

Session 3

Celebrating my country



Zimbabwe's famous waterfall Mosi-oa-Tunya (meaning “the smoke that thunders”) is the original name of Victoria Falls on the Zambezi river. It's one of the biggest in the world – over 1,700m wide, with a drop of over 98m. The mist that rises from it creates a permanent rainbow! It is one of the seven natural wonders of the world. David Livingstone was one of the first European people to see it in the mid-nineteenth century and he named it after Queen Victoria, but of course it was there long before Livingstone saw it.

Great Zimbabwe The ancient city of Great Zimbabwe is a national monument. It was once the capital city of the kingdom of Zimbabwe from the 11th to the 15th century and was one of the largest cities in the world during that time, being home to as many as 18,000 people. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Community Zimbabwean people have a sense of community and tend to put their group or family's interests before their own. They enjoy gathering together and telling stories, sharing music and songs and dancing together. They have a tradition of storytelling and folklore and feel a connection to their ancestors with stories passed down the generations. Zimbabweans like to give gifts and it is polite always to accept what you are offered. A guest will always offer a gift to a host and will usually be offered a drink.

Music and Dance <https://youtu.be/rPWmWk8uv-I> The Mbira is a traditional instrument of the Shona people and originated in Zimbabwean culture. It was originally used to make ritual music to celebrate at festivals, to entertain, and to help communicate with ancestors long dead. It was very unusual for women to learn to play the mbira and Stella Chiweshe, a famous mbira musician, is still one of only a small number of women who play.



Another musician who has performed around the world is Oliver Mtukudzi, usually known as Tuku. He has a unique style, blending jazz with traditional African music and singing in Shona, Ndebele and English. He has won many awards and some of his popular songs include 'Neria' (2001), 'Todii' (1999), 'Mutserendende' (2000), 'Hear Me, Lord' (1995). Tuku is also known as a human rights activist and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for Southern Africa Region. <https://youtu.be/WgBRuNfzpTA>



There are lots of traditional dances in Zimbabwe, with different tribes each having their own distinctive dance moves. You can see some of them here: <https://youtu.be/rGvUxtc2QUs>

Record Breakers Zimbabwe has one of the highest number of national languages, sixteen in all. English, Shona, Kalanga, Ndebele, Xhosa, Tonga, Sotho, Sign language, Shangani, Khoisan, Ndau, Venda, Nambya, Chibarwe, Tswana, and Chewa. It has the largest man-made lake by volume, Lake Kariba, which holds up to 180 cubic kilometres of water. And Victoria Falls is the world's largest sheet of falling water, being almost twice as high as Niagara Falls. It also holds the record for the highest denomination bank note: 100,000,000,000 USD, though due to inflation it was only enough to buy two loaves of bread or three eggs in 2008 when it was issued.

Some famous people from Zimbabwe

Blessing Annatoria Chitapa, originally from Zimbabwe but now living in the UK, won “The Voice” in 2020 with the song ‘Angels’: <https://youtu.be/kWBDQNq2xas>

Colleen Madamombe (1964-2009) was a Zimbabwean sculptor making images of Shona women in stone. Danai Gurira is an actor and playwright who played Okoye in *Black Panther* and *Avengers: Infinity War*. Alexander McCall Smith, author of the *No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency* books, was born in Zimbabwe to British parents.



Bible Link Amos 5:24

*But let justice flow like a river.
Let goodness flow like a never-ending stream.*

- Zimbabwe is famous for a huge waterfall. I wonder what it means for justice to roll down like waters
- I wonder how the world would be different if justice and doing the right thing in God's eyes happened everywhere
- I wonder if you can remember any Bible stories about water



Prayer

Loving God, we know that a huge river starts from a tiny spring of water. Each tiny drop of rain that falls into it makes it bigger and stronger. Help us to remember to love justice and try to do the right thing in everything we do and say, because no matter how tiny our part, we join with others to make a massive difference in your world. Amen.

Active Prayer

Have a large bowl of water and a pile of pebbles, one pebble for each child. What we do and say doesn't only affect us, it has a ripple effect that can make a difference to others. Where there is injustice, we may not be able to change things alone, but the little things we do can make a difference and can join with other actions to make a bigger difference. Ask God to help you let justice flow until God's love and fairness spreads all over the world. Drop your pebbles in the bowl of water one at a time and watch the ripples. If you have an outdoor area, you could also think about what would happen if everyone dropped their pebbles in at once!

Game

There is a fire in the mountain <https://youtu.be/wEPHlFE4f-4>



Greta Wonders...

- Why might community be more important to people in Zimbabwe than it often is in the UK?
- Why do people say that David Livingstone "discovered" Victoria Falls?
- Do you know (and can you share) any stories that have been passed down the generations in your culture?



Activity

Make some Zimbabwean pottery

Use air dried clay to form bowl shapes and allow to dry before painting in designs similar to the ones shown in this photograph.



Make Mopopo – a Zimbabwean sweet

Peel a papaya, remove the seeds, wash it and slice it into little strips. Using a heavy bottomed pan, cook it over a low heat with ½ tsp chopped fresh or dried mint, the grated peel of a lemon or lime, and two cups of granulated sugar. Keep stirring with a wooden spoon until the sugar has all dissolved then stop stirring and let it cook for about ten more minutes. Allow it to cool away from the heat for half an hour, then heat again over a medium heat until it starts to form tiny crystals of sugar around the strips of papaya. Take it off the heat and, when it has cooled enough to touch it safely, use a spoon and fork to shape it into little balls. You could roll the balls in a bit more sugar if you choose, or eat it as it is.

Action Point

Visit your local supermarket and see what produce you can find that comes from, or grows in, Zimbabwe. Which have you tasted? Cassava, lemons, limes, grapefruit, papaya, green beans, mangetout peas, passion fruit, peanuts.

Watch

<https://youtu.be/ZfprTYQnkKI> Zimbabwe national anthem