



# Animal Tails:



*explorations of the animal world through connections to literature*

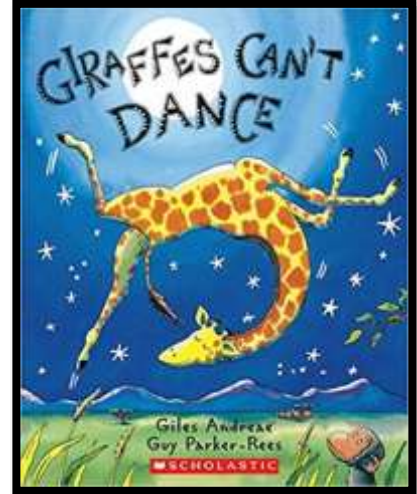
## **Giraffes Can't Dance**

by Giles Andreae

**Age:** K-5<sup>th</sup> grade

### **Gather your Gear**

- [Giraffes Can't Dance](#) book or log on to watch the storybook reading
- [What am I: African Savanna Edition activity sheet](#)
- [What am I: Backyard Edition activity sheet](#)
- [Pencil/pen](#)



### **Get Ready**

*You can help your child make connections by thinking about concepts before reading the story.*

- Where do giraffes live?
- Discuss the last visit to a zoo. What types of animals did you see that might live where giraffes live?

### **Read**

*Read the book, stopping to explore key story ideas. Below are some prompts to help guide you.*

- What animals have you seen in the story who live near Gerald?
- What types of dances did all the animals perform?

### **Reflect**

*Briefly discuss what was important or what we learned. Below are some questions to guide you.*

- What is your favorite music or song?
- Does it make you want to dance or just sing along?

### **Relate**

*Create connections to the idea through activities*

**This lesson is about exploring the difference between producers and consumers. Using the African savanna, you will explore the ideas and then you will go out into your own backyard and apply what you learned as you observe and classify the organisms in your own environment.**

1. Grab the “**What am I: African Savanna Edition**” activity sheet and a pencil.



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2. Look at the images on the worksheet and discuss whether each one is a producer or consumer. Highlighting what a producer and consumer is:
  - **Producer:** an organism that can make its own food. The most prevalent producers are plants.
  - **Consumer:** an organism that relies on other organisms or organic matter to provide its food. There are four types of consumers: decomposer, herbivore, carnivore and omnivore.
3. Review the four consumers and what they eat.
  - **Scavenger:** an animal whose primary food source is dead or injured animals. An example of a scavenger is a vulture, coyote, or piranha.
  - **Herbivore:** an animal who eats plants.
  - **Carnivore:** an animal whose primary food is the flesh of other animals/meat.
  - **Omnivore:** an animal that can eat both meat and plants.
4. Talk about how each consumer fills an important role in the African savanna and how without all of them, the other animals would not be able to thrive. For example, vultures are carnivores that scavenge for their food. They are known as the cleaners of the savanna, as they eat dead and decaying animals, which if left alone would be havens for disease.
5. Now make a line from the organism to producer or the type of consumer it is: omnivore, carnivore, herbivore, or decomposer.
6. Now take a copy of the “**What am I: Backyard Edition**” and go outside and write down/draw the organisms that you see. Discuss whether each is a producer or consumer. If an organism is a consumer, discuss which of the four types it is. Draw lines from the organism on your sheet to what type of producer/consumer each is.

### **It takes a team.... join ours**

Help us save species by joining the “Zoo Conservation Corps” and raise awareness about wild animals, their habitats and why conserving both is so important. If you or your family are on social media, post your completed worksheets to share with your family and friends what you have learned. Use the hashtag #OnlyZooATL so that we can see all your great work!

### **Want to know more....**

- Go to Zoo Atlanta’s website to learn about the giraffes and other animals from the African savanna: <https://zooatlanta.org/animal/>
- Check out Zoo Atlanta’s YouTube page for videos featuring our giraffes and other animals that live on the African savanna: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCh1d5bkhX3DGMgBFOQtI5Sw>



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## What am I? African Savanna Edition

Match the organism as a producer or type of consumer it is.

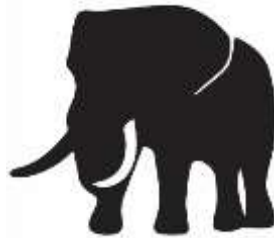
Producer

Omnivore

Carnivore

Herbivore

Decomposer





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## What am I? Backyard Edition

Go out in your backyard or local greenspace and make a list of animals and plants that you find. Match each of those organisms as a producer or a type of consumer.

Producer

Omnivore

Carnivore

Herbivore

Decomposer