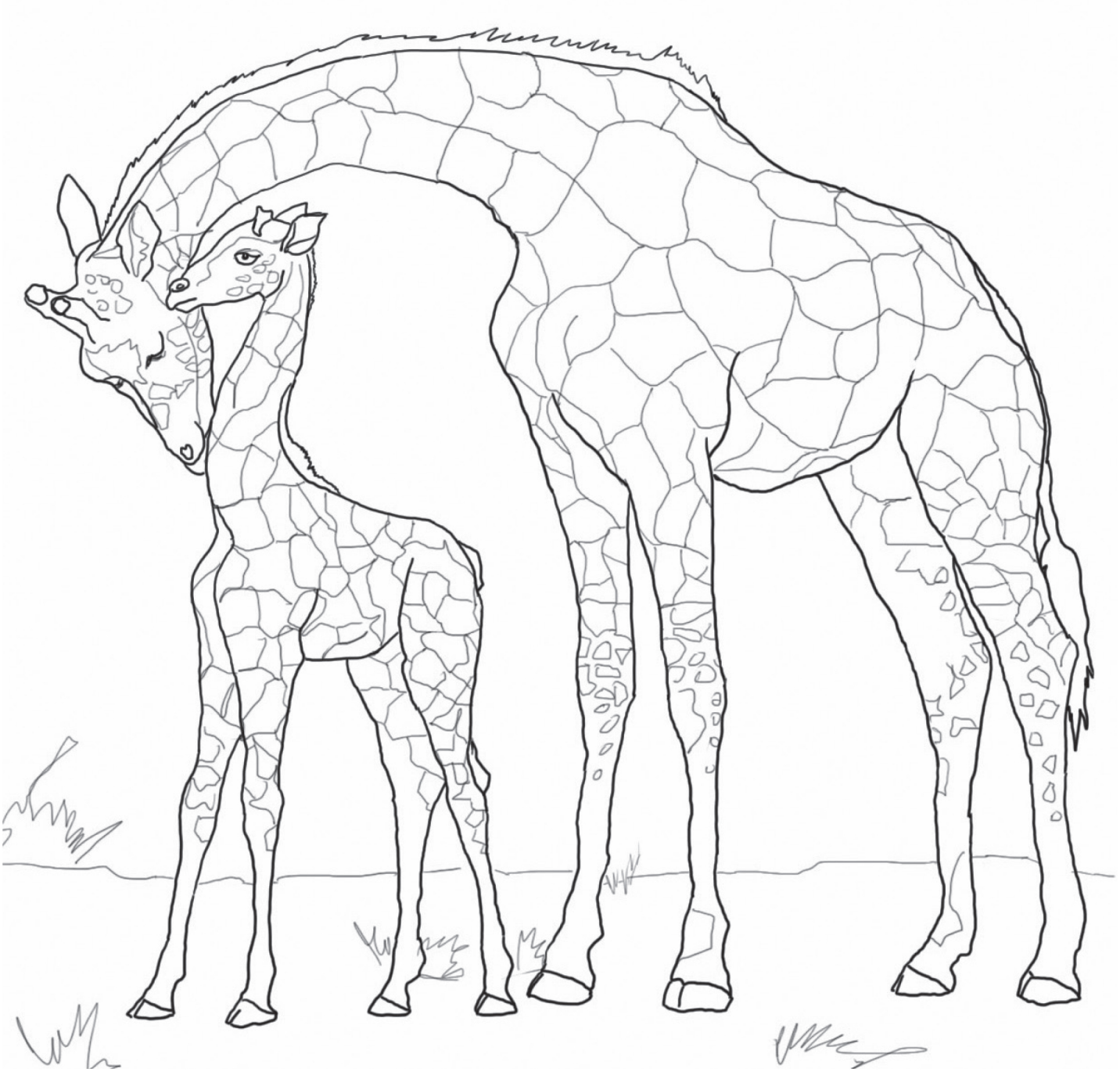
Reticulated Giraffe *(Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata)*



Range: Africa (Sub-Saharan, in open woodlands and grasslands)
Height: Males: 15-17 feet / Females: 13-15 feet
Weight: Males 1,765-4,255 pounds / Females: 1,213-2,601 pounds
Diet: Herbivore
Gestation: 453-464 days (approximately 15 months)
Life Span: 25-35 years

The giraffe is the tallest animal in the world. Even though they have a very long neck, a giraffe has the same amount of vertebra (7) that most mammals, including humans have. The giraffe is the only mammal born with horns. Because of their spots, the Romans called the giraffe "camelopardalis," meaning camel marked like a leopard. These spots are unique to each giraffe, much like fingerprints are unique to each human. Another great feature of the giraffe is its unusually long tongue. The pink and black tongue can be 22-inches long and is used to grab food from the trees and YOUR HANDS. When startled, a giraffe can gallop up to 30 mph for a moderate distance. The force of a giraffe's kick can remove the head of a lion.

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Fun Fact: A giraffe is able to clean its ears with its own tongue.