Hands On Learning
with Reading Museum Service

TANZANIA G122

There are over 120 tribes in Tanzania. Tribes such as the Maasai and the Chagga still live a traditional life but many younger people now move to the city looking for work. The objects in his box show modern city life in Tanzania.





In 1964 the two countries of Tanganyika and Zanzibar united to form Tanzania. The country has a remarkable landscape. In the north is Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa and to the west sitting on the country's border is Lake Victoria - the world's largest lake.



Tanzania has bustling, diverse cities such as Dar es Salaam. The island of Zanzibar was once a primary trading post in East Africa, making it the home to a large Arab population.

Baobab tree



This strange looking tree is called a baobab and grows in Africa. This model has been made from dried banana leaves. A real baobab can grow to an enormous size and live for up to 3,000 years. When it has no leaves, the branches of the baobab stick up into the air and look like roots. Its as though it has been planted upside-down!



The baobab tree has large white flowers, which open at night. The fruit grows up to a foot long and can be sucked to make a refreshing drink. Sometimes it is roasted and ground up to make a coffee-like drink. The fruit is not the only part of the baobab that is used. The bark is pounded to make rope, mats, baskets, paper and cloth; the leaves can be boiled and eaten, and glue can be made from the pollen.

The African tribesman has a legend about the tree's unique shape. The god Thora didn't like the baobab growing in his garden. He threw it out over the wall of Heaven and it landed on Earth, and although the tree landed upside-down it continued to grow.

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Articulated lorry toy

Juggernauts like this are seen on the road, often carrying petrol. Does it remind you of any you might see? This toy has been made from used beer cans and pieces of rubber from old tyres. All the material has been recycled.







Africafe coffee tin

German missionaries first planted coffee in Tanzania at the end of the nineteenth century.



Coffee is an important source of income for the region.



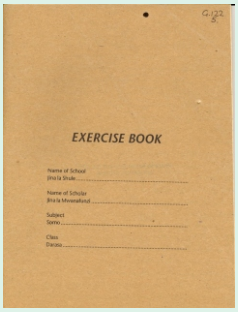
Farmers grow it alongside food crops on small family plots. The climate and soil are perfect for coffee but the area cultivated is limited by park boundaries and the size of the mountain. It means the quantities of true Kilimanjaro coffee are small and the product very exclusive.

Africafe is one of the largest coffee companies in the country. They grow coffee in the Karagwe Mountains beside Lake Victoria.

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Exercise book



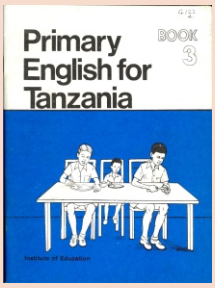
The headings on the book's cover are written in both English and Kiswahili. Pupils take their booklets to school and use it to write stories, solve math problems or for their English language class.



Tanzanian schoolchildren have a free education at primary school. When they move into high school though the parents have to pay for books, uniforms and stationary. Many children can't afford to continue their education and so they begin working at an early age.

Primary English for Tanzania

How many languages can you speak? Most Tanzanian children speak Kiswahili at primary school but from primary 3 they begin to learn English. This workbook from the early 1990s was aimed at children in primary 5. By the time the children enter high school the classes are taught in English.







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Khanga



Look at how big this outfit is! It is made from brightly printed cotton fabric. The name, khanga, comes from the Kiswahili word for guinea fowl. The bright colours of the costume reminded people of the animal.



Women throughout East Africa wear the khanga when working in fields. They use it to cover their skirts and keep the dust off. It can also be made into a wrap that goes around the head.

Each khanga comes with a proverb written on it in Kiswahili. It can be used to express the wearer's feelings. This one says "Sema uwazavyo nilivyo sivo" which means "You can say what you think about me, but I am not the way you think." Do you ever wear clothing that has phrases on it?



Many young Tanzanian women increasingly wear western clothing when outside but they still wear the khanga in the house and their more elaborate ones to weddings and special occasions.

Sugar cane

Fresh sugar cane should be green - so you can see this piece has been around for a long time! It is produced in large industrial quantities by companies within the country.





Sugar cane is sold on the streets of cities such as Dar as Salaam. When the outer strips have been pulled off they can chew off raw sugar cane and spit out the wood. It is used to make a drink in Zanzibar. The street vendors crush the sugar cane with a mangle then mix it with lime and ginger to make a refreshing drink.

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Tanzania money



The currency in Tanzania is cents and shillings, 100 cents equals 1 shilling.

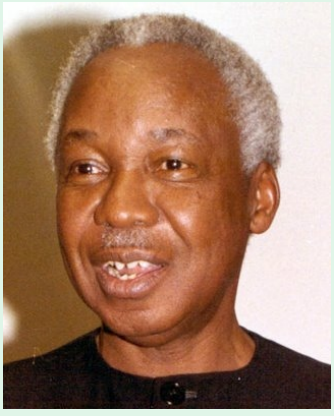
The notes and coins of Tanzania show two different faces. The 100-shilling note and the 20 shilling coin are of Julius Nyerere. He was the President of Tanzania from its beginning in 1964 until 1985 and is known by the title 'Founder of the Nation'. The other notes and coin have the image of Ali Hassan Mwinyi. He replaced Nyerere as the President and was leader until 1995.

Each note has images that represent Tanzania. Animals such as elephants and leopards that are associated with East Africa are on one side. On the other are scenes showing a mix of a university graduation and men returning from fishing in their dhow. The dhow is a boat that originally came from the Middle East but the graduation ceremony with robes and hats are similar to those in Britain. It shows the diversity and different cultures in Tanzania.

Most of this money is no longer used in Tanzania. The 100 and 200 shillings now come as coins and not as banknotes. The smallest coin available is for 50 shillings.



Above: Ali Hassan Mwinyi



Above: Julius Nyerere