



“When I was Martine’s age, I was fortunate enough to live on a farm, which was part game reserve, in Zimbabwe, which borders South Africa. Apart from our giraffe, Jenny, we had two cantankerous ostriches, a wildebeest, a herd of fifty or sixty impala, antelope, and a troop of monkeys.

“For a long time I wanted to be a veterinarian and I had a “vet kit,” which was full of bandages and syringes and various wound treatments I used to patch up injured birds or antelopes or anything else that was carried to our door. My father did a lot of non-emergency animal treatment on the farm, so I learned from him, plus I read anything I could on the subject. My first job, at seventeen, was veterinary nursing. That experience, combined with my background, helped a great deal when I was thinking about Martine’s gift of healing and the situations in which she might apply it.”

“My hope for *The White Giraffe* is that it is as enjoyable to read as it was to write. If it encourages even one person to want to help wildlife or to visit or want to know more about Africa, that would make me incredibly happy.”—*Lauren St. John*

The White Giraffe



LAUREN
St. JOHN

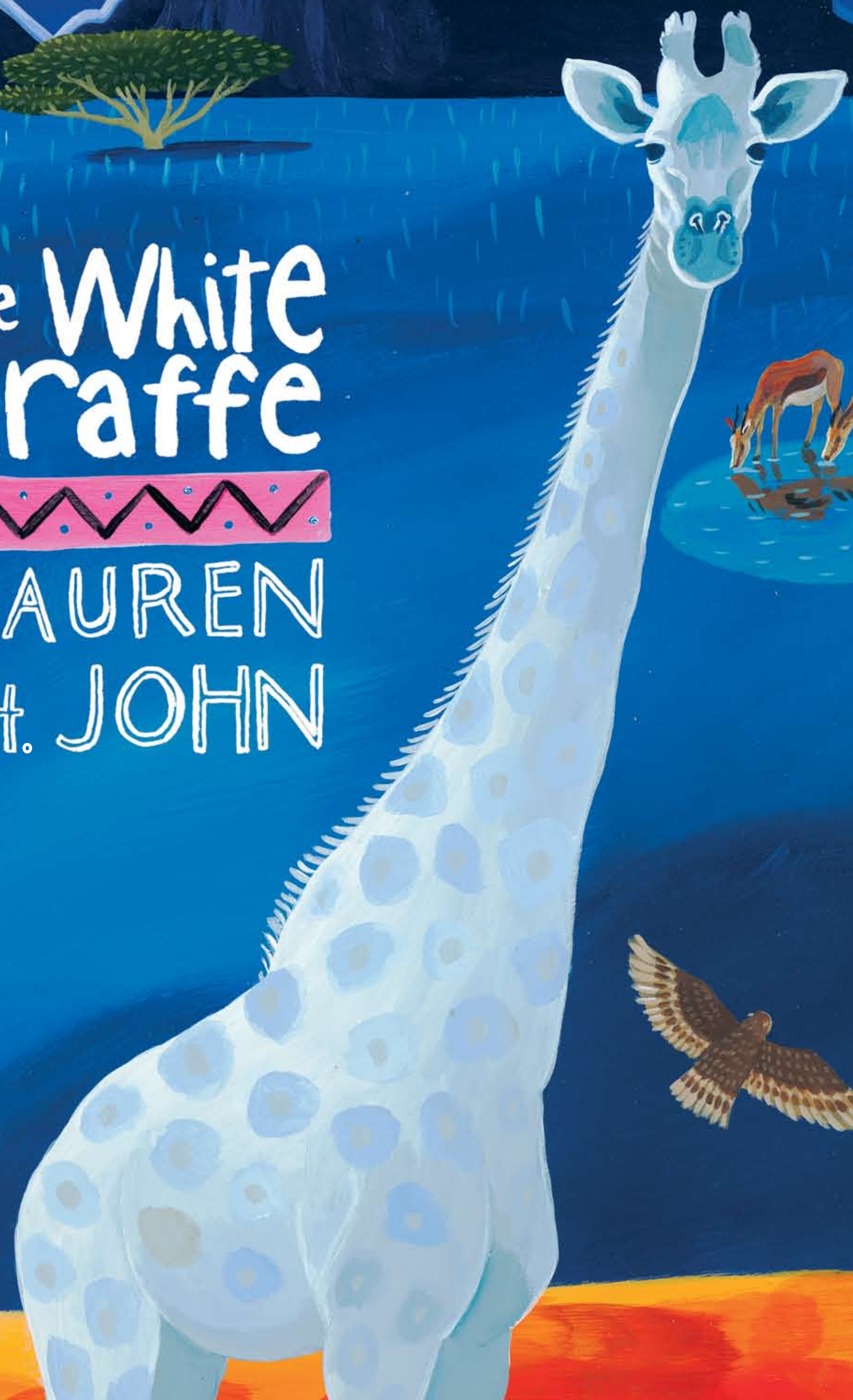
Turn over for:

- Exciting preview passages from *The White Giraffe*
- Suggested teaching activities for students in grades 3 and up
- Coordination of activities to align with National Standards in key Content Areas
- Thematically related, reproducible student pages



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A Message From Walden Media and Dial Books for Young Readers

Dear Librarians and Educators,

We are pleased to present our second joint-publishing offering, *The White Giraffe*, the wonder-filled story of an eleven-year-old girl named Martine who is sent off to South Africa after her parents die, to live with her prickly grandmother—on a game reserve. Once there, Martine discovers that the animal sanctuary also houses the legendary white giraffe. Martine's new-found friends, Tendai and his aunt Grace, help Martine to discover the mystery behind the secret destiny that links Martine, her mother, and the white giraffe.

Walden Media and Dial Books for Young Readers have created this educational poster, based on national curriculum standards, as a motivating springboard for discussion and doing hands-on learning. It is our hope that the themes and reproducible activities will inspire your students to travel on an imaginative journey they won't soon forget!

Recommended for Grades 3 up.

HOW TO USE THIS POSTER

This activity poster contains key passages from *The White Giraffe*. Each passage features an activity that is thematically linked to the book; and can be reproduced for students to work on individually, or in groups.

The activities are numbered, and meet National Curriculum Standards in the following content areas:

ENGLISH / LANGUAGE ARTS (NCTE / IRA)

Activities 1–4: Reading for Understanding
Activity 2: Evaluation Strategies, Techniques and Processes (Standard 3)

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS)

Activities 1, 3, 4: People, Places, and Environments (Standard 3)

SCIENCE (NSES) K–4

Activities 1, 2, 3: Life Science: Organisms and Environments
Activity 4: Life Science: Characteristics of Organisms

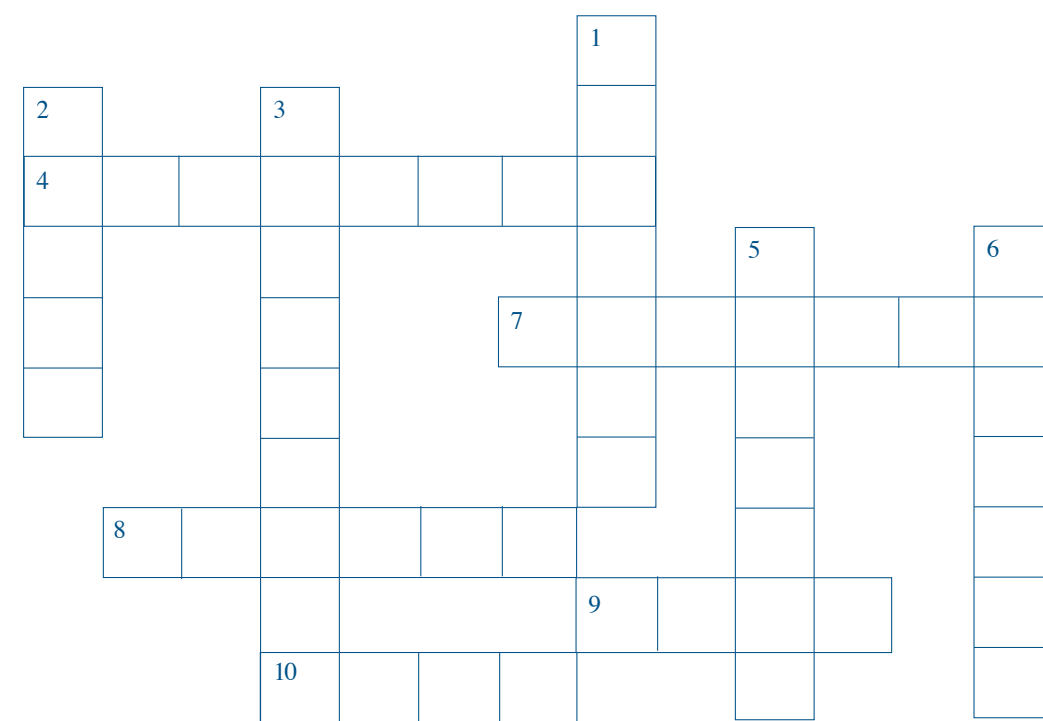
WILDLIFE

“What else do you have here?”

“Twelve other elephants,” Tendai recited proudly. “Eight ostriches, one hundred and fifty springboks, ten wildebeest, eighteen kudus, twenty zebras, six lions, four leopards, seven warthogs, a couple of troops of baboons, a few waterbucks...” (Page 31)

THE WHITE GIRAFFE CROSSWORD

DIRECTIONS: Read the clues provided, then use these animal words to fill in the crossword puzzle: *ostrich, springbok, giraffe, kudu, zebra, lion, leopard, warthog, baboon, elephant*. Answers to the puzzle can be found at www.walden.com.



ACROSS

- 4 Giant animal with big ears, tusks, and a trunk
- 7 Tall, long-necked animal with spots
- 8 Big monkey with sharp teeth, large cheek pouches, and a short tail
- 9 Huge, powerful cat with shaggy mane
- 10 Spiral-horned antelope

DOWN

- 1 Big, swift-footed flightless bird
- 2 Striped, fast-running African horse
- 3 Springy gazelle that jumps when frightened
- 5 Wild African pig with tusks and warts
- 6 Large, ferocious cat with spots

SUGGESTED FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

- Invite students to read *The White Giraffe*. Interested students may wish to find more wildlife vocabulary and create crossword puzzles of their own.
- Visit www.walden.com/thewhitegiraffe to view the gallery of African animals, and to read more excerpts from the book about their lives and habitat.
- Challenge interested students to research the most endangered African species in the world today.

GIRAFFES

The locals believe that a white giraffe has come to Sawubona. The Africans have a legend, which says that the child who can ride a white giraffe will have power over all the animals, but it is only a myth. We have had no giraffes, not even ordinary giraffes, at Sawubona for nearly two years now, but people keep coming to me to report that they've seen this white one. The tribesman say that it's an albino giraffe, as white as a snow leopard. If it's true, that would make it one of the rarest animals in the world. (Page 31)

DIRECTIONS: Have students read the article below about a real white giraffe citing; along with some interesting FACTS.

PHOTO IN THE NEWS: Rare White Giraffe Spotted in Africa

September 13, 2005—He had only a ghost of a chance, but after more than a decade of searching, a wildlife researcher has captured proof of a white giraffe. In this photo released September 6, the unusual beast and its companions stroll through a wilderness preserve in the African country of Tanzania.

Charles Foley of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) first heard reports of the white giraffe in Tarangire National Park in 1993. For 12 years he kept his eye out for the living legend while conducting his daily business of studying the park's savanna elephant populations.

“By 1994 the sighting stopped coming in, so I assumed it had died, either at the hand of man or beast,” Foley said in a WCS press release. “I never stopped looking, though.”

Foley's diligence paid off when he was conducting an aerial survey of the elephants earlier this month and saw a glimmer of white amid the trees. His photo, taken from a plane flying some 62 miles an hour (100 kilometers an hour), shows a pale giraffe with brown coloring on its legs. According to Foley, the animal is not a true albino but is merely a lighter color than the average giraffe.

—By Victoria Gillman
[From NationalGeographic.com]

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: *Rare White Giraffe Spotted in Africa* article used by permission of National Geographic.

GIRAFFE FACTS

- Giraffes are usually 15 to 19 feet tall.
- Males can weigh 2,420–4,250 pounds. Females can weigh 1,540–2,600 pounds.
- A giraffe has a prehensile (pre-HEN-suhl) tongue. This means the tongue can wrap itself around leaves and twigs in order to grab them. A giraffe's tongue can be 16 inches long. Giraffes can eat 75 pounds of leaves in a day.
- Giraffes have two gaits: a walk and a gallop. They can gallop up to 37 miles per hour.
- Giraffe calves stay with their mothers for up to 22 months.
- Giraffes are not mute. Giraffe calves bleat and make a mewing call. A cow looking for her lost calf will bellow, and bulls when looking to mate will make a loud coughing sound. Giraffes give snorts as warnings to other giraffes.
- Giraffes use their coloring to blend in with trees.

SUGGESTED FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

- Invite students to read *The White Giraffe* and to make a list of words describing any aspects of the South African landscape with which they are unfamiliar.
- Visit www.walden.com/thewhitegiraffe to view the gallery of photographs of African landscapes, and to read additional excerpts from the book about them.
- Challenge interested students to research how animals adapt to life-changing habitats such as deserts or high mountains.

SOUTH AFRICA

They traveled inland, away from the suburbs and the stormy coast. Sometimes the landscape was nothing more than a parched gray desert, with ostriches strutting jauntily through the scrub. At other times, low-slung hills gave way to valleys carpeted in wildflowers, purple mountains of protea and heathery fynbos, or golden acres of wheat. (Page 179)

PICTURE MARTINE'S AFRICA

DIRECTIONS: On a separate sheet of paper, have students illustrate the South African landscape found in *The White Giraffe*.

- ...the stormy coast...
- ...parched gray desert, with ostriches...
- ...low-slung hills [that] gave way to valleys carpeted in wildflowers...
- ...purple mountains...or golden acres of wheat...

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Use the following websites as follow-up tools to help your class obtain additional information on topics discussed in the book.

http://www.nationalgeographic.com/kids/creature_feature/0111/giraffes.html

<http://www.sandiegozoo.org/animalbytes/t-giraffe.html>

<http://animal.discovery.com/fansites/jeffcorwin/carnival/massive/giraffe.html>

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THE SANCTUARY

Sawubona, it turned out, was not just a game reserve, it was a wildlife sanctuary, and it was Tendai's role to check on every animal in the park. About a quarter of the animals at Sawubona had been born there, but all the rest had been rescued. Some came from drought-stricken areas or game reserves or zoos that had gone out of business. Others had been brought to Sawubona with injuries or because they'd been orphaned in hunts or culls. (Page 23)

Shaka (the little elephant) was one of several animals in the sanctuary, which was sort of a hospital and holding area for new arrivals before they were relocated to the main game reserve. At present, Tendai and Samson, a wizened, white-haired man who looked at least one hundred and four years old, were tending to a jackal that had been hit by a car and had a leg in a cast, an owl with an infected eye, a springbok with a nasty abscess, and an orphaned bushbaby. This last was one of the sweetest creatures Martine had ever seen, with huge brown eyes in a tiny gray apelike face, a long curling tail, and paws like a koala, made for climbing... (Page 48–49)

YOUR ANIMAL SANCTUARY

DIRECTIONS: Use space provided to illustrate your view of an animal sanctuary and fill it in with cut-out pictures or drawings of endangered animals from your state. What are the dangers these animals face?

SUGGESTED FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

- Invite students to read *The White Giraffe*. Students can then research one of the animals mentioned in the novel as living in the Sawubona sanctuary.
- Visit www.walden.com/thewhitegiraffe to find out more information on wildlife sanctuaries.
- Encourage students to brainstorm a list of recommendations they would make to a national wildlife organization on behalf of the endangered animals in their area of the country.