

Learning Objective

To write a traditional tale based on the 'Just So' stories format

Key Vocabulary: evolution, suited/suitable, environment, adapted/adaptation, offspring, characteristics, vary/variation, inherit/inheritance, fossils, natural selection

Resources

Why giraffe has a long neck – synopsis.

Weblinks

- 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bsjutqABGc> - *Tinga Tinga, tales of Africa - Why giraffe has a long neck?*
- 2) <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/clips/zwcg9j6> - *Why giraffes have long necks, BBC;*
- 3) http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2781/2781-h/2781-h.htm#link2H_4_0002 - *Just So stories*

Watch the top clip above- [Tinga Tinga](#) tale on about how giraffe got her long neck (or read the synopsis – below). This is a series shown on CBeebies that explores how animals got their features through traditional tales. Once it is over, watch the second clip ([BBC clip](#)) about how giraffes' necks evolved and compare the two versions! Rudyard Kipling (author of The Jungle Book) wrote a series of stories called the Just So stories that tell the tale of how creatures developed certain characteristics, but in the form of traditional tales. Read one of the Just So Stories ([see link](#) 3) and analyse it under the following headings:

- Setting
- Use of repetition and alliteration
- Role of other animals
- Explanation given for characteristic's development

Create your own tale using a 'plausible' but obviously *not* scientific explanation that you can either make into a 'published' booklet with a 'the science behind the myth' page, or make a webpage with a similar scientific section!

Possible story ideas:

tiger – stripes
zebra - stripes,
elephant – trunk,
crocodile - teeth,
duck-billed platypus – beak,
mole – front legs,
peacock –tail feathers
deer – antlers

So to recap-

- 1) Write a funny 'Just So' story (non-factual)
- 2) Write a factual Scientific explanation to go with it (that tell the reader the real reason the animal is the it is)

Tinga Tinga Tales: Why Giraffe has a Long Neck (synopsis)
by Claudia Lloyd

There was a time when Giraffe had short legs, short horns and a very short, stumpy neck. She was also a very fussy eater – she only ate mangoes.

When Giraffe has a runny tummy from eating too many mangoes, her friends suggest that she should eat some honey to settle it. She pushes her head into a hole in a tree full of delicious runny honey but gets stuck! Her friends try and pull her out by pulling her legs, but she stays stuck and passes the time playing games as the tree grows and her neck stretches. When she finally manages to break free, she is now a tall, thin giraffe with a long neck, perfect for looking for food in the tree tops!

