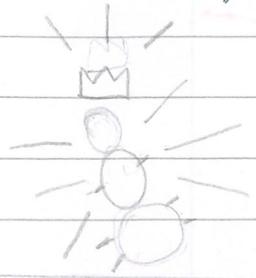


## How the giraffe got her neck.

A long, oh so long time ago, when the Sun met the Earth and when Spring met Summer, there lived, in the High Desert of Saha-Sehe, a colony of ants ruled and governed by the Queen Ant. (The Queen Ant was an ant of infinite resource and sagacity.) They lived peacefully working for their wonderful, formidable queen. In the High Desert of Saha-Sehe there were trees, luscious, fruitful trees. When fruits grew in these trees, the ants courageously climbed the colossal, towering trees to fetch them. They were content and merry until ...



Also in the High Desert of Saha-Sehe, there lived a giraffe. However, this giraffe was unlike any others you have seen. This one was greedy, gluttonous and loved destroying things. The day our story starts, the giraffe trudged and trudged and trudged until she saw the ant colony. Hungry for destruction, she munched and crunched and ate and ate the poor defenceless ants. Cries of terror echoed across the High Desert of Saha-Sehe: "Aash!" "What's happening?" After less than a minute, all of the ants had disappeared. All had died except Queen Ant and her most loyal subject: Kant. They spent days thinking and thinking and thinking until the Queen Ant (who was an ant of infinite resource and sagacity) suggested, "We could build a trap so that the giraffe's neck would get longer so she wouldn't be able to get on the ground."

"That's a brilliant idea!" exclaimed Kant. The Queen Ant and Kant both set off hiking for miles to find the perfect stone to build their ingenious trap. Finally, when they found the perfect sized rock, they heaved it back to the giraffe's lair. They set the stone up and the Queen Ant carefully crawled into the ant-like chasm. As the giraffe bent over to wolf the Queen Ant, the Queen Ant leapt out of harm's way and the giraffe's head got stuck in the stone. "Get this off me!" exclaimed the giraffe as her neck got longer and longer and longer as she relentlessly tugged and tugged and tugged.

The Queen Ant shouted to the giraffe, "Never defy me again!" Finally, the stone broke into a million pieces but the giraffe's neck was two metres long! As soon as the giraffe was released, she ran away, too scared other animals might laugh at her. The giraffe never bothered other animals; she ate the long, luscious leaves on the trees, furious that she had been tricked by measly ants.

From now on, giraffes can't bother animals or humans because they can't reach them. She took more than she should have and paid the price for her greed. Nowadays, you can approach giraffes without the danger of being eaten. And that is how the giraffe got her long neck.