

EXPEDITION EARTH

**My Passport
to the World**

by Cindy Horton

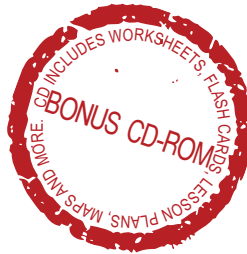


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by Cindy Horton

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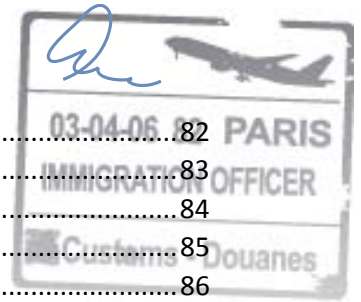


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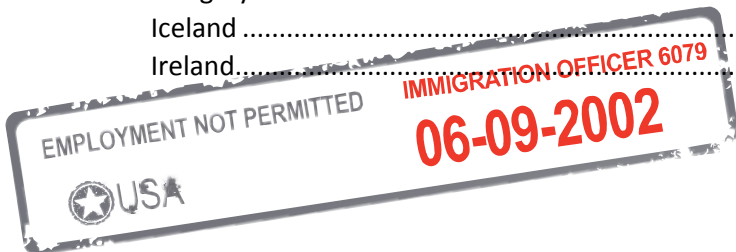




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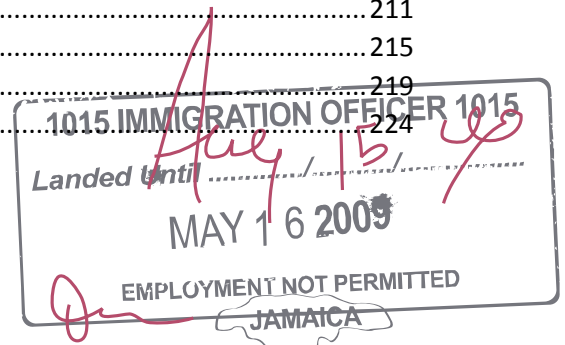
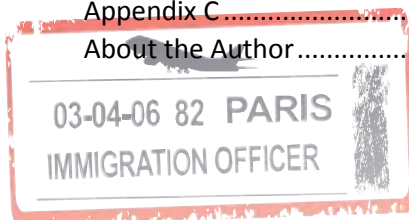
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Introduction

Traveling the world—who wouldn't like to do that? Our world has so much to offer. From beautiful landscapes to ancient ruins, from unique food to unusual music. You may not be able to visit another country, but this book will help you learn a little bit about the world around you. It might even help you feel like you've left your living room for a little while!

In these pages, you'll learn about the people, places, and history of the world's 195 countries. You'll learn about the foods enjoyed in different regions, and you can even try the recipes that are included. Maybe you'd like to add Irish soda bread or Lebanese tabbouleh to your family's menu.

Of course, one page can't possibly include everything there is to know about a country. As you read about the cultures and places in these pages, you may want to check out books from your local library to learn more about a topic.

What makes a country anyway?

The definition of a country is a tricky thing. In most cases, a country is an area of land that is ruled by its own people, not by an outside force. All of the countries in this book are sovereign, meaning that they govern themselves and aren't accountable to any other nations.

All of these countries are *not* recognized by every other country in the world, though, and international recognition goes a long way toward helping a nation gain stability and good relations with its neighbors.

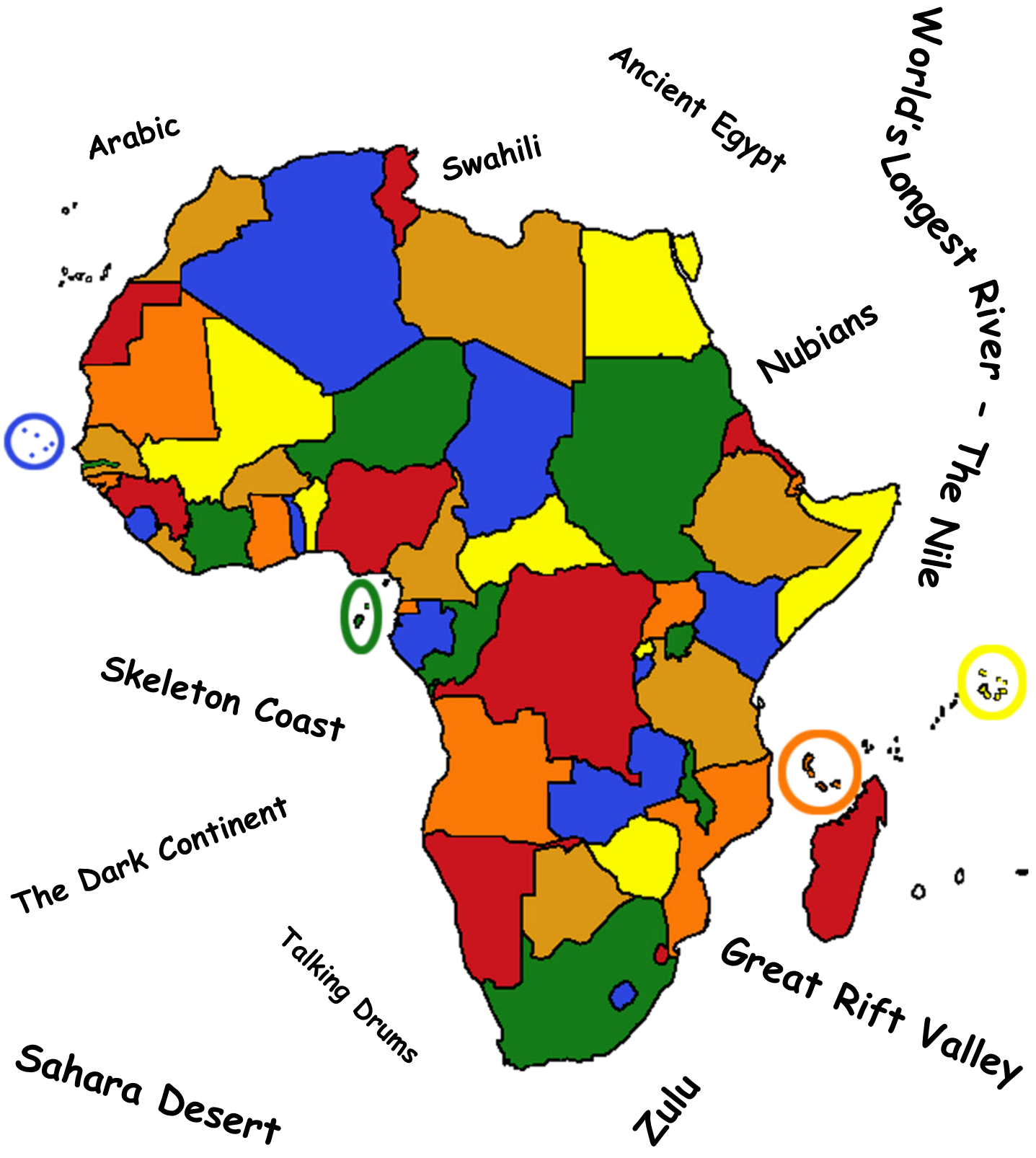
For example, Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008 and was quickly recognized by the United States, Australia, and many other countries. Serbia, the United Nations, and most of the world's nations have not recognized Kosovo, however.

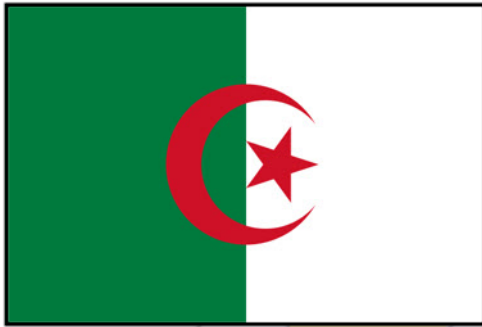
Sometimes, a country's ability to gain international recognition is influenced by politics. Taiwan has governed itself for more than 50 years but is not officially recognized by the United States, Canada, or most other nations. Though it once held a seat in the United Nations, the slot was taken from Taiwan and given to the People's Republic of China in 1971. Taiwan is often referred to as Chinese Taipei or as a province of China, even though it has been independent for decades.

Other areas of the world also govern themselves independently but are considered parts of other nations. They're typically called autonomous regions or autonomous provinces. In some countries, they operate with complete independence, though they receive some oversight from the central government in others.

Many countries also hold territories, which often govern themselves at least partially. Greenland and the Faroe Islands belong to Denmark, while the United States holds Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and several other territories. In addition to its provinces, Canada includes three territories—Yukon, Nunavut, and the Northwest Territories.

Africa





Algeria

Capital City: Algiers

Language: Arabic



Did you know...?

- Algeria is primarily plateau and desert. Just three percent of the country's land can be used for farming.
- Algeria is the second largest country in Africa.
- Berber-speaking people have lived in Algeria throughout history. The language gave its name to the Barbary Pirates, who are known for attacking ships in the Mediterranean and Atlantic.
- On the Algerian flag, the green represents Islam, the white represents purity and peace, and the red represents liberty. Both the crescent and star are traditional Islamic symbols, and Algerians believe that the crescent will bring happiness.

My Algerian Fact Book

Full Name:

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Population: 34,586,184

Land Area: 919,595 square miles

Currency: Algerian dinar

Major Religion: Muslim (99%)

Highest Point: Mount Tahat (9,852 feet)

Lowest Point: Chott Melrhir (-131 feet)

Algeria is divided into 48 provinces.

Algerian History

The earliest known people of Algeria were called Numidians. Their lands were considered very fertile then, unlike the desert lands of today, and the Numidians were well respected as cavalymen.

This region of Africa has been ruled by a succession of outside powers including the Roman and Byzantine Empires, Berber and Arabic dynasties, Spain, and the Ottoman Empire. The northern boundaries of Algeria were set up by the Ottomans.

Ottoman corsairs, better known as Barbary pirates, attacked ships in the Mediterranean Sea, which led to the Barbary Wars with America in the early 1800s.

Oasis in the Desert

An oasis is a place where plants grow in the desert, usually around a natural spring or a well. Throughout history, oases have provided the water that people need for drinking, cooking, watering crops, and tending livestock. Villages and farms develop around an oasis even though the surrounding desert is barren.

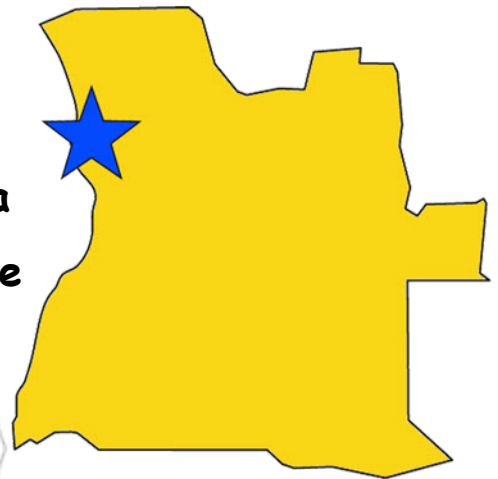
Caravans of traders frequently stopped at oases to water their camels, replenish their own water, and rest. In Algeria, the town of Adrar grew up near a group of oases called the Touat. The town was an important link in trade between North and West Africa. A huge gateway provides the only entrance into Adrar.



Angola

Capital City: Luanda

Language: Portuguese



Did you know...?

- Angola's natural resources include diamonds and petroleum, which is used to make gasoline and other fuels.
- The land that is now Angola was colonized and ruled by Portugal for 400 years. It was once part of a larger area called Portuguese West Africa.
- Angola was once an important producer of food for its own people and for other African nations. The country's civil war, which lasted for almost 30 years, left most of the farmland full of land mines and completely unsuitable for farming.
- Angola has just two seasons: dry and rainy. The rainy season lasts from November to April and is hotter than the dry season.

My Angolan Fact Book

Full Name:

Republic of Angola

Population: 13,068,161

Land Area: 481,354 square miles

Currency: Kwanza

Major Religion: Christian (53%)

Highest Point: Morro de Moco (8,596 feet)

Lowest Point: Atlantic Ocean (0 feet)

Angola is divided into 18 provinces.

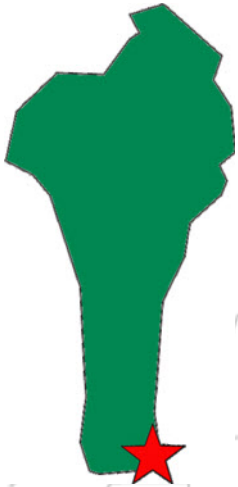
Angola Before Portuguese Colonization

When the Portuguese first came to Angola in the late 1400s, they met King Nzinga Nkuwu of the Kingdom of Kongo. The kingdom stretched across what is now northern Angola and other modern countries. Its army was made up of archers and infantrymen who carried swords and shields.

People of the kingdom spoke *Kikongo* and lived in villages called *vata* where they grew crops on shared land. No one owned private land, and the yearly harvests were divided among each family depending on number of members. The village chief, called *nkuluntu*, received an extra portion of the harvest.

The Kingdom of the Kongo traded goods with many of their neighbors and distant nations. They were known for providing ivory, copper, pottery, and cloth.





Benin

Capital City: Porto-Novo

Language: French



Did you know...?

- On the Beninese flag, green stands for hope, yellow for wealth, and red for courage.
- The nation has just 75 miles of coastline on the Atlantic Ocean. Large sandbanks make getting to the coast difficult, and Benin has no harbors for ships or even small boats.
- Benin is a little smaller than Pennsylvania.
- Benin has four seasons each year—two rainy, two dry.
- The country depends on agriculture for its livelihood. The Beninese people grow cotton, peanuts, cashews, corn, beans, and other crops.

My Beninese Fact Book

Full Name:

Republic of Benin

Population: 9,056,010

Land Area: 43,484 square miles

Currency: West African franc

Major Religions:

Christian (43%), Muslim (24%)

Highest Point: Mont Sokbaro (2,159 feet)

Lowest Point: Atlantic Ocean (0 feet)

Benin is divided into 12 departments.

Kingdom of Dahomey

The Kingdom of Dahomey stretched over the area that is now southern Benin from the early 1600s until 1902 when it became a French colony. It was the last African kingdom to be colonized by Europeans.

The kingdom maintained a strong army and warred almost continually with its neighbors. After contact with Europeans from France and Spain, the army was able to use modern weapons like rifles. Throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the Dahomey kings would capture enemies in battle and sell them into slavery.

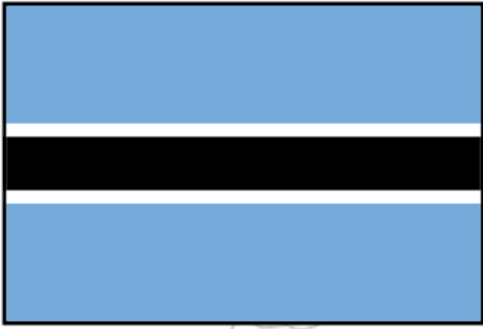
People of Benin

Forty-two different ethnic groups live in Benin. The three largest are the Fon, Adja, and Yoruba.

The Fon people live primarily in southern Benin and southwest Nigeria where they often dwell in houses made of mud with iron roofs. Many Fon were taken to North America as slaves prior to the end of the Atlantic slave trade in the early nineteenth century. Their descendents still live in North America today.

The Aja are believed to have settled in southern Benin in the 1100s where they established a kingdom. In the 1600s, the kingdom was divided between three brothers who set up their capitals in different cities. Today, Aja live in Benin and Togo.

An estimated 40 million Yoruba live in West Africa, most of them in Nigeria. The Yoruba have the highest rate of twin births among any people of the world.



Botswana

Capital City: Gaborone

Languages:
English, Tswana



Did you know...?

- Botswana's natural resources include diamonds, gold, coal, and copper.
- The Kalahari Desert covers almost three-quarters of Botswana.
- Unlike the drum music that is often associated with Africa, traditional Tswana music is primarily vocal or accompanied by stringed instruments.
- The blue color on the Botswana flag represents rain. The black and white represent racial harmony.
- Botswana is just a little smaller than Texas.
- Watermelons are thought to have originated in Botswana and are still grown there. Sorghum, beans, peanuts, and several vegetables are also grown in the country. Cereal grains, like wheat and rice, have to be imported from other countries.

My Botswana Fact Book

Full Name:

Republic of Botswana

Population: 2,029,307

Land Area: 224,610 square miles

Currency: Pula

Major Religion: Christian (70%)

Highest Point: Tsodilo Hills (4,885 feet)

Lowest Point: Limpopo and Shashe
River Junction (1,683 feet)

Botswana is divided into 16 districts.

Chobe National Park

In northern Botswana, land has been set aside as a wildlife refuge called Chobe National Park. Chobe is home to elephants, hippopotamus, leopards, lions, giraffes, cape buffalo, and many others. During certain times of year, as elephants migrate in search of vegetation and water, there are more elephants here than in any other part of Africa.

Visitors to Chobe National Park can take boat rides down the Chobe River to see the wild animals that come to drink there. Birds like ibis, spoonbills, and stork can also be seen.

Makgadikgadi Salt Pan

In the Kalahari Desert lies the Makgadikgadi Pan, one of the world's largest salt pans. This salty crust of earth was once Lake Makgadikgadi, which is believed to have been larger than Switzerland. Parts of the Makgadikgadi Pan are used for commercial salt production, and much of the area becomes a haven for wildlife during the rainy season.

Flamingos, ostriches, pelicans, ducks, and geese can all be seen around the Makgadikgadi. Antelopes, zebra, and wildebeest also migrate through the area when the rains bring fresh water.



Burkina Faso

Capital City: Ouagadougou

Language: French



Did you know...?

- Burkina Faso was once called Upper Volta because the upper part of the Volta River passes through it in three sections—Black Volta, White Volta, and Red Volta.
- The star on Burkina Faso's flag represents the guiding light of their fight for independence.
- Burkina is a Mòoré word, and Faso is from the Dioula language. Together they mean, "land of honest people."
- Burkina Faso has two seasons: rainy and dry. During the dry season, which lasts from October to April, a hot wind called the harmattan blows in from the Sahara Desert. It sometimes brings dust storms with it.

My Burkinabé Fact Book

Full Name:

Burkina Faso

Population: 16,241,811

Land Area: 105,869 square miles

Currency: West African franc

Major Religions:

Muslim (61%), Christian (23%)

Highest Point: Tena Kourou (2,457 feet)

Lowest Point: Mouhoun River (656 feet)

Burkina Faso is divided into 13 regions.

Mossi Kingdom

About 40 percent of the people living in Burkina Faso are part of the Mossi ethnic group. Historians believe, based on the oral tradition of the people, that the Mossi Kingdom began during the 1400s. Because their army rode on horseback, the Mossi were able to conquer much of the land that is now Burkina Faso.

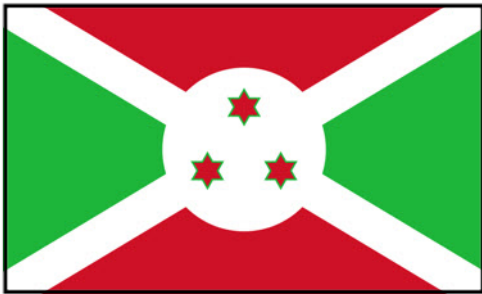
The kingdom kept expanding until the French conquered the city of Ouagadougou and made the area a French protectorate in 1896. The Mossi emperor, called the Mogho Naaba, was able to maintain limited authority while the French were in power. Today, the modern government of Burkina Faso still consults with the current Mogho Naaba on very important decisions.

The Mossi people value family above personal identity. Everything a person does is considered a reflection—good or bad—on his family.

Panafrican Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou

The Panafrican Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO) is held every other year in Burkina Faso's capital city. It's the largest event in all of Africa.

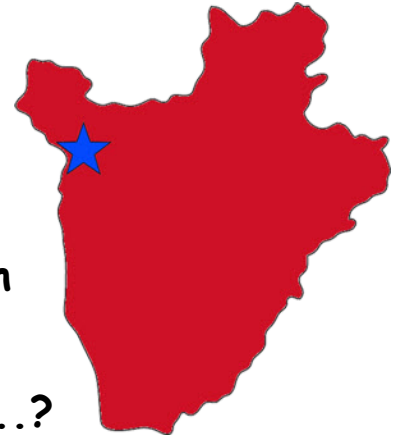
Filmmakers from all over Africa gather to showcase their work and to learn from one another. Several awards are given away each time the FESPACO is held. The highest award is called Stallion of Yennenga and is given to the film that judges feel best represents the realities of Africa.



Burundi

Capital City: Bujumbura

Languages: Kirundi, French



My Burundian Fact Book

Full Name:

Republic of Burundi

Population: 9,863,117

Land Area: 10,745 square miles

Currency: Burundi franc

Major Religions: Christian (67%),
Traditional (23%), Muslim (10%)

Highest Point: Heha (8,760 feet)

Lowest Point: Lake Tanganyika (2,533 feet)

Burundi is divided into 17 provinces.

Did you know...?

- Burundi was part of the Belgian colony called Ruanda-Urundi from 1916 to 1924. It became an independent nation in 1962.
- Burundi exports both coffee and sugar to other nations, and its natural resources include copper, platinum, and nickel. Even so, the country remains very poor.
- Most Burundians work in some sort of agriculture, and many families grow the majority of the food that they eat. Sweet potatoes, bananas, tea, and cotton are some of the crops that are grown commercially.

Drums of Burundi



Music is an important part of Burundian traditional culture, and drums are actually considered sacred instruments by most Burundians. The *karyenda* drum has been used for hundreds of years in ceremonies, especially those in which the king was involved. Drummers played the *karyenda* to send important announcements and messages across long distances.

A *karyenda* is made from a hollowed-out log that is covered on one side with a stretched animal skin. Both the sides and the top of the drum are played with sticks. The drums are sometimes decorated with the Burundian flag, and some people dance or carry decorated shields and spears during drumming demonstrations. A group called the Royal Drummers of Burundi have visited countries around the world to share the sound of these traditional Burundian drums with others.



Cameroon

Capital City: Yaoundé

Languages: French, English



My Cameroonian Fact Book

Full Name:

Republic of Cameroon

Population: 19,294,149

Land Area: 183,568 square miles

Currency: Central African franc

Major Religions: Christian (40%),
Traditional (40%), Muslim (20%)

Highest Point:

Mount Cameroon (13,435 feet)

Lowest Point: Atlantic Ocean (0 feet)

Cameroon is divided into ten regions.

Did you know...?

- The word Cameroon comes from the Portuguese name given to the area in the late 1400s, *Rio dos Camarões*, which means “River of Shrimp.”
- Many Cameroonian families are involved in agriculture to grow coffee, rice, sugar, and numerous other crops. It’s common for women to stay at home to raise the foods that their families will eat while the men work at growing crops that can be sold.
- Cameroonian music uses numerous instruments including drums, bells, flutes, and xylophones.

Lake Nyos

In the northern part of Cameroon sits Lake Nyos, which has the unusual distinction of being saturated with carbon dioxide. The lake is believed to have formed around the sixteenth century when a violent volcanic eruption left a crater almost 6,000 feet across and 680 feet deep. The crater filled with groundwater, which is kept in place by a natural dam made of hard volcanic rock.

A large amount of magma remains beneath the lake. Though it doesn’t erupt in the traditional sense, the magma releases gases like carbon dioxide, sulphur, and hydrogen through the soil and into the water. The cold water at the bottom of the lake, therefore, becomes saturated with these poisonous gases.

In 1986, for reasons that scientists don’t fully understand, a huge volume of the poison gas was released from the lake along with a fountain of water 300 feet high. This cloud of primarily carbon dioxide moved away from the lake through a valley, displacing all of the oxygen in its path. As it passed over several villages, almost 2,000 people were killed and another 4,000 fled despite respiratory problems and burns on their skin.

The sudden eruption of carbon dioxide may have been caused by a nearby landslide, an earthquake, or a small volcanic eruption on the lake bed. Since the disaster, scientists have worked to find ways to prevent another eruption of carbon dioxide. Two other lakes in Africa, one in Cameroon and one in Rwanda, are also saturated with poison gas and vulnerable to similar eruptions.



Cape Verde

Capital City: Praia

Language: Portuguese

Did you know...?

- Because of emigration, more Cape Verdeans now live overseas than actually live in Cape Verde.
- Hurricanes sometimes form near Cape Verde and travel across the Atlantic Ocean toward North America.
- Cape Verde consists of ten islands. Three of them are sandy, while the rest are rocky.
- The Cape Verde islands were not inhabited by people before the Portuguese set up colonies on them in the 1400s.
- The Cape Verdean flag was adopted in 1992. Its ten yellow stars represent the ten islands, and the red and white stripes symbolize the road taken to construct the nation. The white color symbolizes peace, and the red symbolizes effort. The blue color represents the surrounding ocean and sky.

My Cape Verdean Fact Book

Full Name:

Republic of Cape Verde

Population: 508,659

Land Area: 1,557 square miles

Currency: Cape Verdean escudo

Major Religion: Christian (95%)

Highest Point: Mount Fogo (9,282 feet)

Lowest Point: Atlantic Ocean (0 feet)

Cape Verde is divided into 22 municipalities.

Pico do Fogo

Pico do Fogo is the highest point in Cape Verde and an active volcano. It last erupted in 1995 when a side vent covered the entire island with ash. An eruption in 1847 caused earthquakes across the island, but the last time that the main opening of Pico do Fogo erupted was more than 400 years ago in 1675.

A *caldera* is a round depression on a volcano that is formed when magma beneath the surface has been completely expelled. Without the magma beneath, the ground falls and creates the depression.

Pico do Fogo has a caldera near its top, and the village of Chã das Caldeiras is actually inside it. The people here grow grapes, apples, corn, peppers, and other crops.

Antonio de Noli

Italian Antonio de Noli discovered the Cape Verde islands in 1462 when he sailed in expeditions organized by Henry the Navigator, a Portuguese prince. King Alfonso V of Portugal named him the first governor of the new Cape Verdean colonies.

Information about de Noli's time as governor wasn't well documented, and no one knows how long he stayed in Cape Verde or even where and when he died.



Central African Republic

Capital City: Bangui

Languages: Sango, French



Did you know...?

- During its time as a French colony, the Central African Republic was called Ubangi-Chari after two of the country's rivers.
- The Central African Republic is just a little smaller than Texas.
- Most of the nation is covered by grassy savannas with a few hills and a plateau.
- Central African farmers grow peanuts, sesame, cassava, and a variety of other tropical crops.
- The country produces a large amount of diamonds every year.

My Central African Fact Book

Full Name:

Central African Republic

Population: 4,844,927

Land Area: 240,534 square miles

Currency: Central African franc

Major Religions: Christian (50%),

Traditional (35%), Muslim (15%)

Highest Point: Mont Ngaoui (4,659 feet)

Lowest Point: Oubangui River (1,099 feet)

Central African Republic is divided into 14 administrative prefectures.

Etienne Goyemide & The Eastern Slave Trade

One of the Central African Republic's most famous writers, Etienne Goyemide is known around the world for his novels *The Silence of the Forest* and *The Last Survivor of the Caravan*. Both were written in the French language in 1984 and 1985 respectively. *The Last Survivor* explores the sad and distressing story of the eastern African slave trade during the nineteenth century.

Perhaps not as well known as the Atlantic slave trade, people from central Africa were kidnapped by rival tribes and Arabic raiders and then taken north and east to Egypt and the Arabian Peninsula. It is estimated that more than a million people were taken away from the region of present-day Central African Republic in just a little more than 200 years.

Unlike the slaves taken to the Americas, those taken into the Muslim regions of Arabia were not often pressed into agriculture-related labor. Instead, they were made to act as household servants like porters, guards, and cooks.

Goyemide's novel is told from the perspective of a *griot* storyteller who recalls the early peaceful days of his village, the arrival of the Muslim Tuareg raiders, and the fighting and kidnapping that ensues. Though the novel is fiction, stories like it were played out across Central Africa in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.



Chad

Capital City: N'Djamena

Languages: French, Arabic



My Chadian Fact Book

Full Name:

Republic of Chad

Population: 10,543,464

Land Area: 495,753 square miles

Currency: Central African franc

Major Religions:

Muslim (54%), Christian (34%)

Highest Point: Emi Koussi (11,204 feet)

Lowest Point: Djourab (525 feet)

Chad is divided into 22 regions.

Did you know...?

- The people of Chad enjoy playing soccer, basketball, and a form of wrestling in which the participants wear animal hides and are covered in dust.
- Chad's landscape ranges from savannah in the south, the Sahelian belt in the central region, and the Sahara desert in the north.
- On the Chadian flag, blue stands for the sky and hope, yellow for the sun and desert, and red for unity and sacrifice. It combines colors from both the French and Pan-African flags.
- Chadians eat mostly millet and dried or smoked fish. They enjoy a beverage called *carcaje* that is made from the extract of hibiscus leaves.

Lake Chad

The country gets its name from Lake Chad in the western region. The word Chad means "a large expanse of water" in the native dialect, but less than half of Lake Chad stays covered in water throughout the year.

When Europeans first explored the area in the early nineteenth century, they thought Lake Chad was probably one of the largest in the entire world. A growing population has put a greater demand on water from the lake, however, and it has shrunk about 95 percent since 1960. Changes in rainfall from year to year affect the size of Lake Chad at any given time.

Today, Lake Chad is the second largest wetland on the African continent. It consists of swamps, bogs, marshes, and mud banks and is home to a variety of waterfowl, crocodile, and hippopotamus.

Bodélé Depression

The Bodélé Depression is an area in the Sahara Desert that produces frequent dust storms. The storms occur an average of one hundred days out of every year, and the depression produces over a million metric tons of dust every day during the winter months.

Nearby towns, including the city of Faya-Largeau, are often affected by these dust storms. The dust can blow for many miles. Scientists have discovered that Bodélé Depression dust reaches as far as the eastern United States and the Amazon rainforest.

Comoros

Capital City: Moroni

Languages: Comorian,
Arabic, French



Did you know...?

- The four stars on the Comoran flag represent the archipelago's four main islands, called Mwali, N'gazidja, Nzwani, and Mahore.
- One of the islands claimed by Comoros, Mahore or Mayotte, is actually governed by France as an overseas territory.
- The farms of Comoros produce coconuts, vanilla, coffee, ylang-ylang, and cocoa beans.
- Because the Comorian language never developed a written script of its own, both Arabic and Latin letters are used in different situations.

My Comoran Fact Book

Full Name:

Union of the Comoros

Population: 773,407

Land Area: 695 square miles

Currency: Comorian franc

Major Religion: Muslim (98%)

Highest Point: Karthala (7,743 feet)

Lowest Point: Indian Ocean (0 feet)

Comoros is divided into three islands and four municipalities.

Karthala

Grand Comore, Comoros' largest island, is dominated by a volcano called Mount Karthala. After 14 years of dormancy, Karthala erupted in both 2005 and 2006. The 2005 eruption was greater and led 40,000 people to evacuate their homes. A lake that had been formed after a 1991 eruption was completely evaporated during the 2005 eruption.

Karthala is covered by evergreen trees, though the forests are in danger of being decimated by logging. Some of the most remarkable wildlife on Karthala are four species of birds that are found nowhere else in the world. All four species are classified as endangered.



Expedition Earth Lesson Plans

Note to Parents:

The lesson plans that follow are designed to help you work through *Expedition Earth* in one school year. You'll find daily plans, quizzes, and information for further study that will carry you through 35 weeks.

Your local library is a great resource for learning more about the topics mentioned in *Expedition Earth*. The lesson plans don't contain specific book titles because every library is different. Take some time before beginning a week's lessons to search your library's card catalog for the keywords **marked in bold**.

Throughout the lesson plans, you'll find links to websites and videos where you and your children can learn more about the topics. Though the sites have all been checked prior to being included here, the content can change at any time. Please preview any website before sharing it with your children.

Feel free to go through the lesson plans more quickly or more slowly as it suits your family. You may want to work through a continent, take a break for several weeks, and then begin again later. Above all, have fun learning!

Week One – Day 1

Read page 4 about **Algeria**.

Learn more about the **Barbary Pirates**.

[Barbary Pirates](#) – an article from the 1911 Encyclopedia Britannica
[America and the Barbary Pirates: An International Battle Against an Unconventional Foe](#) by Gerard W. Gawalt – The Library of Congress

Algeria's **Numidian** people fought in the **Punic Wars**, first as an ally of the Carthaginians and then as an ally of the Roman Empire.

[Masinissa, Numidian ruler](#) – Encyclopedia Britannica

Draw a picture of a **desert oasis** with a gateway. Do caravans visit your oasis?

Week One – Day 2

Read page 5 about **Angola**.

Almost immediately upon gaining independence from Portugal in 1975, Angola entered a civil war that lasted for 27 years. These websites explain more about the destructive and tragic conflict.

[Angola: First civil war \(1975-1992\)](#) - Electoral Institute for the Sustainability of Democracy in Africa (EISA)
[Angola: Second civil war \(1992-2001\)](#) – EISA
[Angola's civil war in pictures](#) – BBC News

Week One – Day 3

Read pages 6 and 7 about **Benin** and **Botswana**.

Learn more about the **Kingdom of Dahomey**, the last African kingdom to be colonized by Europeans.

[Dahomey](#) – The Ouidah Museum of History
[Dahomey](#) – Encyclopedia Britannica
[Wonders: Dahomey Kingdom](#) – PBS.org

Dahomey, like other African kingdoms, is known for selling captives into slavery.

[Africa And The Africans In The Age Of The Atlantic Slave Trade](#) – History World International

Botswana is home to a diverse landscape including the **Kalahari Desert**, **Chobe National Park**, and the **Makgadikgadi Salt Pan**.

[Kalahari Desert](#) – ThinkQuest

[The !Kung of the Kalahari Desert](#) – University of Connecticut

[The Baobab Tree in Chobe National Park](#)

Week One – Day 4

Read page 8 about **Burkina Faso**.

[Emperor of the Mossi Tribe: In Burkina Faso, Mogho Naba Lives On](#) – Los Angeles Times

Week One – Day 5

Take Quiz 1 on the next page.

Finish reading your library books or explore the websites from this week's lessons.

Color Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, and Burkina Faso on the outline map of Africa.

Quiz 1

1. How much of Algeria's land is available for farming? _____

2. What do the crescent and star on Algeria's flag symbolize? _____

3. Name the capital of each country.

Algeria _____

Angola _____

Benin _____

Botswana _____

Circle the countries that border the Atlantic Ocean.

Algeria

Angola

Benin

Botswana

4. Name the three largest ethnic groups in Benin. _____

5. What types of music have been traditionally enjoyed in Botswana? _____

6. What do the words Burkina Faso mean? _____

7. What is the emperor of the Mossi people called? _____

Week Two – Day 1

Read pages 9 and 10 about **Burundi** and **Cameroon**.

Learn more about the Royal Drummers of Burundi and their *karyenda*.

[Drummers of Burundi](#) – Heavenly Planet

Videos:

[Burundi Drummers](#) – filmed in Burundi, hear one of the drummers speaking in the native Kirundi language

[Drummers of Burundi Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#) – at a festival in the United Kingdom

Learn more about Cameroon's Lake Nyos.

[The Lake Nyos Disaster](#) – University of Arizona Geosciences

[Webcam on Lake Nyos](#) – shows the fountain used to degas Lake Nyos

Week Two – Day 2

Read pages 11 and 12 about **Cape Verde** and the **Central African Republic**.

[Chã das Caldeiras](#) – photos of **Chã das Caldeiras** and other areas on **Fogo Island** (Use the navigation links to view all of the photos.)

[Volcanoes of Cape Verde Islands](#) – Volcano Live (Use the links to learn about four of the **volcanoes** in Cape Verde.)

Read about **Henry the Navigator**, whose expeditions led Portuguese sailors all over the world.

[Prince Henry the Navigator](#) – ThinkQuest

[Prince Henry the Navigator](#) – University of Calgary (Click the arrows at the bottom of each page to read a complete tutorial on Henry's life and expeditions.)

Learn more about the history and current state of the diamond industry in the Central African Republic as well as other African nations.

[Diamond Producing Countries in Africa](#) – World Diamond Council

[The Nature of Diamonds](#) – American Museum of Natural History

Though you probably won't be able to read Etienne Goyemide's novels about the **East African slave trade** (unless you're fluent in French!), you can learn more about this often overlooked aspect of slavery in Africa's history.

[Slavery in Africa](#) – Microsoft® Encarta® Online Encyclopedia, contains an overview of slavery in Africa (In particular, read Part III, Section A called “The Trans-Saharan and East Africa Slave Trades.”)

Week Two – Day 3

Read page 13 about **Chad**.

Learn more about **Lake Chad** and the **Bodele Depression**.

[Dust Storm in the Bodele Depression](#) – NASA Earth Observatory

Scientists have discovered that dust from the Boudele Depression is actually a source of fertilizer for the Amazon Rainforest.

Print the world map found at the end of the lesson plans. Using your atlas as a reference, mark Lake Chad in blue and color the Boudele Depression in brown. Draw a path from the desert, across the Atlantic Ocean, to the Amazon Rainforest in South America. Color the area of the rainforest green.

Week Two – Day 4

Read pages 14 and 15 about **Comoros** and **Congo**.

[Volcanoes of Comoros](#) – Volcano Live (Use the links to learn about the two active **volcanoes** in Comoros.)

[Karthala, Grand Comore Island, Indian Ocean](#) – Oregon State University

[Karthala Volcano Erupts](#) – NASA Earth Observatory

Read more about the Bakongo people of Congo.

[Bakongo](#) – The Africa Guide

Week Two – Day 5

Take Quiz 2 on the next page.

Finish reading your library books or explore the websites from this week's lessons.

Color Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic , Chad, Comoros, and Congo on the outline map of Africa.

Quiz 2

1. (a) Name the Belgian colony partially made up by Burundi during the early twentieth century. (b) What other modern country was also part of this colony?

(a) _____

(b) _____

2. Name the capital of each country.

Burundi _____

Cameroon _____

Cape Verde _____

Central African Republic _____

Chad _____

Comoros _____

Congo _____

3. What two rivers gave the Central African Republic its name as a French colony? _____

4. What lake has shrunk by 95% due to overuse? _____

5. Name three crops that are grown on the Comoros Islands. _____

6. Where do most Congolese people live? _____
