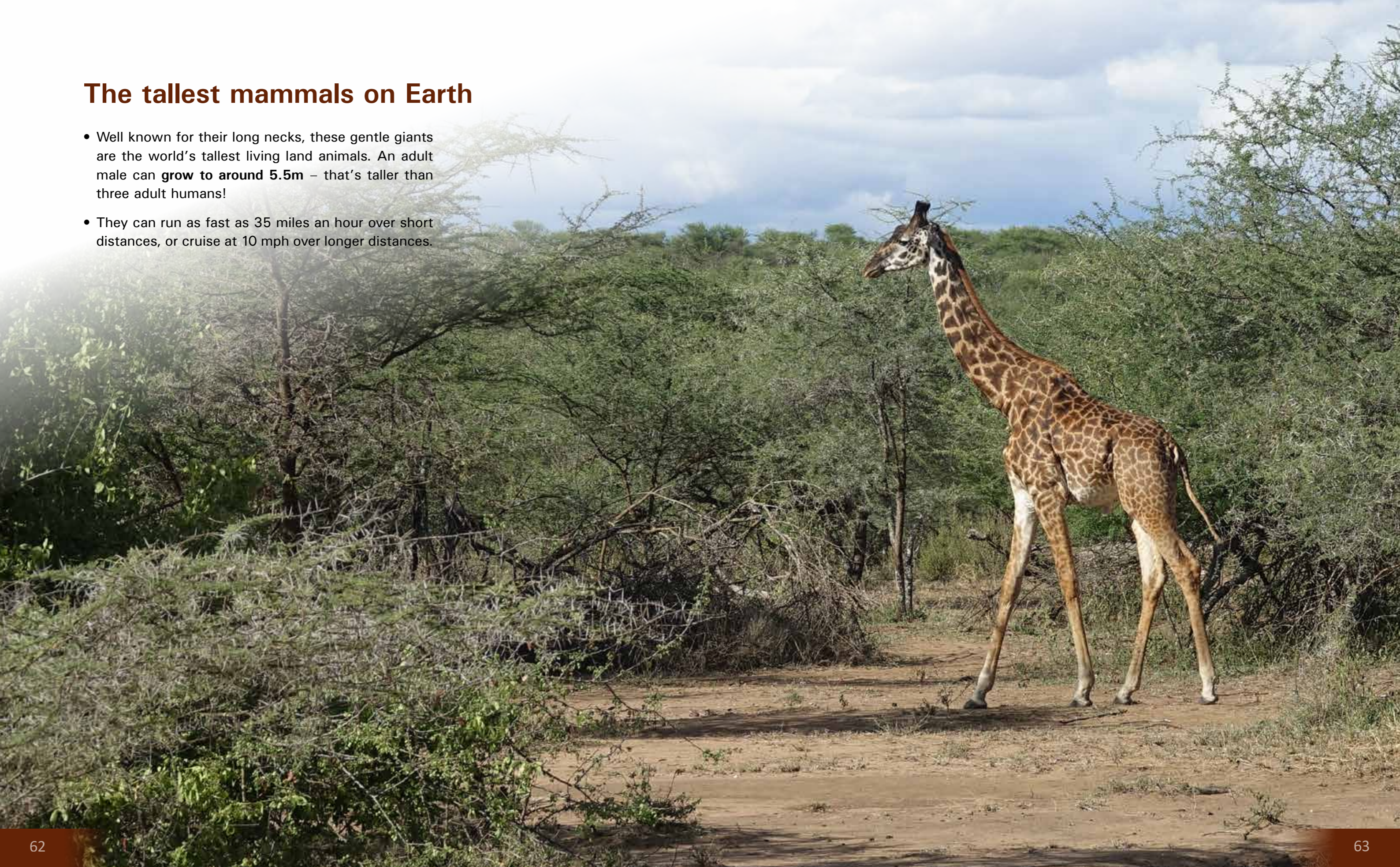
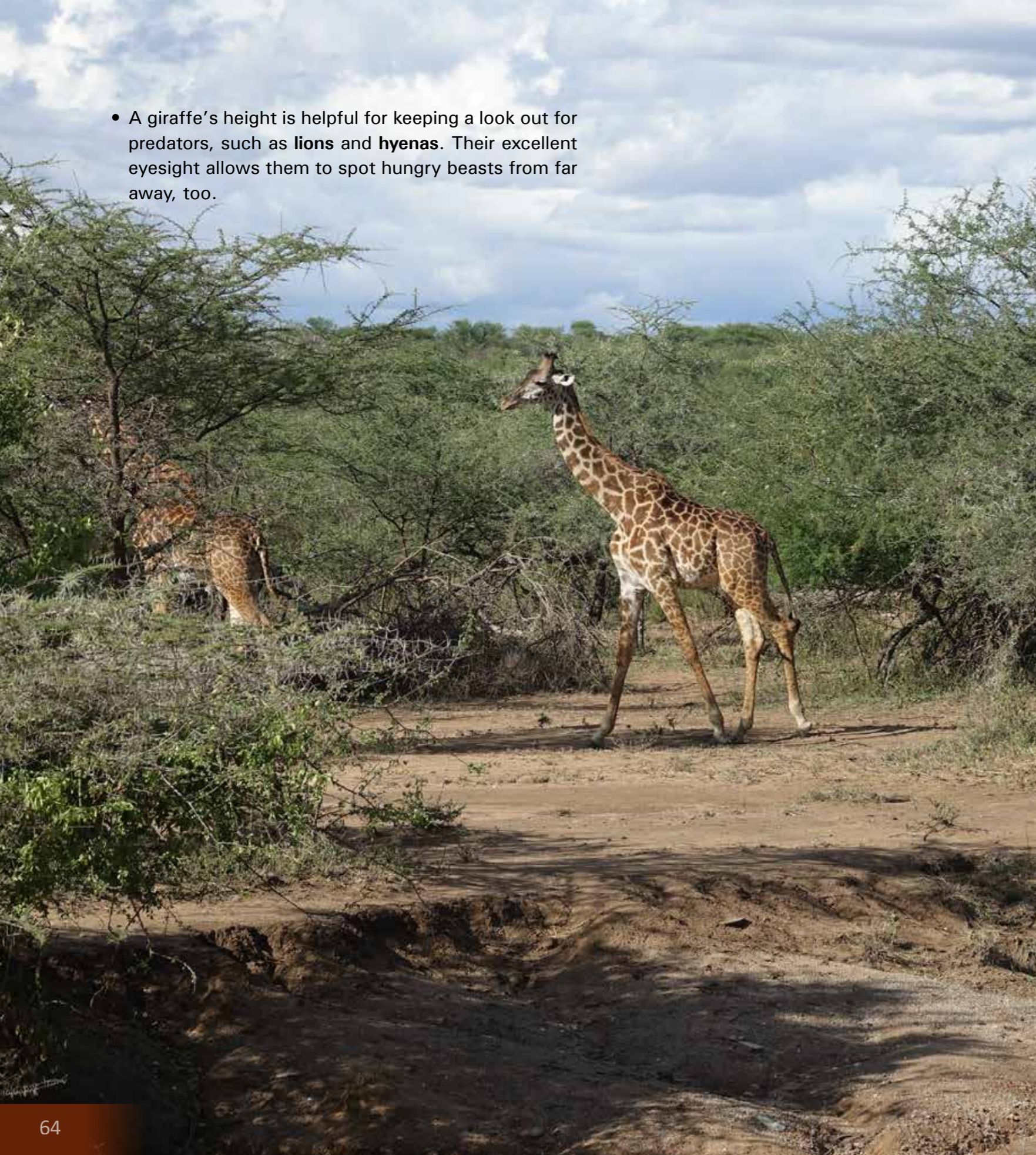


The tallest mammals on Earth

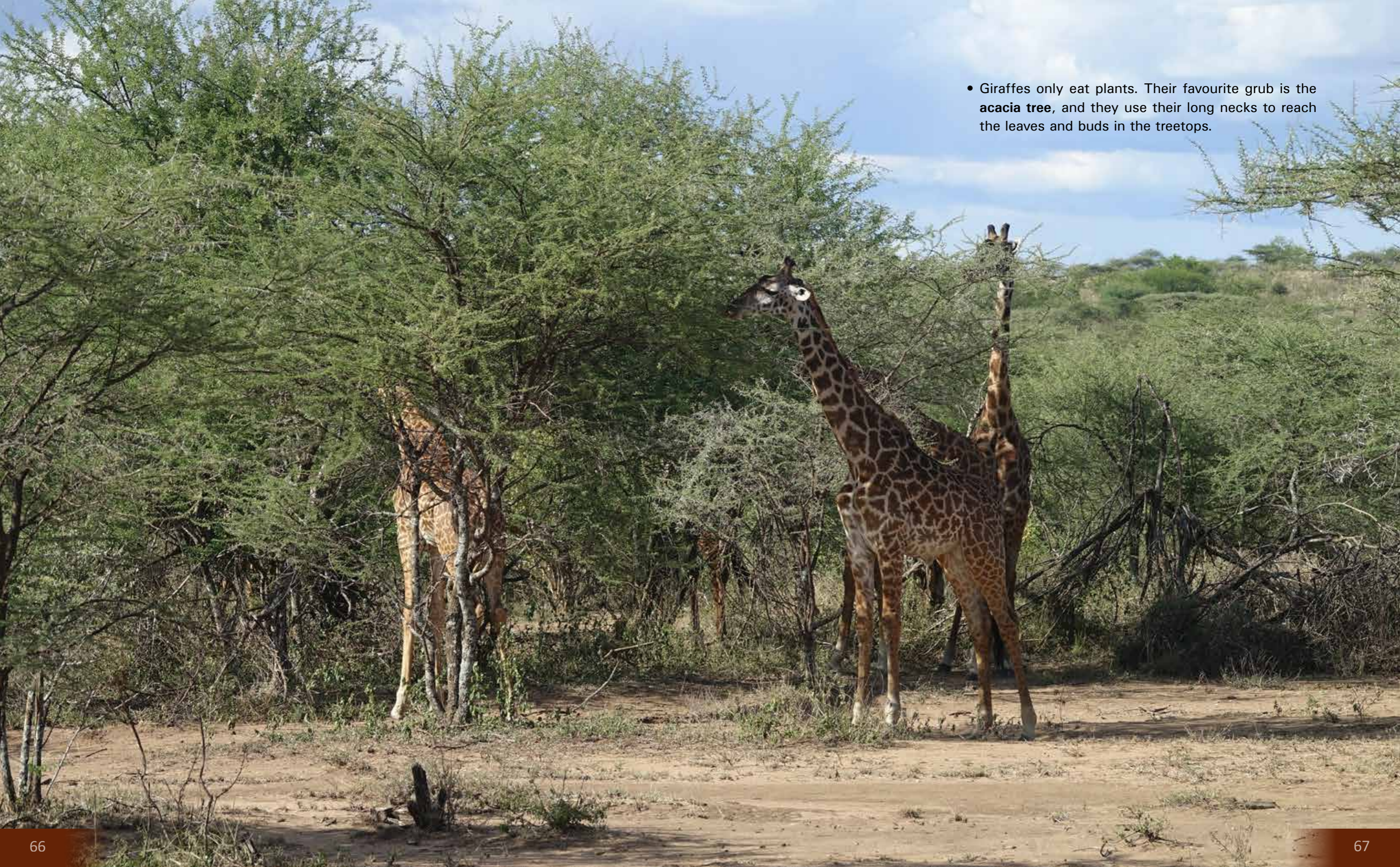
- Well known for their long necks, these gentle giants are the world's tallest living land animals. An adult male can **grow to around 5.5m** – that's taller than three adult humans!
- They can run as fast as 35 miles an hour over short distances, or cruise at 10 mph over longer distances.



- A giraffe's height is helpful for keeping a look out for predators, such as **lions** and **hyenas**. Their excellent eyesight allows them to spot hungry beasts from far away, too.



- Giraffes only eat plants. Their favourite grub is the **acacia tree**, and they use their long necks to reach the leaves and buds in the treetops.



- Their **long tongues** (which grow to a whopping 53cm!) also help them pull down leaves growing way up high.

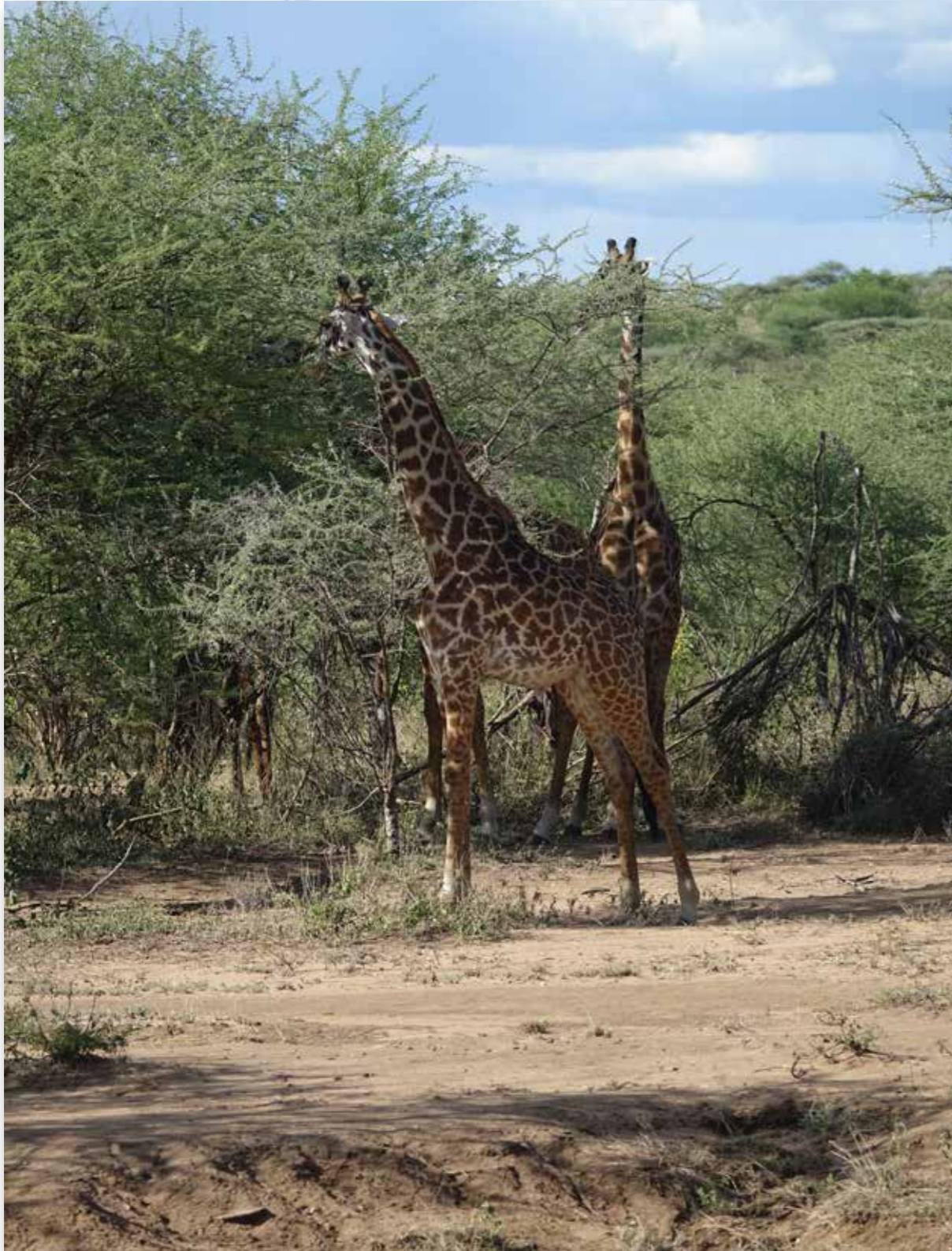


- They spend most of their time eating, and can guzzle up to **45kg** of leaves and twigs a day!

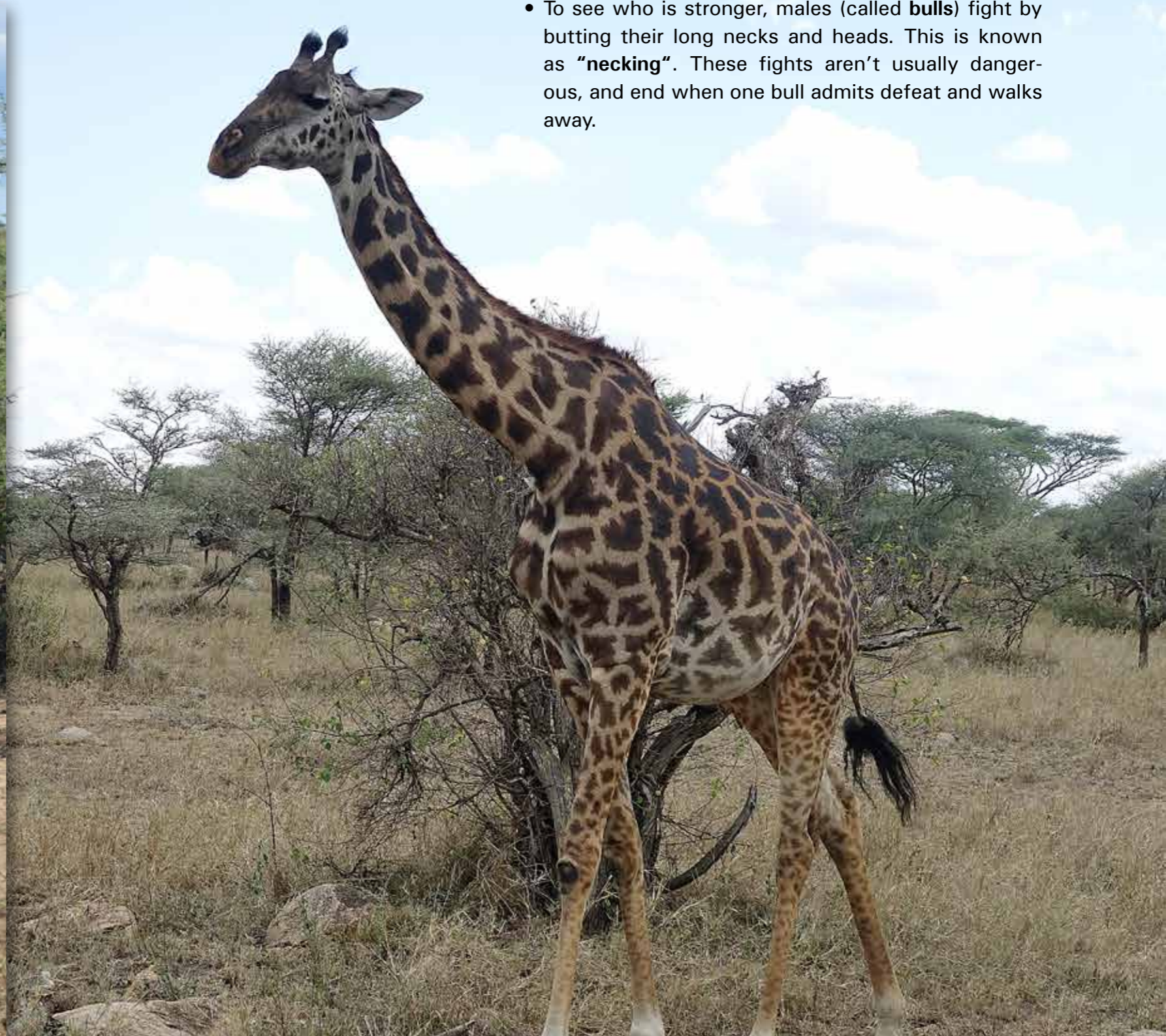


- Giraffes are very social animals and roam around in groups. These groups, called **towers**, typically have around 15 members led by an adult male. The other members are females and young males.





- To see who is stronger, males (called **bulls**) fight by butting their long necks and heads. This is known as “**necking**”. These fights aren’t usually dangerous, and end when one bull admits defeat and walks away.





- Female giraffes give birth standing up. The result? Newborns are welcomed to the world with a **1.5m drop to the ground!** Ouch! But these infants are quick to get on their feet – within 30 minutes they are standing, and only hours later they're able to run with their mothers.

Source: National Geographic

