

# JAMBO, RAFIKI

"HELLO, MY FRIEND"

**Figen Gündüz Letaconnoux**

Includes Coloring Pages



# WHY ARE GIRAFFE'S NECK AND LEGS LONG?

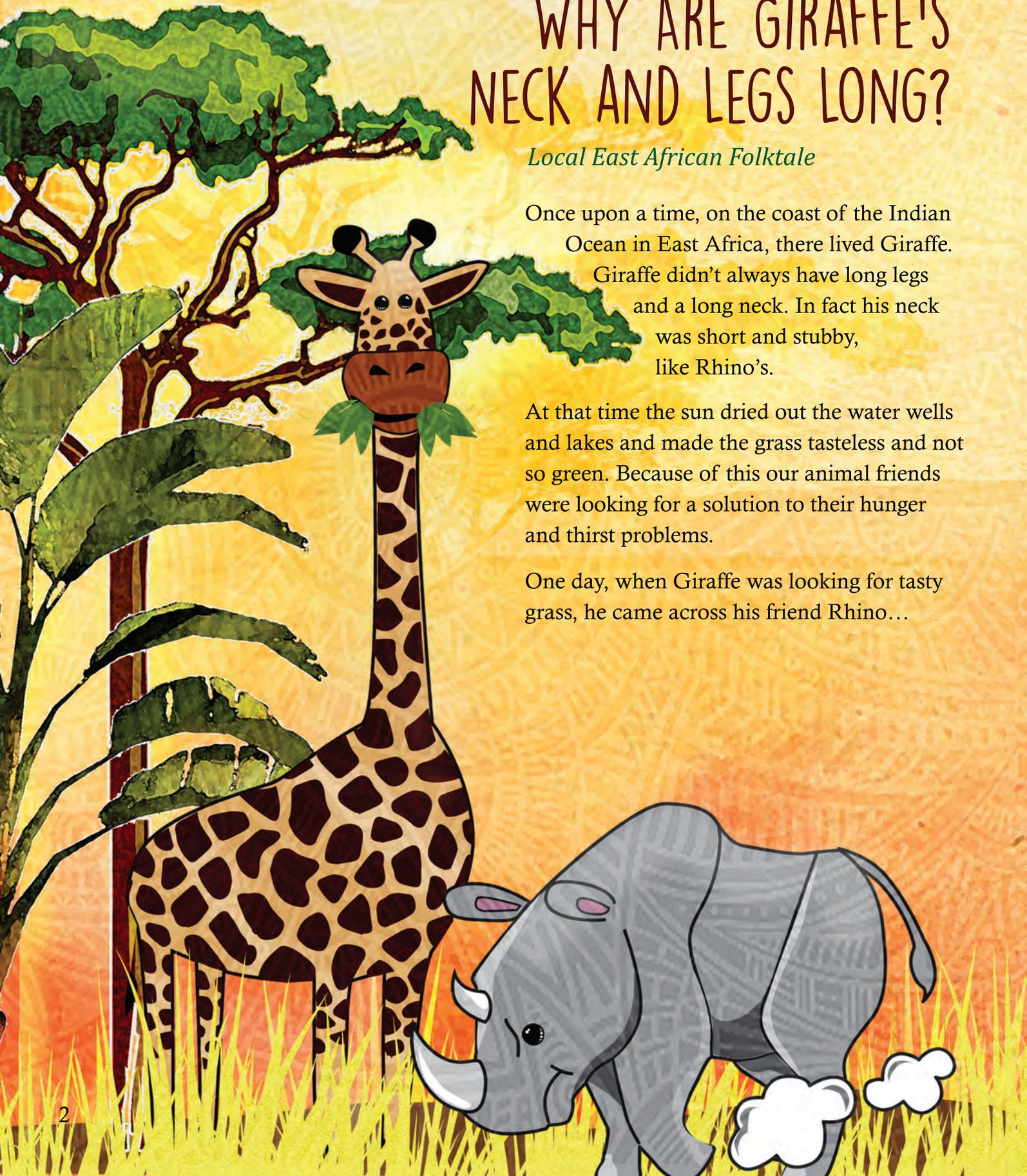
## *Local East African Folktale*

Once upon a time, on the coast of the Indian Ocean in East Africa, there lived Giraffe.

Giraffe didn't always have long legs and a long neck. In fact his neck was short and stubby, like Rhino's.

At that time the sun dried out the water wells and lakes and made the grass tasteless and not so green. Because of this our animal friends were looking for a solution to their hunger and thirst problems.

One day, when Giraffe was looking for tasty grass, he came across his friend Rhino...





“Grass is so tasteless now... I miss the fresh, green and tasty grass that we used to eat after the rain,” said Giraffe.

Rhino pulled out a tuft of dry grass with his strong mouth and said, “You’re right my friend, I miss it too. I can hardly eat this dry, tasteless grass. It’s been a long time since the last rain; we all are missing that fresh, green, tasty grass.”

“A loooong time” said Giraffe, nodding his head. Giraffe looked around and said, “other animals ate all the grass and there is nothing left for us. I would love to eat the fresh leaves on the top of these trees.”

“But we can’t reach up there,” said Rhino. Suddenly his eyes twinkled with joy. “I have a plan...we can find a Human friend and ask him for his help!” He cried with excitement.

Giraffe and Rhino went on a long walk to find a Human friend. They went up a hill and down a dale, ate dry grass when they were hungry and drank the little water that they could find.

They were getting really, really tired when they came across a Human. They explained their problem under the shade of an Acacia tree and waited to hear his answer.

“I think I might be able to help you. Come back here tomorrow at noon. I am going to give you a plant, and you’ll be surprised to see what happens when you eat it,” said the Human. Giraffe and Rhino agreed to come back the next day as they walked away in different directions.

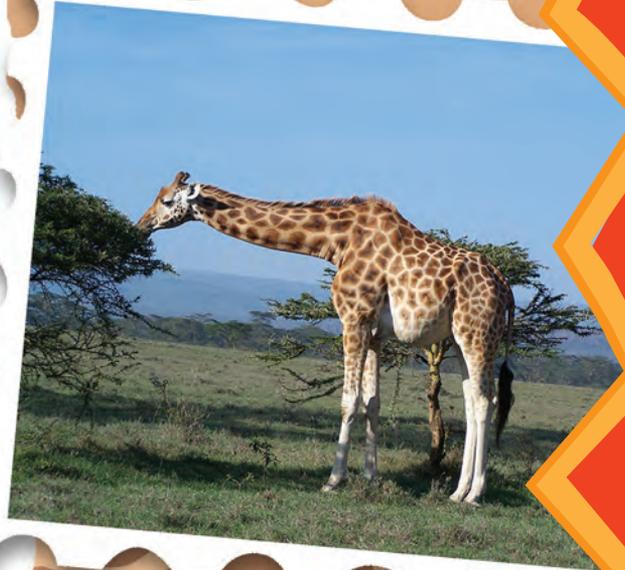
Rhino was still hungry, and thinking to find green and tasty grass in the far far lands he decided to take a long journey.

Meanwhile, Giraffe decided to stay for another day.

# INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT GIRAFFE

*(Giraffa Camelopardalis)*

- Giraffes are the world's tallest mammals.
- They can't lie down because of their height, so they sleep standing for a maximum of two hours a day.
- They have horns; male giraffe's horns are longer than females because male giraffes use them for protecting their families.
- Male giraffes can reach up to 16 feet, and females about 15 feet.
- They're herbivorous and generally eat leaves that other herbivores can't reach.
- They drink water every 5 days but can live without water for longer periods of time.
- They clean their nose, ears and eyes with their tongue which is almost 18 to 20 inches long.
- Thanks to their black, rough, sticky tongue they can eat even the thorns of the Acacia tree, one of the iconic symbols of Africa.
- They travel in small herds. Male giraffes leave their mothers and join single male friends when they are 3 years old.
- Their pregnancy lasts about 14-15 months. They give birth to one baby at a time. Mother giraffes breastfeed their babies for a year.



*In the immense African Continent,  
there are lots of cute animals  
living all together...*

Stories are told about the African animals living happily together for ages. The stories I gathered, as well as the ones I wrote, are about African nature and animals.

Here, you will read about Baobab's virtue, the friendship between Warthog and Giraffe,

how Giraffe got a long neck, Leopard's glamorous spots, and more.

Do you wonder about the interesting lives of African animals and want to learn real facts about those animals? I can hear you saying, "Yes!"

So let's start reading the stories...

