Imagine coming home to find that a pangolin has moved into your den!

People hunt pangolins for their meat and scales, and the



A pangolin digs its burrow using its huge claws. It can dig an 8-foot hole in less than five minutes.

species is now endangered. Even though it's able to defend itself well, this weird and wonderful animal is losing its battle for survival in the wild.

Tongue Twister

Chameleons have their own cunning survival skills. Like the pangolin, a chameleon isn't very quick on its feet, but its tongue is its secret weapon for catching prey. A chameleon can shoot out its long tongue in the blink of an eye to catch flies and crickets.

A chameleon also has the amazing ability to look forward and backward at the same time! It can move its eyes independently of each other, which allows a chameleon to spot predators and prey without moving its head.

These are just a few of the weird and wonderful ways that some animals survive in the wild. Whether they live in the grasslands or a forest, physical features and skills that perfectly suit their habitat help them to survive.



Fact File

- Some chameleons use their sticky tongues to catch insects more than 3 feet away.
- Most chameleons live on the grasslands and in the forests of Africa and the island of Madagascar.

