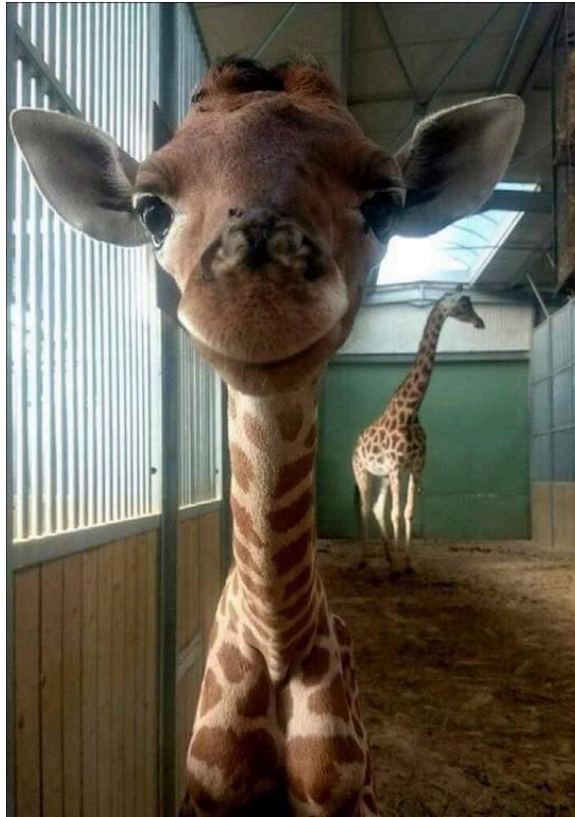


## Willow



This baby giraffe was born at 4:35 p.m. Feb. 6, 2017.  
The photo was taken Feb. 13, 2017. (Courtesy Maryland Zoo/Jeffrey F. Bill)

Baby animals are so cute. Recently a baby giraffe was born at the Baltimore, Maryland zoo. After 15 months of gestation, Willow, was born. She weighed around 125 pounds and was 6'1" when she was born.

After 9 months, when human babies are born, they weigh around 7 pounds and are maybe 21 inches long. Willow, who weighed 125 pounds at birth, might grow to weigh 1,800 pounds by the time that she is 4 years old. Female giraffes can grow to become 14 feet tall. Wow, giraffes must grow really fast.

Female giraffes	≈14 feet tall	1,825 pounds
Male giraffes	≈18 feet tall	2,628 pounds
Average female human	≈ 63.4 inches tall	166 pounds
Average male human	≈ 69.3 inches tall	195 pounds

Human averages from <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/body-measurements.htm>

1. How could you measure Willow's growth so that you could compare it with a human rate of growth?
2. Make some comparisons.

By 4 to 6 years old a baby giraffe will reach its full adult size.

3. If you could mature to your adult size and weight in only 4 years (like a giraffe can), how much would you have to grow each year?
  - a. Weight
  
  - b. Height
  
4. If you grew at the rate that a giraffe grows, but it still took 17 years to mature into an adult, when you reached your maturity how tall would you be and how much might you weigh?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. If a giraffe took 16 or 17 years to mature (like a human does), how much would it weigh by the time of its maturity if it still grew at a giraffe's rate?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How tall would it grow to be?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. A giraffe's tongues can be 21 inches long. What comparisons can you make with that statistic. Come to class ready to share your thoughts.

Sources: [https://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/07/science/our-understanding-of-giraffes-does-not-measure-up.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/07/science/our-understanding-of-giraffes-does-not-measure-up.html?_r=0)  
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