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 CROSSWORD**

**WILDLIFE**

"What else do you have here?"

*"Taller other elephants," Brandon exclaimed prouly. "Eight ostiches, one hundred and fifty springbokos, ten wildebeest, eightiuean, twenty zebras, six lions, four leopards, seven warthogs, a couple of troops busbucks, a few waterbucks . . ."* (Page 31)

**GIRAFFES**

**ENGLISH / LANGUAGE ARTS (OCTE / IRA)**
Activities 1–6: Reading for Understanding

**SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS)**
Activities 3, 4: People, Places, and Environments

**SCIENCE (NSES)**
Activities 1, 2: Life Science: Organisms and Environments

**Activity 4: Evolution, Strategies, and Processes**

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the clues provided, then use these animal words to fill in the crossword puzzle:

- ostrich
- springbok
- giraffe
- kudu
- rhino
- lion
- baboon
- warthog

*Answers to the puzzle can be found at www.walden.com.*

**PICTURE MARTINE’S AFRICA**

**ACTIVITIES**

**•** Invite students to read The White Giraffe. Interested students may wish to find some wildlife vocabulary and create illustrated puzzles of their own.

**•** Visit www.walden.com/thegiraffefact to view the gallery of African animals, and to read more excerpts from the book about their lives and habitats.

**•** Challenge interested students to research the most endangered African species in the world today.

**GIRAFFES FACTS**

**•** Giraffes are usually 15 to 19 feet tall.

**•** Giraffes weigh 2,240 to 4,550 pounds. Females can weigh 1,540 to 2,600 pounds.

**•** A giraffe has a proboscis (pre-SHEEN-tus) tongue. This means the tongue can wrap itself around leaves in order for the giraffe 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 tails: a bushy end and a gallup. They can gallop up to 37 miles per hour.

**•** Giraffes usually stay with their mothers for up to 22 months.

**•** Giraffes are not mute. Giraffe calves bleat and make a mooing call. A cow looking for her lost calf will bleat, and both the mother and calf squealing will make a loud clanging sound. Giraffes give moos as warnings to other giraffes.

**•** Giraffes use their coloring to blend in with trees.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

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


**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 calls. (Page 25)

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, Samson, a wizened, white-haired man who looked at least one hundred and four years old, were tending to a jacksal 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 46–47)

**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 being in the Sawubona sanctuary.
- Visit www.walden.com/thegiraffefact to find out more information on wildlife sanctuaries.
- Encourage students to create a list of recommendations they would make to a natural wildlife organization on behalf of the endangered animals in their area of the country.