



WARM UP

1 Do you know where the Kalahari desert, the Zambezi River and the Victoria Falls are?

2013 was the 200th anniversary of Livingstone's birth and many commemorative events were organised in Scotland and Africa.

MORE ABOUT...

When Livingstone returned to Africa with the aim of discovering the source of the Nile, many months and years passed without any news from him. The *New York Herald* newspaper sent a journalist, Henry Stanley, to try to find Livingstone or find out what had happened to him. After nearly 8 months of travelling, Stanley finally found Livingstone in a small village near Lake Tanganyika in October 1871. On meeting the explorer, Stanley said the famous words, 'Dr Livingstone I presume?'

LIVINGSTONE THE EXPLORER

David Livingstone was born near Glasgow in Scotland on 19th March 1813*. As a child he worked long hours in a local cotton mill and had to study in the evening. After studying theology and medicine, he became a missionary doctor and went to Africa for the first time in 1841. Once there, he became a mixture of missionary, doctor, explorer and anti-slavery campaigner. He believed that finding a route from the coast to the heart of the African continent would allow trade to develop and therefore would bring an end to the slave trade. His various expeditions included crossing the Kalahari and searching for a route from the upper part of the Zambezi River to the coast. He was the first European to see the amazing waterfall on the Zambezi river which he named the Victoria Falls. This is a quote from his book *Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa* (1858) on this incredible moment:

...the most wonderful sight I had witnessed in Africa. In looking down into the fissure on the right of the island, one sees nothing but a dense white cloud, which, at the time we visited the spot, had two bright rainbows on it. From this cloud rushed up a great jet of vapor exactly like steam, and it mounted 200 or 300 feet high; there condensing, it changed its hue to that of dark smoke, and came back in a constant shower, which soon wetted us to the skin.



From 1858 to 1864 he carried out explorations on behalf of the British government in Central and Eastern Africa. He returned to Africa in 1866 on a privately-funded expedition to discover the source of the River Nile, a trip which lasted until his death on 1st May, 1873. His body was returned to the UK and was buried in Westminster Abbey. Livingstone's explorations of Africa certainly helped the West increase its knowledge of Central and Southern Africa, but unfortunately they also paved the way for the later colonisation of the continent by European nations, something which Livingstone, given the time he spent in Africa, the respect he showed the people and his humanitarian spirit, would have likely been opposed to.

ACTIVITIES

READING COMPREHENSION

2 **PET** Read the text and decide if these sentences are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Livingstone worked and studied when he was young.
- 2 He was against the slave trade.
- 3 The waterfall on the Zambezi River was called Victoria Falls before Livingstone arrived.
- 4 The British government paid for Livingstone's trip to Africa in 1866 to find the source of the Nile.
- 5 Livingstone died in the UK.
- 6 Livingstone would probably not have agreed with the colonisation of Africa.

T	F
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WRITING

3 Find out more about one of the places or natural features mentioned in the text and write a short presentation. Use these questions to help.

- 1 Where is it located?
- 2 How long/large/high is it?
- 3 What are the characteristics of the place?
- 4 What is the climate like?
- 5 Is it a popular tourist destination? Why/Why not?