

Africa

A Land of Hope



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SAMPLE

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Introduction

I have traveled all over the world—in my mind. In Africa, most school children work with very limited supplies—few books and definitely no internet access. With all our resources, we have the world at our fingertips. Pull up a comfy chair. I want to take you to exotic places, clamoring markets, jungle swamps, and crowded slums. Is there an African who does not have rhythm? Soak up the music! Immerse yourself in films, photos, and stories. For those of you who do someday visit Africa, you will go to a place you know.

The ministry of Compassion has helped my family gain some understanding of the life of a child in need. We realize how blessed we are, but also the great responsibility of helping the needy. The integrity of Compassion has been apparent in its administration and on the field. We have personally seen the great love, commitment, and skill of social workers and church leaders at the projects. This help has extended beyond hope for the children to hope for families. We have seen whole families find freedom in Jesus because one child became involved with the local church through sponsorship. We have witnessed Compassion sponsored children who have broken out of poverty and are now sponsors themselves! Through this study we believe that your children will not only learn about Africa, but their values will be challenged. We trust that they will break away from consumerism to become life-long contributors to God's work around the world.

Using This Study Guide

Symbols:



Read a selection of a printed or web-based resource.



Specified notebook work (either paper or electronic).



Corresponding Episode on the *Africa, A Land of Hope* DVD



Websites have been carefully selected to bring your children the highest quality of information. Link easily through donnaward.net. Every effort will be made to keep the links active and updated.

Resources:

- Internet: Search using the words in bold to find the site, or go to donnaward.net for easy links.
- Additional resources are vital to making this a “living” study.
- Look along library shelves for titles not otherwise listed.
- The adult section will contain oversized photographic publications.
- Nature films/books are in the 570s.
- African geography is found in 916.
- Resources listed in the first chapter are suitable for the entire study.
- Contact Donna with your feedback, favorite titles, and internet sites for future inclusions.

Notebooks:

- Can become valuable keepsakes.
- Reinforce learning.
- Show a record of study.
- See reproducible maps and notebook pages in Chapter VII.
- Keep a list of favorite books, films, and websites; students will want to come back to them another time.

Hint for notebooks: Copyright permission is not needed to put pictures from websites, such as country flags or wildlife, in unpublished student projects or for personal study use. Right click on picture, choose *Save As*, and save in an electronic folder for insertion on a notebook page. See Easylinks at donnaward.net for detailed instructions.

Africa, A Land of Hope - DVD:

Episode 1—Welcome to Africa

Episode 2—The Need for Water

Episode 3—SODIS

Episode 4—Jackie

Episode 5—Legacy of Dreams Fulfilled

Episode 6—Rwandan Diary

Episode 7—A Visit to Kenya

Episode 8—Hunger in the Slums

Episode 9—A New Generation of Leaders

Episode 10—A Picture of Care

Supplementary Segments

The Continent



AFRICAN PROVERB

It takes a whole village to raise one child.

Children of an African village are valued and cared for by all. If a child comes along while someone is milking a cow, that person will stop and give the child a drink before continuing. If a child loses a father, the other fathers and brothers will be like a father to that child. It takes more than a father and mother to educate a child, and impart the values they wish the child to have. A child always feels he/she is loved and accepted, because the whole village cares for, and raises the child.

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Thinking About Africa



View *Africa, A Land of Hope*: Episode 1 - Welcome to Africa.



What do you know about the continent of Africa? What is the land like? What wildlife live there?

Do you know the names of any countries? Africa is a vibrant, exciting continent—full of extremes; full of adventure.

Look at some photographs of Africa and come up with a list of questions you have about the continent and the people who live there. What are the things you wonder about?

Africa is a place of extreme landscapes, from the largest desert in the world to hot, steamy jungles. The grasslands are home to unique, exotic animals. There are over fifty countries, many overlapping cultures, and several thousand ethnic groups. There is a distinction between North African countries which largely associate themselves with Arabic culture and *sub-Saharan* countries, meaning countries *below* the Sahara Desert.

Africa contains well over a thousand languages! Perhaps closer to two thousand! It is common to find individuals in Africa who not only speak several African languages fluently, but also several European ones as well.

What is a Developing Country?

Developing countries are low and middle-income countries. Nearly all the people have a lower standard of living and access to fewer goods and services than do most people in high-income countries. The majority of African countries are considered developing countries. The term *Third World* was used several decades ago to describe the lower income countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America and Oceania. This term is considered by some as outdated.

The people of Africa have to contend with illnesses not experienced in the developed world, such as malaria and sleeping sickness. Governing the people of Africa is complicated since national borders unequally divide tribal lands. These issues, combined with corrupt governments and problems from colonialism, have caused Africa to be the poorest continent in the world today.

African countries are quite young as countries go; less than fifty years! National unity and success often takes a long time. There is much poverty, war, and disease in Africa, but there is also hope, courage, and love that bursts forth in the midst of all these troubles. Come on a journey to discover the geography and spirit of Africa. May your knowledge be broadened and your heart enlarged.



Money matters. It has the potential to be used for greatness, but it can also be used in hurtful ways. Money is powerful. Solomon says in Ecclesiastes, "Wisdom is a shelter as money is a shelter, but the advantage of knowledge is this: that wisdom preserves the life of its possessor." What do you think this means?

You will be making a paper or electronic notebook as you study Africa.



Choose your option. Create a title page which includes title, your name, month, year, and an illustration.

Also create a resources page to record all your favorite books, films, and internet sites. Make columns for the title, date, and author.

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Camels and Crocodiles



Look at resources about camels and/or crocodiles.



Can you see the camel's long, beautiful eyelashes? And look! It can close its nose. Can you do that? The camel's double eye-lashes and strong nose muscles are there for a reason. When the wind whips the sand around, the camel can protect itself from the stinging blasts.

Camels are uniquely built for desert journeys. They can travel for up to seven days without food or water. Their hump stores fatty tissue which gives energy to the body. The camel has unique blood cells which can absorb water more quickly than other creatures, and store it for a long time in the blood stream. A camel can drink up to 100 litres/21 gallons in ten minutes, a feat which would kill other animals. Camels can withstand intense heat without sweating which helps them conserve water.

Wide, padded feet help the camel not to sink into the sand especially when carrying a heavy load. Camels are nicknamed "ships of the desert" because they walk like the motion of a rolling boat—moving both feet on one side, and then both feet on the other.

Camels have been known to be bad-tempered, spitting when angered. They bawl and moan when rising to their feet with a load, like the groans of a weightlifter hoisting a heavy burden. Camels can carry up to 495kg/990lb, however, 165kg/330lb is the most comfortable load for a camel to carry. No animal is suited to desert travel as superbly as the camel.

The Nile crocodile lives south of the Aswan High Dam and throughout Africa. It is an unusual reptile. Most reptiles do not watch over their young, but the Nile crocodile guards her nest full of eggs for three months until the young crocs hatch. Then she will carry the babies in her mouth to the water and care for them for up to two years. Nile crocodiles will eat almost anything from small fish to large mammals such as giraffes or antelope. They are dangerous to humans.



The Crocodile Song (Traditional campfire song)

Oh she sailed away

On a sunny, summer day

On the back of a crocodile.

(Put palm on back of other hand, rotate thumbs as oars).

"So you see," said she,

"He's as tame as he can be,

I'll ride him down the Nile."

(Pat back of hand as you would a pet).

Well, the croc winked his eye (point to wink),

As she waved them all good-bye (wave),

Wearing a happy smile (trace smile on face).

At the end of the ride,

The lady was inside (rub tummy).

And the smile was on the crocodile. (Trace smile).

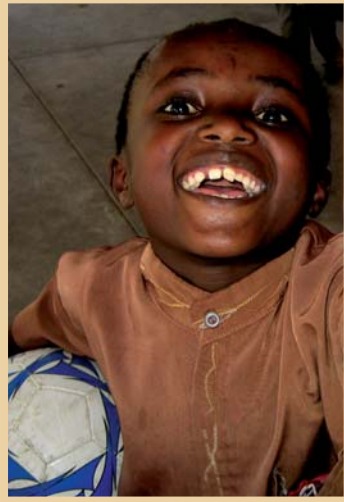
Internet Links: Find out unusual facts in **AZ of Arabian Camels** site or visit **National Geographic** to read about the Nile Crocodile. Easylink to these sites at **donnaward.net**



Complete an *Animal Facts* notebook page about the camel or the crocodile.

Managing Affluence with Integrity

How big is your house? Many homes in the slums of Africa are no bigger than one of your smallest bedrooms.



In Kenya, George is very excited to receive a ball from his visiting sponsor. The children in his neighborhood kick around stones instead of balls. When their basic needs of food, shelter, and clothing are met, these children are happy with simple games and a few toys. Contrast this with the children of affluent families who are

surrounded by expensive toys but frequently complain of boredom. Do you or your friends ever feel bored? Take a look at all your belongings. How many play things do you own and how often do you use them? Could you be happy with less?

The more people fill their lives with things, the more they tell psychiatrists or pastors that they feel “empty” inside. Two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ predicted they would feel that way. “What profit would it bring a person,” He asked his followers “were that person to gain the whole world, but lose his soul?” (Matt. 16:26).

When asked, “What is enough?” a rich man replied, “Just a little bit more.”

Presently, people in North America are earning much higher salaries than their parents did. They are spending more and saving less. In 1980, people put about 10 percent of their salary into savings. In 1996, it was reported that North Americans were saving about 4 percent of their earnings. By the year 2000, the savings rate hovered around zero. Meanwhile,

Internet Links: Visit the PBS site about **Affluenza** to find 100 ways to escape consumerism and over spending. Easylink to this site at donnaward.net



View *Africa, A Land of Hope*: Episode 4—Jackie. How is her life different than yours in areas such as school, chores, and everyday living?

impoverished Chinese, Indian, and Pakistani workers save a quarter of their incomes.¹

When more goods are purchased, additional care and maintenance is required to keep everything working. If a family moves to a bigger house, it involves more cleaning. Sports equipment needs repairs. Computers need anti-spam, pop-up blockers, updated programs and defragging. It all adds up to keeping everyone too busy. When we buy things to make our lives better, it often makes life more complicated instead.

Swelling expectations lead to a constant effort to keep up with the latest products. That, in turn, forces us to work more, so we can afford the goods we desire. With so many items to purchase and the need to work harder to obtain them, our lives grow more harried and pressured. What do you think the following comment says about this problem?

Even if you win the rat race, you're still a rat.

People don't need enormous cars, they need respect. They don't need closets full of clothes, they need to feel attractive and they need excitement and variety and beauty. People don't need electronic equipment; they need something worthwhile to do with their lives. People need identity, community, challenge, acknowledgement, love, and joy. To try to fill these needs with material things is to set up an unquenchable appetite for false solutions to real and never-satisfied problems. The resulting psychological emptiness is one of the major forces behind the desire for material growth.²

Jesus said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."
Luke 12:15

1 De Graaf, John; Wann, David; Naylor, Thomas; Simon, Scott. *Affluenza: The All Consuming Epidemic*. 2001, p. 2.

2 Meadows, Dennis and Donella; Randers, Jorgen. *Beyond the Limits*. 1992, p. 111.

Missionaries and Explorers



Read *Exploring Africa*, p. 22, or a similar book.

Samuel Ajayi Crowther, born in 1807 in Western Africa, grew up in dangerous times, when the threat of slave traders was constant. When Ajayi was thirteen, his village was raided and he faced the horror of capture and being torn from his family. Before going far, the slave ship on which Ajayi was imprisoned was intercepted and the slaves were rescued by the British navy and put ashore in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

It was here that Ajayi became a committed Christian. He recorded that he thus escaped a worse state of slavery, namely, slavery to sin. Ajayi became a schoolmaster for other liberated slaves and began learning one after another, the many languages spoken by the freed Africans. He began traveling up the Niger River with the gospel message of peace. One memorable excursion took him to his native Nigeria, where he was reunited with his mother and sister after twenty long years of separation.

A Truly African Game

Oware is an ancient game originating in Africa and is the official game of Ghana. It is found in great variety across the continent. In East Africa it is called Mancala. In South Africa it is called Ohoro.

Pit and pebble games are probably the oldest family of games and have been used both by merchants in calculating sums, and by all ages as an enjoyable pastime. In its simplest form, Oware can be played by scooping holes in the dirt and using seeds or pebbles as counters. The game can be introduced as an easy game of chance to very young children, but can become a complicated strategy/mathematical game played by serious adults.



Internet Links: Go to **The Oware Society** for rules on how to play.
Easylink to this site at donnaward.net



Make an Oware game with an egg carton and seeds or pebbles, or complete a *Facts About People* notebook page for an explorer or missionary.

In 1864, Crowther was ordained as the first African bishop of the Anglican Church of England. The Yoruba language became the initial African language to be used in Anglican worship. He was one of the first graduates from sub-Saharan Africa's only university at the time, which was built on the site of an old Arab slave market.

Crowther's dynamic ministry was effective in opposing slavery, witchcraft, and Islam. He was successful in giving Africans an Evangelical Anglicanism which was truly African. Today there are 18 times more Anglicans worshipping in church every Sunday in Nigeria than there are in Great Britain.

African Explorers in Africa

African people traveled in Africa for three predominant reasons. The first was when war or famine threatened the safety of a group of people, and they made the dangerous trek to relocate. Commerce was the second reason as merchants traveled to trade in salt, gold, slaves, or cloth. Finally, religious interests caused Muslims and Christians to travel to spread their faith or make pilgrimages. A few Muslim explorers from North Africa also journeyed just to learn of new places and people.

Mungo Park (1771-1806)

This tenacious Scottish explorer drowned while exploring the Niger River.

European Explorers in Africa

European interests were similar to those of African explorers. The first European travelers to Africa traded along the coastlines with Africans who brought slaves or goods to the ports. Later, Christian missionaries came to win converts. Finally, like some Muslim travelers, Europeans wanted to explore places new to them. In the 19th century, European geographers were consumed with discovering the source of the two great rivers, the Niger and the Nile.

Geography of Central Africa



Read a book, or view a film or website about the gorillas and chimpanzees of the African Rainforest.

At one point, the lively missionary speaker brandished an executioner's knife that had, at one point, been too close to his own neck. He had fended off crocodiles and shot hippos to feed starving villagers. Complete with killer bees, tsetse flies, and dangerous wildlife, the jungle was a dark and perilous place. The stories of William Sheperd, black missionary to the Congo, further confirmed that the rainforest of equatorial Africa was a place of peril and mystery at the turn of the 19th century.

Today, while much reduced by logging and farming, the rainforest still continues to confound the outsider. With unrest in the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire) and poachers who stalk the forest, it is still dangerous. Probably the least troublesome are the forest dwellers, the gentle giant-hearted pygmies who hunt and gather in the forest.

The Congo River Basin is home to the endangered lowland gorilla, chimpanzees, a host of monkeys, and the unusual bongo, a hoofed animal with beautiful stripes. The climate is hot and humid, supporting abundant growth, and a host of birds and insects. Beyond the rainforest, the land rises to savanna plateaus in the north and south, and mountains in



The capital city of the Congo is Brazzaville, on the north side of the Congo River. Directly opposite, Kinshasa is the capital city of the DR Congo. Livingstone Falls is the series of rapids which make the river impassable downstream from these cities as it flows toward the sea. Pool Malebo, formerly called Stanley Pool after explorer Henry M. Stanley, is a wide, lake-like portion of the Congo River.

the east. In the elevated regions the climate is cooler in the dry season and hot and humid in the rainy season. Visitors can pay a hefty fee to glimpse the endangered mountain gorilla in the forested mountains of Rwanda. Central Africa is still one of the most exotic and mysterious places on earth.

Look at your political map to see the narrow strip of land by which the Democratic Republic of Congo controls the lower Congo River as it empties into the Atlantic Ocean.



Internet Links: Go to **AWF Mountain Gorilla** to listen to noises gorillas make. Visit **Congo Pages** for pictures of the Congo. Easylink to these and other sites at **donnaward.net**



Use an atlas to write the names of the following countries (and capital cities) on your political map. Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tomé and Príncipe.

Animals of the Savanna



Enjoy the many books and films from your local library on African wildlife.

On an African game reserve you can see some of the largest animals on earth. You will see herbivores like the grazing zebras and nibbling gazelles, and the carnivores that hunt them, like the lion or cheetah. The herbivores need to eat continually all day to gain enough food for their energy needs. Think about this! An elephant has to eat about 100–200kg/220–440lb of food a day! Measure your own weight to get some idea of how much this is. Elephants need a lot of food! Most herbivores are social and live in groups.

Forget about grass! The carnivore prefers meat. These predators hunt in the cool of the day, looking for the weak or young. Lions are social, hunting and living together in a pride. A cheetah, the fastest mammal on earth, can be both solitary and social. Leopards, the smallest of the big cats, are solitary and nocturnal. They hunt at night, and sleep in the day in trees, bushes, or behind rocks.

The scavengers—the vultures and hyenas—clean up the leftovers after the carnivores are done.

Note: The Game Park, Masai Mara, uses the British spelling of Masai with one 'a'. The Maasai people prefer their name to be spelled with the double 'a' and the accent to fall on the first syllable in keeping with their language.

Internet Links: **Serengeti National Park Official Site**. Play the animal sounds game. Easylink at donnaward.net

The Big Five

The 'Big Five' animals of Africa are the elephant, rhinoceros, leopard, lion, and buffalo. They are named not for their size, but because they are dangerous animals which will attack if they feel threatened. Tourists "on safari" are hoping to see the "Big Five" and the savanna has become the area most visited by tourists.

Herbivores

- giraffe
- impala
- gazelle
- buffalo
- elephant
- wildebeest
- zebra
- rhinoceros
- hippopotamus

Predators

- lions
- cheetah
- leopard
- wild dogs

Scavengers

- vultures
- hyenas

Serengeti Proverb

Every morning in Africa, a gazelle wakes up. It knows it must run faster than the fastest lion or it will be killed. Every morning a lion wakes up. It knows that it must outrun the slowest gazelle or it will starve to death. It doesn't matter whether you are a lion or a gazelle, when the sun comes up, you'd better be running.

The Serengeti is a large national game reserve in Tanzania, connecting with the Masai Mara game reserve in Kenya. This is the site of the annual wildebeest migration.



You can see that the wildebeest are keeping a close eye on this lion. Wildebeest is a favorite food for lions.



Pick your favourite African animals of the savanna and spend a few days reading and completing *Animal Facts* pages.

Biomes of Africa



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Country Facts

Country Name: _____

The Land

Total Area: _____

Terrain: _____

Products: _____

Government

Capital City: _____

Leader: _____

Colonial Rule: _____
Date of Independence: _____

The People

Population: _____

Official Languages: _____

Average Life Expectancy: _____

Literacy Rate of Total Population: _____

Interesting Facts or Issues: _____

Famous Places

Landmarks: _____

Other: _____

Flag



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