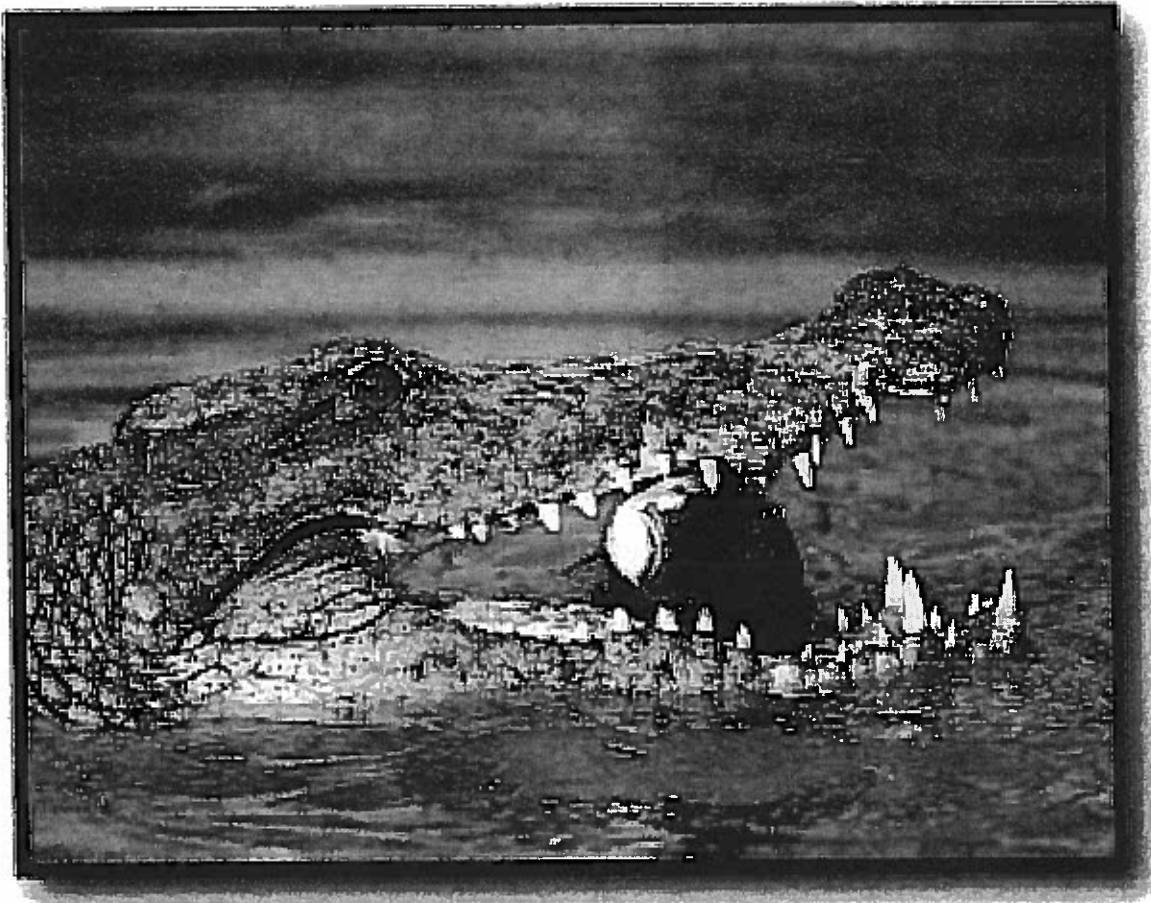


# Zimbabwe



by Kyle Jacobs

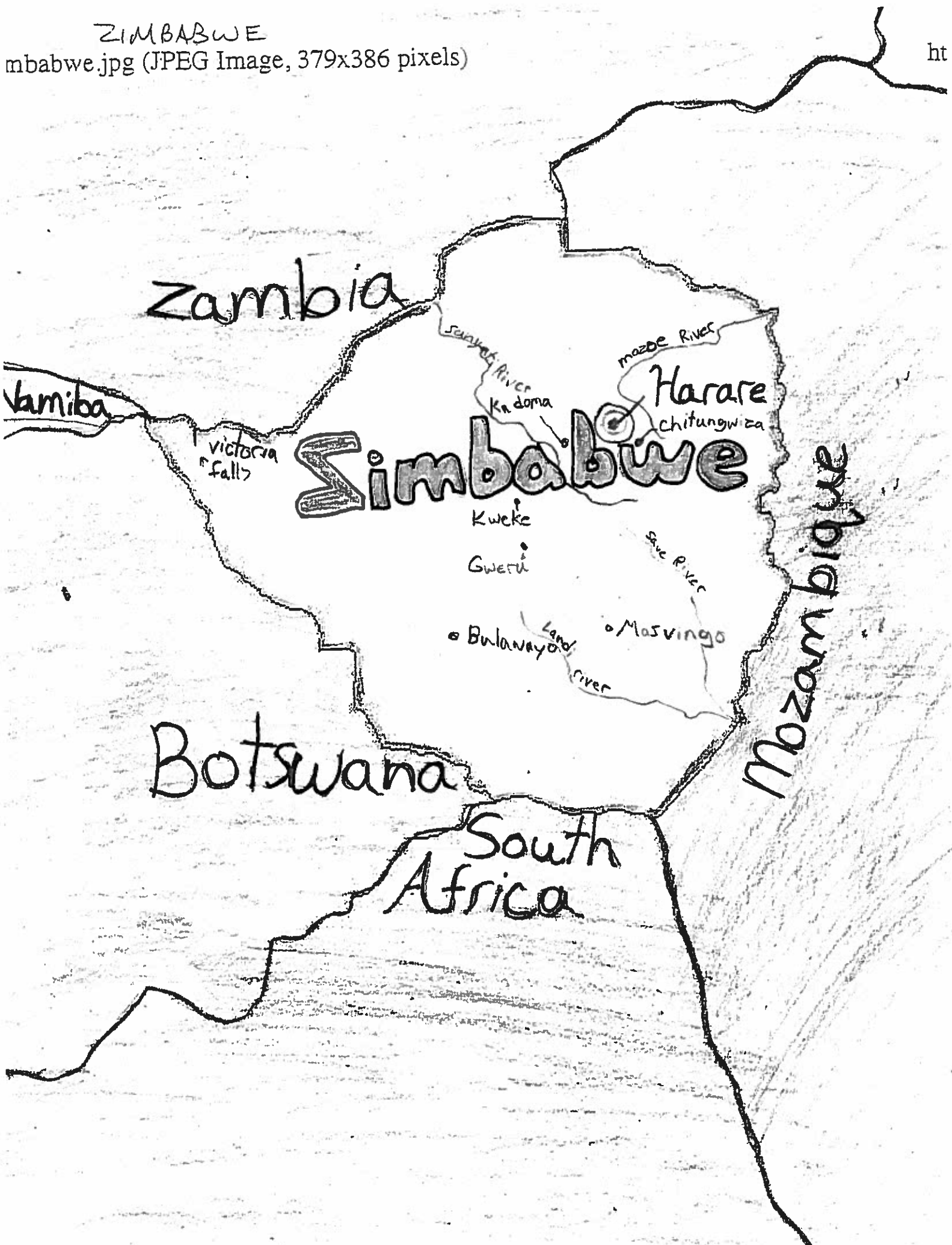
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## INTRODUCTION

I picked Zimbabwe to learn about for my country project because I have always wanted to go hunting there. A friend of my family has been there several times and he would bring hunting videos to watch. I was always amazed by all the beautiful animals that they have. Here is a "Welcome to Zimbabwe" sign.





Zambia

Namibia

Victoria Falls

Zimbabwe

Harare  
Chitungwiza

Kweke  
Gweru

Bulawayo  
Masvingo

Botswana

South Africa

Mozambique

Zambezi River  
Kadoma

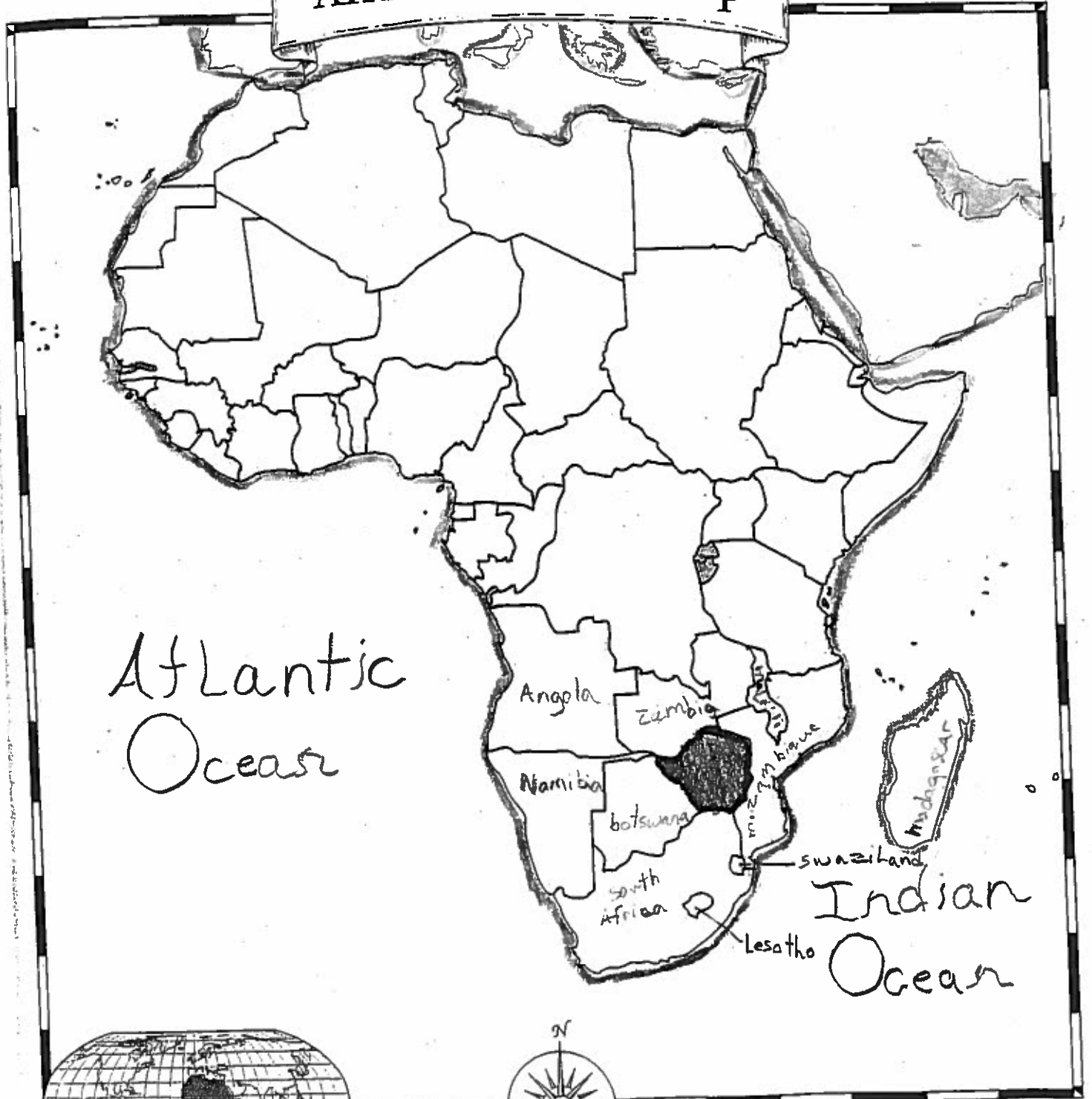
Mazoe River

Save River

Zambezi River

Kyle

# Africa: Political Map



Atlantic  
Ocean

Angola

Zambia

Namibia

Botswana

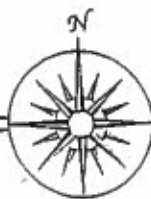
South Africa

Lesotho

Swaziland

Madagascar

Indian  
Ocean



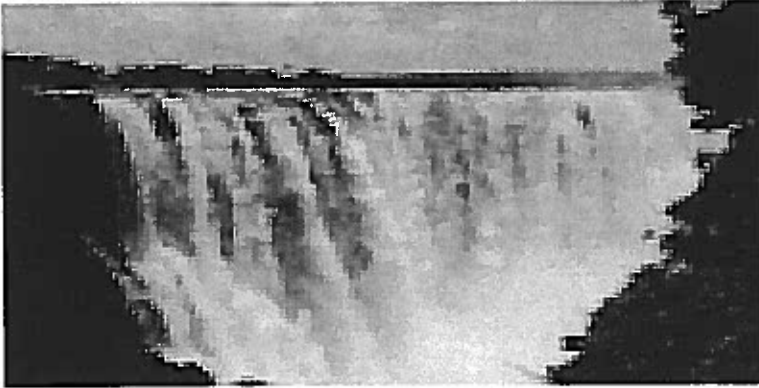
**LOCATION**

Zimbabwe was formerly the British Crown colony of Southern Rhodesia. Zimbabwe is located on the continent of Africa at latitude 25E – 35 E and longitude 22 S – 15S.

Zimbabwe is a land-locked country but its nearest oceans include South Atlantic Ocean and Indian Ocean. Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique and South Africa surround its borders. Zimbabwe is located in both the Eastern and Southern Hemispheres. Attached is a picture of the continent and where Zimbabwe is on the continent.



## PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY



Zimbabwe has high plateaus in the center of the country and mountains in the east. The Inyanga and Udizi Mountains stretch along Zimbabwe's

eastern border with Mozambique. This is where the highest and lowest points are. The Mafungabusa plateau covers the majority of land, central and east. The Matobo Hills and Chizarira Hills anchor that plateau on both the north and south. Savanna grasslands cover the southern reaches while evergreen forests are in central and east especially in the mountain areas. Zimbabwe's major bodies of water include Lake Kariba on the western border with Zambia and Victoria Falls on the far western border with Zambia. Zimbabwe's rivers include the Zambezi, Limpopo, Runde and Save, and their numerous tributaries. Additional landforms include escarpments along the Zambezi River, and deep river valleys within the central plateau. Zimbabwe's total area in square kilometres is 390,300. The highest elevation in Zimbabwe is Mount Inyangani at 2592 meters (8,503 feet). The lowest elevation in Zimbabwe is the intersection of the Runde and Save Rivers at 162 meters (531 feet). Zambia lies to the northwest with the Zambezi River and its Victoria Falls forming the border. Mozambique lies to the northeast with its border formed by the Eastern Highlands. Botswana lies to the southwest and South Africa to the south (its border formed by the Limpopo River). The picture above is of Victoria Falls.

## POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

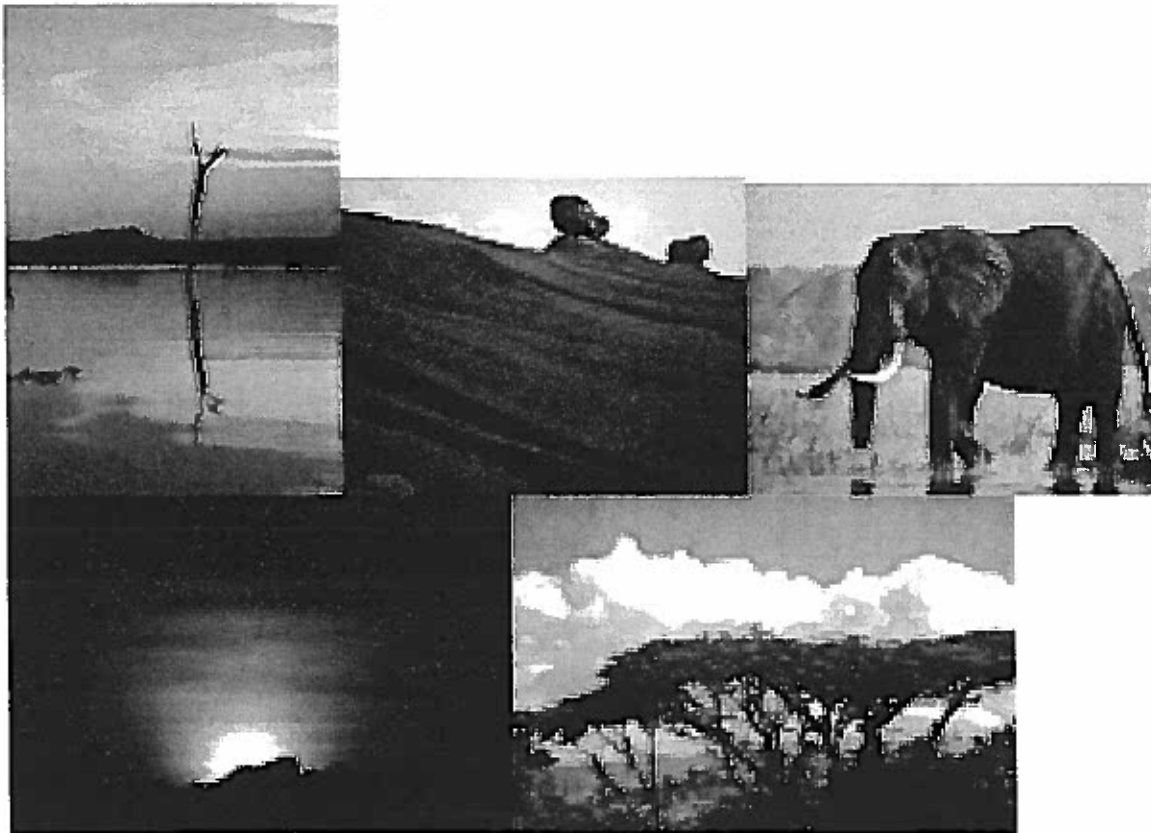
Harare is the capital city of Zimbabwe. There are 8 provinces and 2 cities with provincial status. The provinces include Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Masvingo, Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South and Midlands. The provincial cities include Bulawayo and Harare. Zimbabwe has a Republic political system and its' President is Robert Mugabe. Since Zimbabwe's Independence Day on April 18, 1980, Robert Mugabe, the nation's first Prime Minister, has been the country's only ruler (he has been President since 1987) and has dominated the country's political system. Below shows a map of Zimbabwe with all the major cities shown.

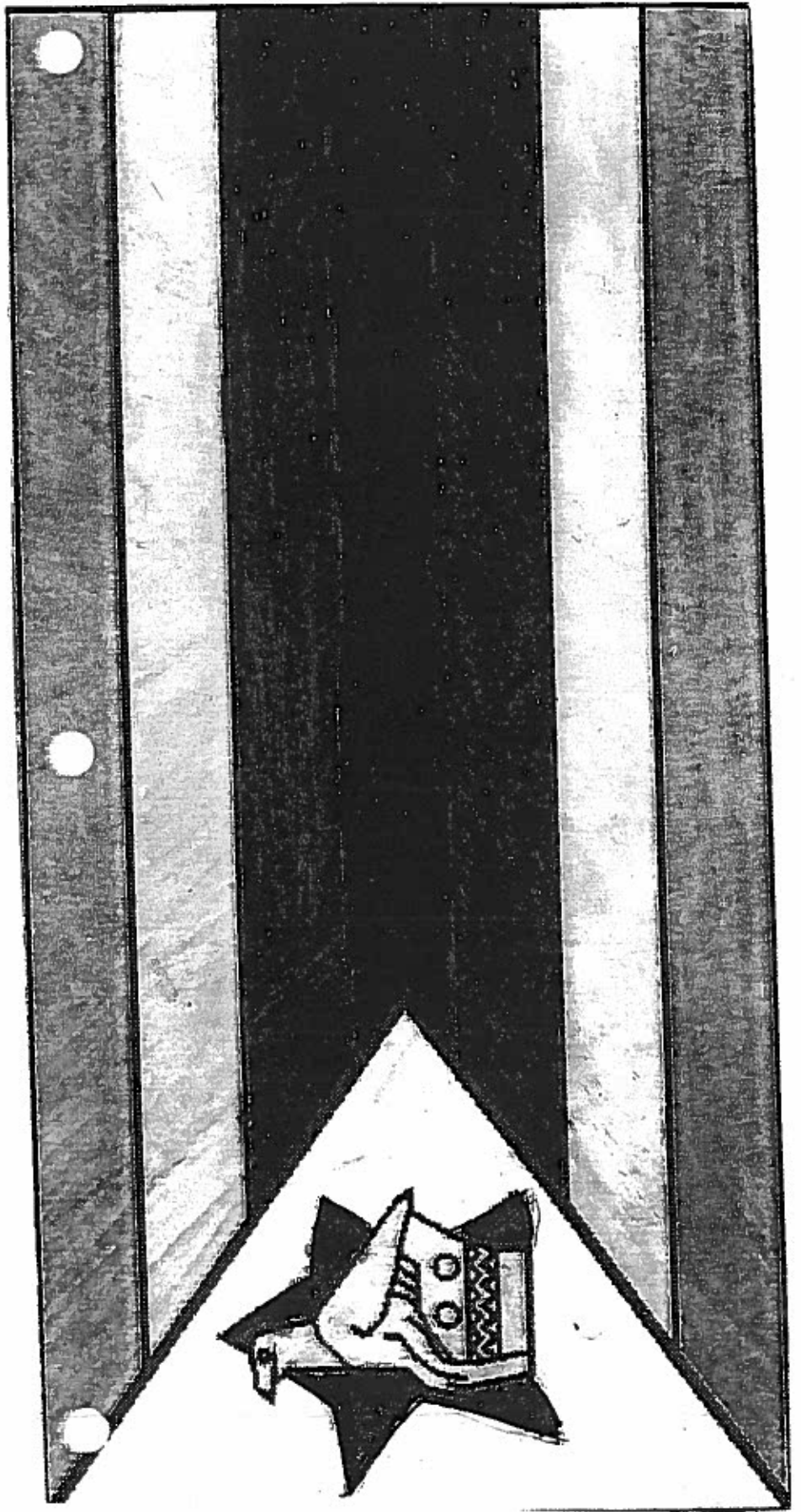




## THE CLIMATE

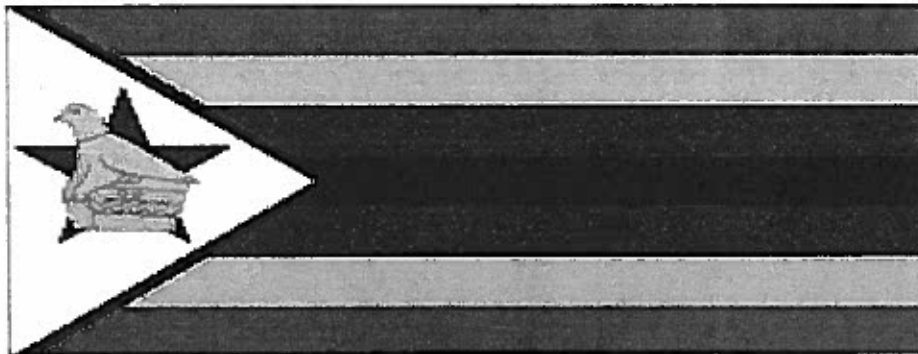
Zimbabwe's main seasons are winter and summer. Winter is from May to August and summer is from late October to mid March. The rainy season is mainly in the spring and summer since it is quite hot with the heaviest rains falling in the eastern mountain forests. Spring is from September to October and summer from late October to mid March. The dry season is mainly in the fall and winter since it is dry and cool. Fall is from late March to April and winter is from May to August. The average amount of precipitation is appropriately 38 cm. As the country is positioned on the southern edge of the tropics, its seasons are just the opposite of the Northern hemisphere.





**THE FLAG**

Zimbabwe's national flag has seven equal horizontal bands of green, yellow, red, black, red, yellow and green with a white isosceles triangle edged in black with its base on the hoist side; a yellow Zimbabwe bird representing the long history of the country is superimposed on a red five-pointed star in the center of triangle, which symbolizes peace. Green is for farming and agriculture, yellow is for the abundance of mineral wealth, red is for blood spilled during the war of independence, black represents the native people of Zimbabwe. Below is a picture of the flag.



**POPULATION**

The population of Zimbabwe is 13,369,000 as of January 2008. The ethnics groups include African 98% (Shona 82%, Ndebele 14% and other 2%), mixed and Asian 1% and white is less than 1%. A third of the people in Zimbabwe live in the cities with the remaining people living in rural areas. The major cities in Zimbabwe include Harare, which is the capital city and Bulaway. There are approximately 32.64 people per square kilometre in Zimbabwe. The life expectancy at birth for males is 39.50 years and female is 40.62 years. The average women give birth to 3.08 children. The people of Zimbabwe have high mortality rates due to HIV/AIDS. Other major infectious diseases include high food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A and typhoid vector borne disease: malaria water contact disease: schistosomiasis. The picture below is taken in a crowded city in Zimbabwe.



**LANGUAGES**

English is the official language of Zimbabwe. Additional languages spoken include Shona, Sindebele (the language of the Ndebele) and numerous but minor tribal dialects. Their alphabet looks like the same alphabet that we use here because their official language is English. Shona is spoken as a first language by over 9 million people in Zimbabwe. Although there are various regional dialects, it is one language, and most people have no problem understanding other dialects. Here is an online lesson.

Pretty simple, choose one variation to start with.

Phrase...	Meaning
(M)unonzani? OR Zita renyu ndiani?	What's your name?
Ndinonzi... OR Zita rangu i.....	My name is.....
Ndiani?	Who is it?
Ndini....	I am...

**Goodbyes:**

Can be accompanied by clapping and waving.

Phrase...	Meaning
Fambai zvakanaka	Go well (said by person staying)
Sarai zvakanaka	Stay well (said by person going)

**Thankyous:**

These are very important. There isn't really a word for 'please', as it's contained in the politeness of the request, but there are lots of ways of saying thanks, again with claps.

Phrase...	Meaning
Tatenda OR Timotenda OR Ndatenda	Thankyou ( a general word)
Mazvita OR Maita basa OR Maita zwenyu	Thankyon (for doing a task)

Finally, a very useful word is 'shamwari' which means 'friend, mate, pal'. You can add it to just about all of the words and phrases above, where it would seem right in English. Try it and see!

**RELIGIONS**

The major religions in Zimbabwe are 50% Syncretic (part Christian and part indigenous beliefs), 25% Christian, 24% Indigenous beliefs and 1% Muslim and other. The churches are made mostly of brick with bars on the windows. The inside is fairly plain and bare. There is not a lot of chairs, tables or books in the church. Zimbabwe's national holidays include Independence Day on April 18 (1980), Worker's Day on May 1, Africa day on May 25, Heroes' Day on August 11, Defence Forces Day on August 12 and National Unity Day on December 22. During graduations, weddings, and any other family gatherings will usually be celebrated with the killing of a goat or cow, which will be barbecued or roasted by the family. Here are pictures of a church in Zimbabwe.



## CLOTHING

As the produce cotton in Zimbabwe, they wear cotton shirts, pants and skirts. "White man's clothes" are quite common in some parts of the continent. Traditional African clothing has very vibrant colors and is the traditional garments worn by the indigenous peoples of the continent, in some instances these traditional costumes have been replaced by western clothing introduced by the European colonialists. They will wear traditional African clothing during special occasions. Wearing white loose-fitting clothing is generally recommended in the continent as it is comfortable and because the color white absorbs less heat than dark colours. There is a fabric shortage in Zimbabwe because they have lost half of their workers that worked in the factories. They used to employ 30,000 workers but now they only have 15,000 workers. The pictures below show some of the different types of clothing in Zimbabwe.



**HOUSES**

In rural areas, Zimbabweans live in villages and on farms and in urban area they live in houses. Houses on the farms are mainly made of brick or mud and stick construction with thatch or metal roofs. Urban housing is generally of brick and can be quite large. The huts in the villages are usually made of stone and grass as pictured below. The villages are usually small with fewer than 100 inhabitants. Total housing units in Zimbabwe is two million with an average of 4.2 people per dwelling.





## SCHOOL

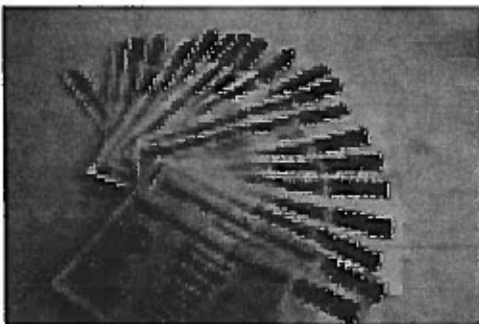
They have Junior Schools that students range from 5 to 12 years old which include Grade One through Seven. The students are mainly taught computer skills from what all the parts of the computer are to typing and using the computers with ease. Their computer skills are increasingly harder as they go up in grades. They have High Schools after Junior School. Most schools offer similar classes that we have here in Canada. Most of the schools in Zimbabwe people have to pay tuition. As the cost of offering several programs like academics and sports are increasing so are the tuition fees. It is getting harder for parents to pay for their kids to go to school. Students in Zimbabwe are expected to master the national curriculum at all levels of schooling, regardless of ability. The minimum expected educational outcome for all students is functional literacy and numeracy by the end of primary school or Grade 7. Zimbabwe is one of the very few countries on the African continent where more than 90 percent of schoolteachers have a college degree in education. In addition, a significant minority of the teachers hold graduate degrees. This picture is of one of the main High School basketball teams.



## THE ECONOMY

The main products made include mineral exports, agriculture and tourism are the main foreign currency earners of Zimbabwe. They export tobacco, metals and metal alloy, textiles, clothing and cotton lint. They mainly import commodities which include machinery and transport equipment, other manufactures, chemicals and fuels.

Zimbabwe's exporting partners include South Africa 31.5%, Zambia 7.8%, China 6.2%, Japan 5.8%, US 4.8%, Netherlands 4.5% and Italy 4.3% in 2006. Zimbabwe's import partners include South Africa 46.8%, China 6.0% and Botswana 4.9% in 2006. Main industries include mining (coal, gold, platinum, copper, nickel, tin, clay, and numerous metallic and non-metallic ores), steel, wood products, cement, chemicals, fertilizer, clothing and footwear, food stuffs, beverages. The main occupations include Agriculture at 66%, Industry at 10% and Services at 24% in 1996. The people of Zimbabwe also subsistence farm in order to provide their families with food. Zimbabwe dollar is their form of currency. In 2005 the unemployment rate was 80%. In 2004 the population below poverty line was 80%. The government's involvement in the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo has depleted millions of dollars from the economy, raised inflation and with the highest AIDS infection rate in the world, it is taxing their economy which all contributes to an inability to further develop the country's agricultural and mineral resources. Below is a picture of Zimbabwe dollar.



**LEISURE**

Arts and music are the backbone of Zimbabwean culture. Pots and baskets are finely detailed. Cloth is intricately woven. Everyday items carved from wood are intricately patterned. Stone carvings are lovingly etched and many of the ideas for designs are inspired by designs found at Great Zimbabwe. Music can emphasize both individuality and unity. Shared song can communicate a desire for love and happiness or a need for perseverance and struggle. Music has the power to connect people and virtually all societies have some form of music making. Some of the common sports that are played in Zimbabwe include football (soccer) and cricket. Traditional arts in Zimbabwe include pottery, basketry, textiles, jewelry, and carving, symmetrically patterned woven baskets and stools carved out of a single piece of wood. Shona sculpture have become world famous. These pictures show some of the Zimbabwean art that is available for sale.



**EXTRA INFORMATION**

The diversity of the animal kingdom in Zimbabwe is evident in the 300 species of mammals that live there. You can find everything from elephant, lion, buffalo and leopard to shrew, bat, porcupine and pangolin. These and many more can be found in the country's 40 wildlife parks and private sanctuaries. Unfortunately the black rhino has been wiped out due to poaching but fortunately the other animals are being protected by ecologists and conservationists. There are 153 reptile species including snakes, tortoises, lizards and crocodiles. There are also 640 species of birds including 17 species of eagle. There are 131 species of fish including the fighting tigerfish of Lake Kariba which can reach a size of 33lbs. There are even several hundred species of spiders. All of these animals are dependent upon having enough food, water and shelter which Zimbabwe's fauna helps to provide. The central plateau with its abundant rainfall supports musasa, munonodo and acacia trees which average 20ft tall. In the lower areas that are hotter and drier the dominant tree is the mopane but there are also baobab, aloes, cycads and palms. The Highlands support montane forests. Attached are several pictures of the land with some of its animals.



## CONCLUSION

I learned that there is an African Penguin and that Victoria Falls is really beautiful. I did not know anything about its people or culture so I am glad that I researched Zimbabwe to learn more. I see a lot of beautiful landscape and think that it would be great to see Zimbabwe. I also learned that many people in Zimbabwe die because they do not have enough food. They do not get the same opportunities as us here in Canada. We are really lucky to be here with all the room and nature.



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Peoples of Africa