

Research and Websites

Research Process – Staff: please guide your students through this.

1. Select a general topic that interests you in some way – KWL Chart (see binder)
2. List key words to help you look up information about the topic – Brainstorm
3. Get an overview of the topic – look in an encyclopedia, dictionary, etc.
 - Using the general overview, begin to focus the topic.
 - An overview of the topic is important because it will help you to find words to help broaden or narrow your search.
 - In using the term “Liberian clothing”, I couldn’t find much. By using the term “Bassa clothing” (one of the indigenous tribes of Liberia), I was able to find more clothing, art, and articles about Liberia.
4. Research your topic – look in books, magazines, online
5. Take notes - keep track of your sources so others can follow your trail
6. Write what you have learned in your own words
7. Edit and rewrite several times - you can do this or ask someone to help you
8. Complete your finished product

WEBSITES

1. **A to Z Kids Stuff** – Fun education activities
<http://atozkidsstuff.com/norway.html>
2. **BBC – History for kids**
www.bbc.co.uk/history/forkids
3. **Britannica for Kids**
<http://www.kids.britannica.com>
4. **CIA World Factbook** -
<https://www.cia.gov>
5. **Ducksters** – History, geography, biographies, science, etc. for kids.
www.ducksters.com
 - Click on the “Geography” or “Biography” tab. (Do not type in top search box on this page.)
 - In the “Geography” section, Click on your continent and then select your country.
6. **Fact Monster** - <http://www.factmonster.com/>
 - Each Country Profile provides information on: Geography, Maps, Flag, History, Current ruler, Area Population, Capital, Largest cities, Language, Ethnicity/race, Religion, Literacy rate, Economy, Government
 - Click on “World”
 - Click on “Countries” and Select your country
 - You can also find information regarding the children in your country. It contains information on Climate, School, Play, Family, Food, Holidays. Do the following:
 - Click on “People”
 - Click on “People Fun Facts”
 - Select “Kids Around the World”
 - Select your country.

7. **History for Kids** – Fun facts and information for kids.
www.historyforkids.net
8. **Kidipede** – History and science facts for kids.
www.historyforkids.org
9. **National Anthems** – Listen to the national anthems and gather background information on over 400 countries.
<http://www.nationalanthems.info/>
 - Type your country's name in the search box
10. **OECD Better Life Index** – An interactive tool which allows you to visualize and compare key factors that contribute to well being.
<http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/>
 - To see a simple bar graph on housing, income, jobs, etc.:
 - Hold your mouse (do not click) over the colored flower with your country's name.
11. **Smithsonian National Museum** – View art from different cultures
www.si.edu/exhibitions
 - Type in your country's name in the "Keyword Search" box (on left-hand side of webpage)
 - Click on the words "Past" or "Virtual"
12. **Teacher Vision** – Diversity Resources (This is a paid site. However, you get 5 free views.)
<https://www.teachervision.com/diversity/teacher-resources/33631.html>
13. **TIME for Kids** – Kid friendly news from around the world.
 - <http://www.timeforkids.com/around-the-world>
14. **Smithsonian National Museum** – View art from different cultures
www.si.edu/exhibitions
 - Type in your country's name in the "Keyword Search" box (on left-hand side of webpage)
 - Click on the words "Past" or "Virtual"

Brazil

Kids Discover – Science

<http://www.kidsdiscover.com>

For an article with spectacular pictures of the rainforest and its animals, go to:

<http://www.kidsdiscover.com/spotlight/the-amazon-for-kids/>

BBC.com

www.bbc.com

For a nice profile on Brazil:

- Click on “News”
- Click on “Latin America”
- Scroll down to “Brazil” and click

For an interesting article titled “Favela Life: Rio’s City Within a City”:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-27635554>

Popular Mechanics – For automotive, technology, and science.

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/>

For the article “Discover Brazil’s Most Spectacular Wildlife”:

- Type in the search box “Brazil’s Wildlife”

Rainforest Alliance : Kids’ Corner – Rainforest activities and facts

<http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/kids>

National Geographic for Kids – Information on Brazil

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/countries/brazil/>

Liberia

Smithsonian National Museum – View art from different Liberian cultures

www.si.edu/exhibitions

- Click on the word “Past”
- Scroll down to “**Visions from the Forests: The Art of Liberia and Sierra Leone**”

To hear samples of the music from various Liberian tribes:

- Type “Liberian Folkways” in the search box.

Norway

Norway-hei – Interesting facts about Norway

<http://www.norway-hei.com/>

Visit Norway - Information on the arts and culture. Beautiful pictures.

<http://www.visitnorway.com/us/what-to-do/attractions-culture/arts-and-culture/>

Go Norway – Facts about Norway

http://gonorway.no/norway/articles/about_norway/2/index.html

BBC.com – Learn about the Vikings in a fun way.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/vikings/>

Russia

About Travel – Eastern Europe Travel

<http://www.goeasteurope.about.com/>

For great pictures of Russian Landmarks:

- Type in search box “Russia”

Early Childhood News – Resource for Teachers and Parents

<http://www.earlychildhoodnews.com/>

For directions on how to teach folk dancing:

- Under the tab on the left-hand “Early Childhood NEWS” click on “Articles”
- Type in search box “Russia”
- Select article “Folk Dancing for Young Children”

Kidipede – A history and science encyclopedia for kids.

<http://www.historyforkids.org/>

To find information on Russian history:

- Select “Middle Ages” from the middle column.
- Select “Early Russia” from the left column,

Science Kids – Fun science and technology projects and interesting facts.

<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/>

To find kid friendly information on Russia:

- Click on “Facts”
- Type in search box “Russia”

WatchKnowLearn.org – Free educational videos.

<http://www.watchknowlearn.org/>

To watch exciting videos of traditional Russia folk dancing:

- Type in the search box “Russian Folk Dancing”.

Liberia



System of government: Republic

President: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (January 18, 2006)

Population (2014 est.): 4,092,310

Land area: 37,189 sq mi (96,320 sq km); total area: 43,000 sq mi (111,369 sq km)

Capital and largest city: Monrovia (2011 est. population – 750,000)

Monetary unit: Liberian Dollar (LRD)

National name: Republic of Liberia

Languages: English (official), some 20 ethnic group languages which includes Bandi, Kpelle, Kru

Ethnicity/race: Kpelle, Bassa, Grebo, Gio, Mano, Kru, Lorma, Kissi, Gola

Religions: Christian, Muslim, and native religions

National Holiday: Independence Day, July 26 (1847)

Literacy rate: 60.8%

Economic summary: GDP/PPP (2013 est.): \$2.898 billion; per capita \$700. **Real growth rate:** 8.1%

Inflation: 5.2%. **Unemployment:** 85% (2003 est.). **Agriculture:** rubber, coffee, cocoa, rice, cassava

(tapioca), palm oil, sugarcane, bananas; sheep, goats; timber. **Labor force:** 1.372 million (2007):

agriculture 70%, industry 8%, services 22% (2000 est.). **Industries:** rubber processing, palm oil

processing, timber, diamonds. **Natural resources:** iron ore, timber, diamonds, gold, hydropower.

Exports: \$929.8 million (2013 est.): rubber, timber, iron, diamonds, cocoa, coffee. **Imports:** \$2.457 billion

(2013 est.): fuels, chemicals, machinery, transportation equipment, manufactured goods; foodstuffs.

Major trading partners: South Korea, Japan, China, Spain, Algeria, Thailand, Malaysia, France, Singapore (2012).

Communications: Telephones: main lines in use: 3,2011 (2011); mobile cellular: 2,394,000

(2012). **Broadcast media:** 3 private TV stations; satellite TV service available; 1 state-owned

radio station; about 15 independent radio stations broadcasting in Monrovia, with another 25

local stations operating in other areas. **Internet Service Providers (ISPs):** 7 (2012). **Internet**

users: 20,000 (2009).

Transportation: Railways: total: 429 km; **Highways:** total: 10,600 km; paved 657 km; unpaved

9,943 km (2000 est.). **Ports and harbors:** Buchanan, Monrovia. **Airports:** 28 (2013)

Emblem taken from <<http://www.afrika-junior.de/en/youth/knownledges.html>> Nov. 28, 2014

Liberian facts taken from <<http://www.factmonster.com/country/liberia.html>> Nov. 28, 2014

History taken from <www.ducksters.com/geography/country/liberia> Nov. 14, 2014

Ten fun facts about Liberia

Fact 1

One of the most admired leaders in the world, Nelson Mandela was born in Liberia.

Fact 2

The second largest tropical rainforest in West Africa, the Sapo National park is located here. It has around 125 species of mammals. It is home to the rare pygmy hippopotamus.

Fact 3

After Haiti, Liberia is the world's second Black Republic.

Fact 4

The country was not only founded but was colonized by American slaves who had been freed.

Fact 5

The Liberian flag is designed after the American flag. The eleven white and red stripes that it sports stand for the eleven people who signed the country's Independence declaration.

Fact 6

The single large white star on the flag represents Liberia's long history as the "Lone Star", the only independent republic in Africa during the colonial period.

Fact 7

Liberia's capital city, Monrovia was named after a United States' president- James Monroe.

Fact 8

The country is literally a bird-haven. Liberia has 700 bird species which include a bird that is a wee bit larger than a honey bee- the bee warbler.

Fact 9

George Weah a Liberian citizen was the only African to hold three prestigious sports titles in one single year- In 1995 he was named - African Footballer of the Year, FIFA World Player of the Year and European Footballer of the Year.

Fact 10

Oprah Winfrey had traced her ancestors back to the Liberian region of Kpelle.



Famous Places in Liberia

3-7

National Museum of Liberia



A national museum in Monrovia, which houses historical papers and artifacts of Liberia.

Sapo National Park



A national park in Sinoe County, Liberia. It is the country's largest protected area of rainforest and its only national park. Sapo National Park is located in the Upper Guinean forest ecosystem. It has "the highest mammal species diversity of any region in the world." according to Conservation International.

Taken from <<http://fortuneofafrica.com/liberia/2014/03/20/top-tourist-attractions-liberia/>> Nov 29, 2014

Pictures Taken from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberian_National_Museum> Nov. 29, 2014

Famous Places in Liberia

Gertylue Floral Park A horticultural garden in the suburb of Congotown, in Monrovia.

Lake Piso



Also known as **Lake Pisu and Fisherman's Lake**, is an oblong tidal lagoon in Grand Cape Mount County in western Liberia, near the town of Robertsport. At an area of 103 km² (40 sq mi), it is the largest lake in Liberia. Its name originates from a local term meaning "pigeon's hole" – a reference to the flocks of pigeons that once came to Lake Piso for water.¹



Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve

Located on the borders of Guinea, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, Mount Nimba rises above the surrounding savannah. Its slopes are covered by dense forest at the foot of grassy mountain pastures. They harbor an especially rich flora and fauna, with endemic species such as the viviparous toad and chimpanzees that use stones as tools.

Taken from <<http://fortuneofafrica.com/liberia/2014/03/20/top-tourist-attractions-liberia/>> Nov 29, 2014

Pictures Taken from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberian_National_Museum> Nov. 29, 2014

Famous Places in Liberia

Kpa-Tawe Waterfalls

Kpa Tawe Waterfalls located approximately 240 km from Monrovia at Kapatawee, Bong County. The falls are best for viewing.

Firestone Rubber Plantation

Firestone Plantation is situated within 33 km from Monrovia; Liberia is now home to the world's largest single natural rubber operation. Firestone operates on a much smaller area of land with close to 8 million rubber trees planted on 200 square miles at its Harbel location.

Providence Island

An island outside of Monrovia. The site where freed slaves from American first landed in 1821 . Providence Island is now a place of amusement and recreation with a bandstand and amphitheater for traditional African music and dance.

The Kendeja Cultural Center

Kandeja National Cultural Centre is located along the **Atlantic Ocean**. It was established in 1964 and is displays all aspects of tribal life, customs and traditions of Liberia.

Liberia's Centennial Pavilion



The Centennial Pavilion is used for the inauguration of Liberian presidents. It contains monuments and is the grave site of former Liberian president William V. S. Tubman.

Taken from <<http://fortuneofafrica.com/liberia/2014/03/20/top-tourist-attractions-liberia/>> Nov 29, 2014
Pictures Taken from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberian_National_Museum> Nov. 29, 2014

Famous People of Liberia

- **Joseph Amoah** soccer player
- **Edward Wilmot Blyden** author, diplomat, educator
- **Helene Cooper** journalist
- **Roland T. Dempster** writer
- **Samuel K. Doe** former president
- **Michael Kpakala Francis** Archbishop
- **Comfort Freeman** peace activist
- **Gbowee** peace activist
- **Ola John** soccer player
- **Dulee Johnson** footballer
- **Hilary R.W. Johnson** former president
- **Bhawoh Jue** footballer
- **Francis Kateh** physician, academic
- **Klay Kieh** politician
- **Robert Kpoto** surgeon, politician
- **Clarence Moniba** writer, actor, footballer
- **Sio Moore** footballer
- **Darlington Nage** soccer player
- **Sekou Oliseh** soccer player
- **Joseph Jenkins Roberts** former president
- **Edward James Roye** former president
- **Ellen Johnson Sirleaf** President
- **Charles Taylor** former president
- **William R. Tolbert, Jr.** former president
- **William Tubman** former president
- **Sultan Tucker** athlete
- **George Weah** soccer player, politician
- **Izetta Sombo Wesley** Head Liberian Football Association
- **Dioh Williams** footballer
- **Cletus Wotorson** politician, geologist
- **Joe Woyee** singer, musician, composer, artist

Liberia

Lesson 1: Beginnings

Goals for Lesson 1:

- The students will understand why Liberia was founded and how it was settled.
- Students will begin to build foundation knowledge of the country and people we will be studying this year.

Before Class:

- Read through lesson and decide what you will use according to your age group and time allotted.
- Obtain a real Liberian Flag if possible, or prepare the picture on the lesson cover as a power point slide or print it and back it with cardstock for stability.
- If you are going to make the Liberian Flag craft, prepare the following materials:
 1. One white craft foam rectangle (4" x 5 ½") and one white foam star for each student.
 2. Blue craft foam square (2x2 in.) for each student
 3. Three red craft foam stripes (5 ½ in. long x 3/8 in. high) and three red foam stripes (3 ½ in. long x 3/8 in. high) for each student.
 4. Two adhesive backed magnet strips for each student.
 5. Make a baggie kit for each child by putting all materials for one flag into a Ziploc baggie. Make one sample to show children finished craft.
 6. Have Elmer's or tacky glue on hand or use adhesive backed foam.
- Make copies of the blank and labeled African maps for each student (not back to back). Gather colored pencils, crayons or markers to use in class.
- Make a copy of the flag coloring page for each student.

Lesson Plan:

- Give each student a blank Africa map, a labeled map and some colored pencils or crayons. Play a game with the maps, giving directions like: "Find Egypt and color it green." Children will find Egypt on the labeled map, find the corresponding shape on the blank map, and color the blank shape green. Older children can be paired with younger children. Make any number of directions, telling them to "draw a tree in Zaire", or "circle the island country", ending with "find Liberia and put a star on it." (10-15 min.)
- Read or tell the story part of the lesson, adapting, discussing and explaining as needed for your group of children. (15-20 min.)
- Make the flag craft, as described. Tell the children to stick the magnet on their refrigerator or another metal surface at home. (10-15 min.)
- Use the flag coloring page as an ending activity, or send it home to finish later. (5 min.)

Lesson 1 Story: Beginnings

Do you know how America got its start? A long time ago, a group of people left the country of England so that they could have freedom to worship God how they wanted and to live their lives the way they chose. The country that we are going to be talking about is called Liberia, and it got started in a very similar way.

The name Liberia actually means “land of the free,” which tells us that it too was a place that people went so they could enjoy freedom. A long time ago, a group of 86 American people got on a ship and moved to a piece of land on the coast of the continent of Africa about the size of our state of Tennessee. The people who moved there were African-Americans who were slaves in America but had been freed by their masters. They were going to Africa to start a new country that they would call, Liberia. This was to be a brand new country where no one would be a slave. Later, this group of people would become known as Americo-Liberians. It was this group of people that established Monrovia, the capitol of Liberia. Monrovia is named after one of our Presidents, James Monroe.

Here in the United States we have a Declaration of Independence that tells us about the freedoms that we can enjoy. Well, the new country of Liberia wanted to do the same thing. On July 26, 1847 they declared themselves the Republic of Liberia. They even created a flag very similar to the one we have here in the United States. Do you know how many stars our American flag has? How many stripes? Here on the Liberian flag, there is one star instead of fifty. **(Show picture of Liberian Flag)** There are also 11 stripes on the Liberian flag unlike the American flag which has thirteen. The star on the Liberian flag represents the shining light of a new country on a dark continent, which is why there is a dark blue square on the flag. The eleven stripes represent the eleven people who signed the Liberian Declaration of Independence. The official language would be English, even though there were still many tribal languages being spoken as well.

Liberia started off as a series of colonies, just like America did. The former slaves from different states wanted to settle close to each other. For example, former slaves from Virginia settled with other former slaves from Virginia and so on. The American government offered to pay the way for former slaves who wanted to settle in Liberia. Even though there were about one and a half million African-Americans in the United States at that time, only twenty thousand decided to leave the country and settle in Liberia. Since there were many tribal groups that were already living on the piece of land that became Liberia, the 20,000 Americo-Liberians who began setting up a new government and a new capital city, only made up 5% of the total population of the new country.

While it was exciting that Liberia was its own free nation, the government was being led by people who had no prior experience running a government. Also, the members of African tribes who already lived on that land had completely different traditions than the Americo-Liberians. Sadly, the Americo-Liberians didn't always understand the customs and traditions of the tribal people. The result was that the Americo-Liberians forced the tribal people to become more civilized. Even though the tribal people were the majority in Liberia, they were not allowed to vote in any government elections until the 1940's.

As a result of the tribal people being treated unfairly, there were many inter-tribal wars and tribal raids on the settlers. Many years of civil war among the tribes led to great devastation of the land, the economy, the buildings and the families who lived in Liberia.

Along with the inter-tribal wars, Liberia suffered some financial problems as well. One President, Edwin Roye, had sent three men to London to get a government loan for \$500,000. The bank charged them for \$500,000, but only gave them \$350,000, which is what they expected because of the exchange rates. The problem was that President Roye was selfish and spent \$250,000 on himself and his friends. That means that the country had a big debt, but only \$100,000 was spent on improving the country.

Even though many people had good intentions about starting a country where former slaves could be free and govern themselves, you can see that there were a lot of problems that no one thought about ahead of time. The people who made up the population of this new little country in Africa did not know how to get along with each other, or to make good laws that would help everyone who lived there.

In Jan. 2006 Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf became president of Liberia and Africa's first female president. Johnson-Sirleaf, along with Leymah Gbowee, also of Liberia, and Tawakkul Karman, of Yemen, won the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize in October "for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work."

Where is Liberia?

Find Liberia on this map of Africa and colour it in.

The capital of Liberia is _____

Mark the capital's position on the map.



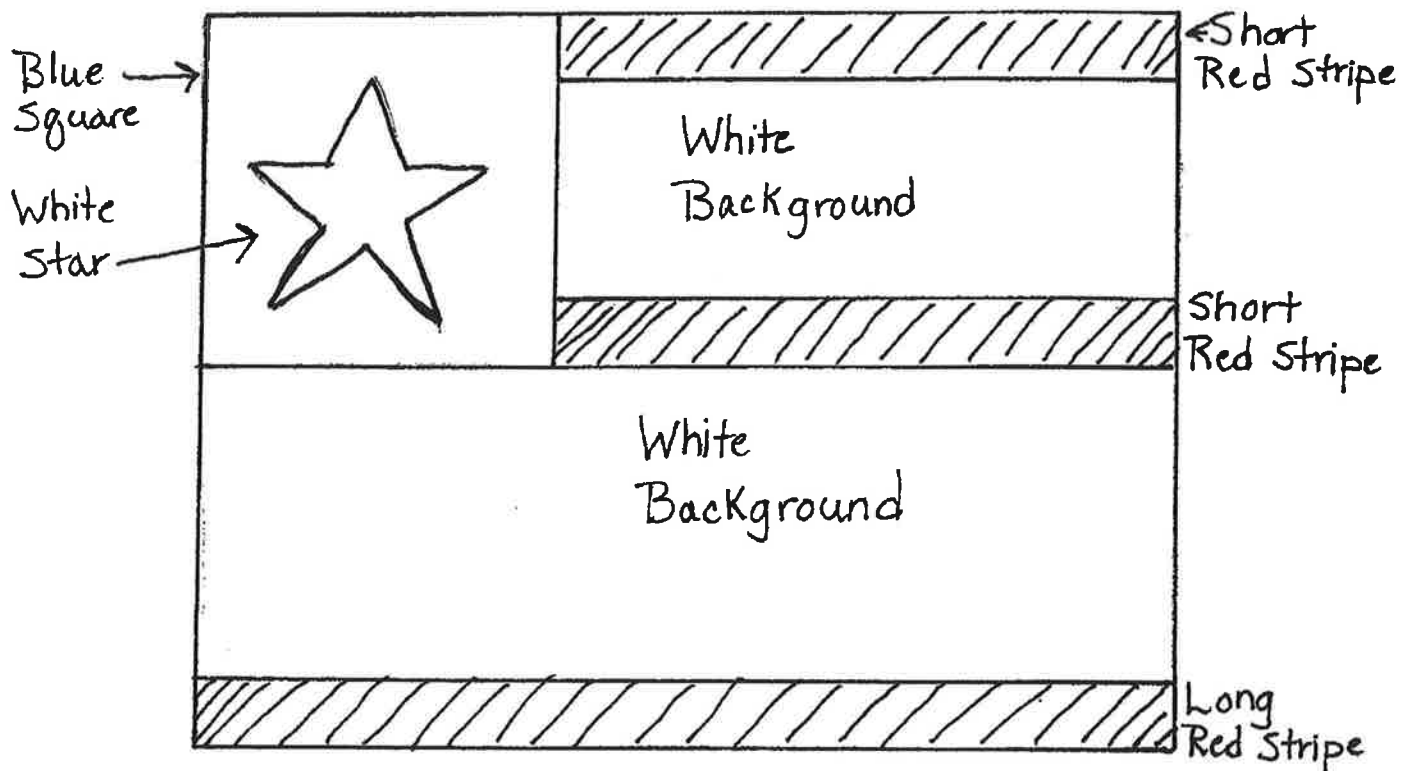
Where is Liberia?

Find Liberia on this map of Africa and colour it in.

The capital of Liberia is _____



Assembling The Flag Magnet



1. Glue the blue square in the upper left-hand corner of the white rectangle. Glue the star in the center of the blue square.
2. Glue one of the long (5 ½ inch) stripes at the bottom and one of the short (3 ½ inch) stripes at the top of the white rectangle.
3. Glue a second short stripe in place, making sure the bottom of the red stripe and the bottom of the blue square form a continuous line. (see diagram above).
4. Place the other three stripes on the white background. Glue the stripes down once they have been centered.
5. Apply the magnet strips on the back.
6. Use as a prayer reminder for Liberia.

Liberia

Lesson 2: Trouble in Liberia

Goals for Lesson 2:

- Students will begin to develop a compassionate heart for the people of Liberia.
- Students will understand some of the terrible conditions war has produced in Liberia and how the lives of the children there have been affected by the years of war.

Before Class:

- Read through lesson and decide how you will use the material, according to your age group and time allotted.
- Prepare pictures as power point slides, or print them and back them with card stock for stability.
- Make a copy of the coloring page for each student.

Lesson Plan:

- Read or tell the story part of the lesson, explaining, discussing or adapting as necessary for your group of children, and showing the pictures as indicated. (15-20 minutes)
- Give students the picture of the Liberian Refugees and some colored pencils or crayons. As they color the picture, talk about the problem of refugees, the conditions they live under, and the seeming hopelessness of their situation. (8-10 minutes)

Lesson 2 Story: Trouble in Liberia

Do you remember anything about the people who settled in Liberia? Where did they move from? What was their life like before they came to Liberia? That's right, they were slaves living in America. Now like we talked about before, not all Liberians were American slaves. Some of them were tribal natives. We talked about one of the Presidents of Liberia, and how he was stealing money from his own country. What do you think happened to him? Do you think he continued to be the President? No, he was thrown out of office and a new president was put in charge of the country of Liberia.

Sadly, the new president was just as bad and Liberia continued to have money problems. In fact, the debt was so bad, that other countries started talking about dividing the country. In order to avoid this, the leader of Liberia came up with a plan. They decided to make a deal with a Spanish company to provide workers for their cocoa plantations in exchange for money to help pay the national debt. They sent government troops into the native villages to capture men and boys to be sent away as slaves to work on the plantations in Spain.

The reason they chose to capture the native Africans and not the Americo-Liberians is because the Americo-Liberians thought that they were better than the native Africans because while they were slaves in America, many of them had learned how to read and write. Some of the native tribes had a written language, but many did not and had no form of education for their children. So the Americo-Liberians excluded the tribal people from voting or holding any sort of government offices, even though the tribal people were by far the majority of the population.

When the government started forcing the natives to work as slaves on cocoa plantations in Spain, one of the tribes had enough and decided they needed to do something about the situation. They decided to kill that president and replace him with a person of their own ethnicity. Unfortunately, their political leader was not very good either, so another ethnic group forced him out of power and put their own candidate in power. With all the changing of political leaders, and none of the native groups and Americo-Liberians agreeing on who should run the government, a war broke out, with each group fighting against the others, and trying to take power over the government.

The people of Liberia fought against each other from 1989-1996 and then again from 1999-2003. For almost 15 years, there was no peace or safety for the Liberian people. During these times more than 200,000 people were killed and over a million more were displaced into refugee camps in neighboring countries.

People from all of the ethnic groups and tribes were involved in the fighting. Even little boys and girls were affected by the fighting. Many of them became orphans when their moms and dads were killed. Others suffered from hunger and homelessness, and from constantly living in fear. Some boys were even forced to become soldiers. They had to learn how to use knives and carry guns. **(Show picture of boy with his damaged home.)** Many families had to leave their homes and walk for hundreds of miles looking for a safer place to live. The people who made it across the border into another country are called refugees. **(Show picture of woman in her refugee shelter.)** They set up temporary living spaces in areas that became large refugee camps. These camps often became overcrowded, dirty and dangerous, with too many frightened people crowded together with not enough to eat.

When the fighting finally stopped, the government did not know what to do to improve the devastated lives of the Liberian people. Unemployment was at 75% because there was no place left to work. No one had been able to go to school for almost 15 years, so only 25% of the people living in the whole country could read or write. There was no running water and no reliable electricity even in the capital city of Monrovia. **(Show picture of young children whose only home has been a refugee camp.)**

Since 2005, Liberia has been relatively peaceful. With help from other countries, they held their first peaceful election with 23 candidates from all backgrounds to choose from. The president that was elected, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, is known as being the first woman head of state on the entire continent of Africa. Since coming to power, she has tried to make Liberia more prosperous for all Liberians, not just those that are the same ethnic group as her.

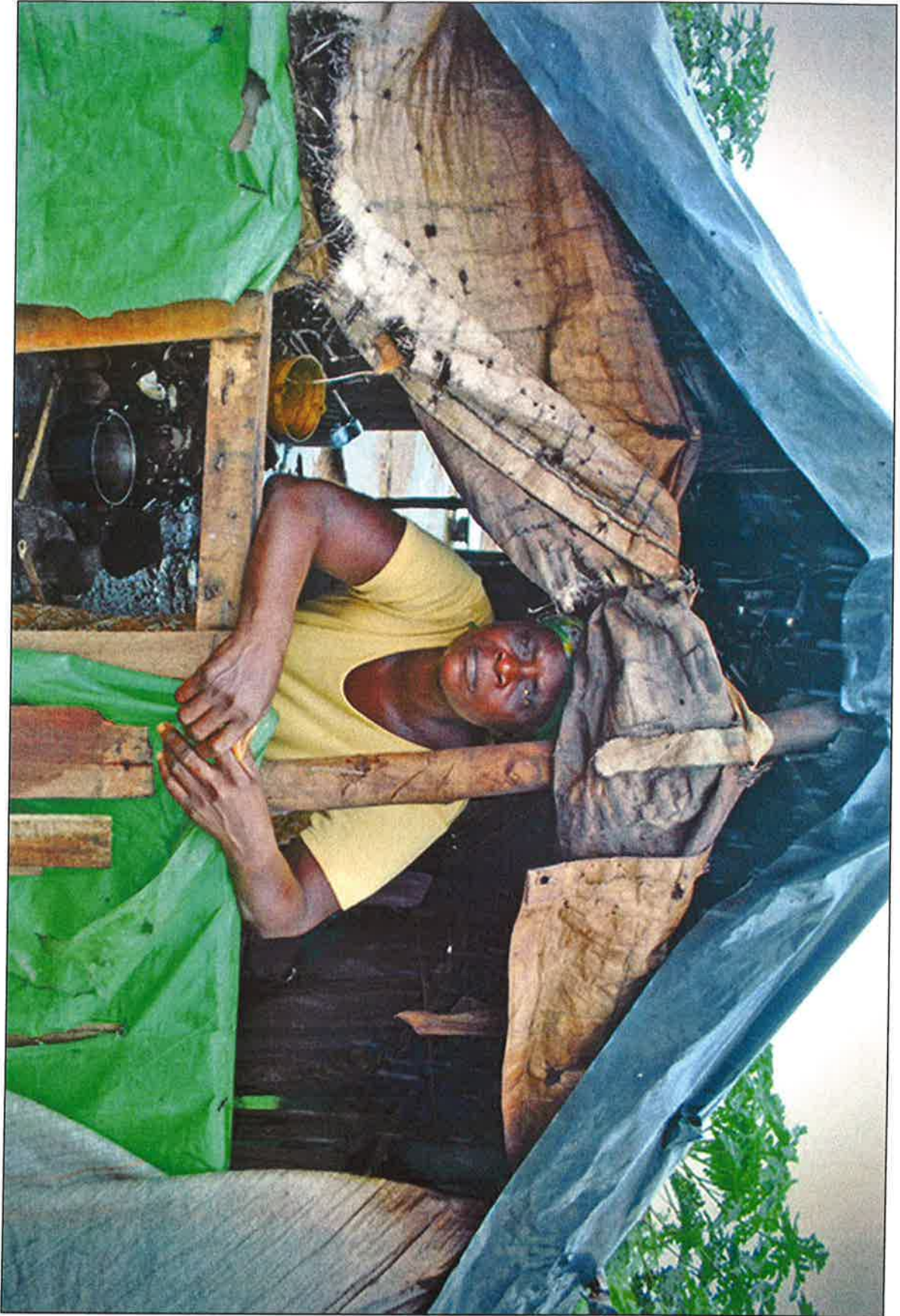
Ebola Outbreak Kills Hundreds

An outbreak of Ebola hit Liberia in May 2014. The outbreak was particularly bad in parts of Monrovia, and the government quarantined the crowded, poor West Point neighborhood, which was hard hit. Residents protested the quarantine and clashed with police. In late August, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak an international emergency. It is the worst outbreak since the virus was first identified almost 40 years ago.

Trouble in Liberia



Taken from <<http://eccenter.com/>> Dec. 8, 2014



Taken from <<http://eccenter.com/>> Dec. 8, 2014



Taken from <<http://eccenter.com/>> Dec. 8, 2014

Liberian Refugees



Tribes of Liberia

Goals for Lesson 3:

- Students will become familiar with some of the native tribes living in Liberia, and some distinctive characteristics of each.
- Students will begin to understand the tense relationships between the tribes that helped to fuel years of civil war.

Before Class:

- Read through lesson and decide how you will use the material, according to your age group and time allotted.
- Using colored pencils, sketch general boundaries for each of the (15) tribes on the map. *Note that the Mandingo Tribe is scattered throughout the country and have no special tribal area.* Fill in each area with a different color to show individual territories. Darken the country's border and put a star at Monrovia, to give your students a feel for the size and layout of the country of Liberia. Liberia is about the size of Tennessee.
- Print one blank map for each student to fill in Monrovia, rivers and 15 tribes.
- Print the large tribe names, and the smaller characteristic cards on cardstock (all the same color). Cut out cards and prepare tape or sticky tack for the activity.

Lesson Plan:

- Read or tell the story part of the lesson as follows: (20-25 minutes, total)
- Show students the map you prepared, while reading or telling the first six small paragraphs of the story part of the lesson. Explain as necessary, or answer any questions.
- Hang the map visibly on a whiteboard or the wall, and stick the tribe name cards underneath the map. Pass out small characteristic cards randomly to students.
- As you begin the next part of the story, tell students to listen carefully for you to mention the characteristic they hold in their hand. As you read about the nine tribes described in the story, each student should get up when you mention their characteristic and come to the board and place it under the appropriate tribe name. (Use masking tape rolls or sticky tack to attach cards to the wall or whiteboard) As you read about each tribe, you can also point out their territory on the colored map. When you are all done, all students should have placed their card under a tribe name, and the board should look like a little visual diagram outlining nine of the sixteen tribes found in Liberia.
- Finish telling or reading the rest of the story part of the lesson.

Tribes of Liberia

Story: Tribes of Liberia

What do you think of when you hear the word tribe? People all over the world that live in social groups are called tribes. Today we're going to learn a little about the different tribes in Liberia.

Each tribe has a name that they give themselves. It is not a name that is given to them by another tribe or any government official. They usually create their own system of government with a ruling chief, elders, and a ruling council. They have their own standard of behavior that the ruling body is there to enforce.

Each tribe tends to keep to its own territory, which is an area claimed by the tribe for use in building houses, growing crops, hunting and preparing food. **(Show the colored map you have prepared.)** Tribe members also tend to speak a common language. Sometimes that language is written down with symbols and they teach their children how to read and write in their language. Other tribes have never written their language down. It is just a spoken language, and there is no way to read it or write it.

Family is essential to tribal life. Members of any given tribe can tell who belongs to a tribe and who doesn't and that is because of things like language and customs. Tribal leaders uphold standards that the tribe must live by. Many tribal members can trace their family back 3-5 generations to a single person.

Each tribe also has its own legends and stories about famous ancestors, heroes and how the tribe came to be. There are also customs and practices that only those tribe members participate in. Some customs can be simple like the way to properly greet somebody. Some customs can be more complicated, like the proper way to be married.

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Experts have identified three major language groups and sixteen major tribes in Liberia. Each of them has their own history, traditions and beliefs. They also have their own viewpoints about themselves as well as other tribes. Let's take a closer look at some of the tribes.

Bassa - Once known as "people of the forest," this tribe made a living by hunting animals for food and gathering fruits and vegetables. They also have a long history of serving the Americo-Liberians as nannies, drivers, or housekeepers.

Dei (pronounced "day") - This tribe was very involved in the slave trade. They lived along the coast and sold the captured Africans to the Europeans. They were also salt traders. One form of art that they are known for is their intricately carved wooden masks.

Gola - They were the middlemen in the slave trade. They transported captured slaves from the inland groups to the Dei and the Vai tribes who in turn sold them to the Europeans. They also kept some slaves for themselves and depended on them to work their farms - even after slavery was declared illegal in England and the US.

Kissi - They are known to be excellent rice farmers.

Loma - This tribe is considered to be the best farmers in the country.

Kpelle - This was the tribe that was passed through other tribes as slaves. Liberians still to this day have very little respect for anyone who speaks with a Kpelle accent.

Kru (Crew)- This tribe lives along the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. They are considered the masters of sailing and fishing. Many of them work at the Port of Monrovia or for the Liberian Coast Guard.

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Mandingo - This tribe has a unique heritage. They are Muslims who came to the area as traders several hundred years ago. The other tribes greatly respected their military and political strength. They also brought with them the Koran, which was a written book. No other tribes had a written language at the time the Mandingos came to Liberia.

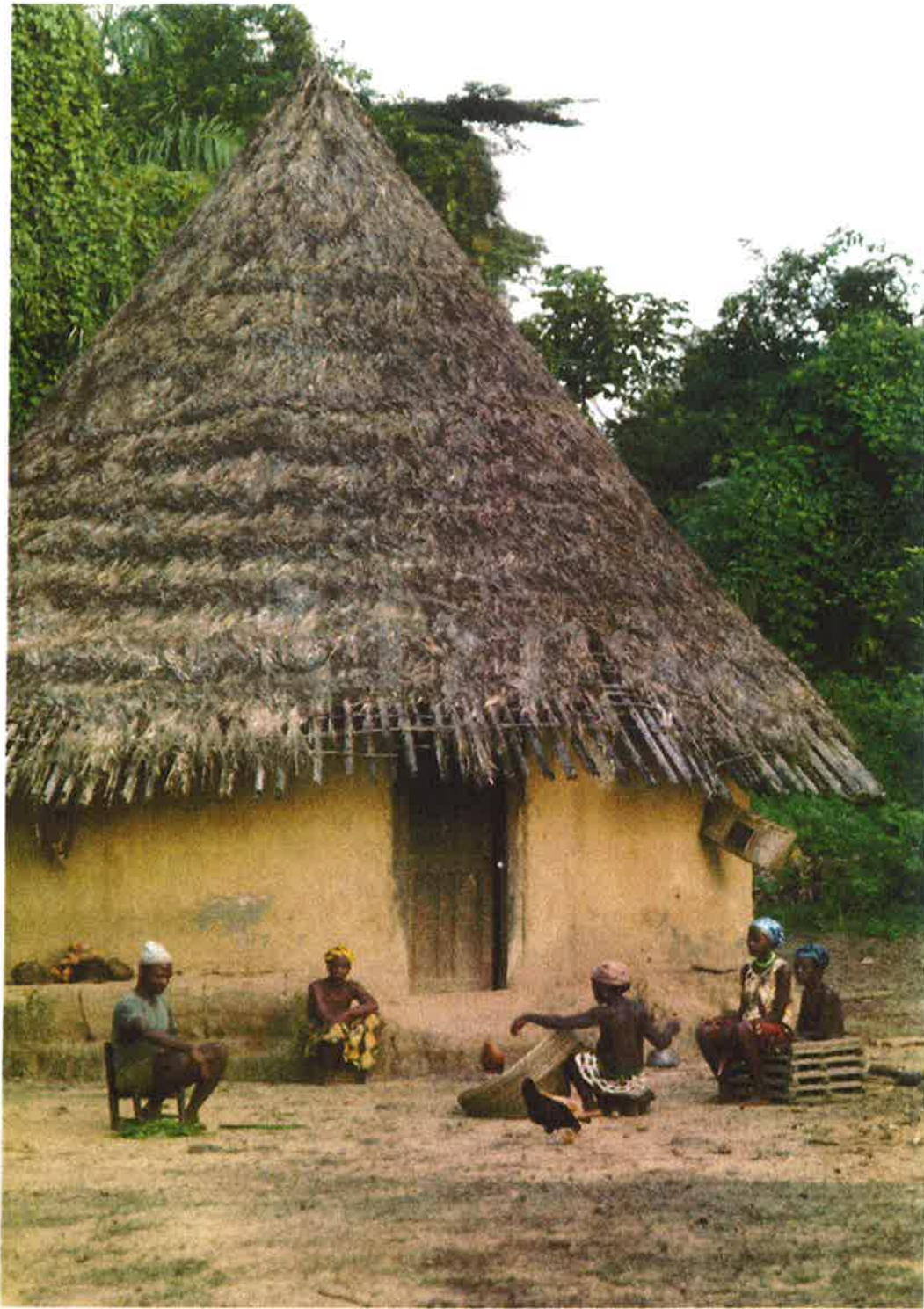
Vai (Rhymes with eye) - They were important because they were one of the first tribes to develop their own written script over 100 years ago.

Most of the tribal groups live in a community of 1,000 people or less. They live in huts made out of wood and mud with cone-shaped thatched roofs. **(Show picture of tribal home.)** Inside of the huts, they do not have electricity or indoor plumbing, so you wouldn't be able to flip on a light switch or turn on a faucet in the sink. You wouldn't be able to watch TV or play on the computer or even cook your food on a stove.

All of the cooking is done over an open fire. Children often are given the job of finding enough firewood to keep the cooking fire burning. **(Show picture of girls carrying firewood.)** Imagine how hot it must get to be cooking during the summer over an open fire. Imagine if you wanted to take a bath. How do you think you would get water if there was no running water inside of your hut? Children often have the job of carrying the family's water from a stream or a well. **(Show picture of boy with water jar on his head.)** Would you like to do that every day?

Now that we have learned a little about the many different tribes, it might be easier to understand why Liberia had so many problems creating a united government.

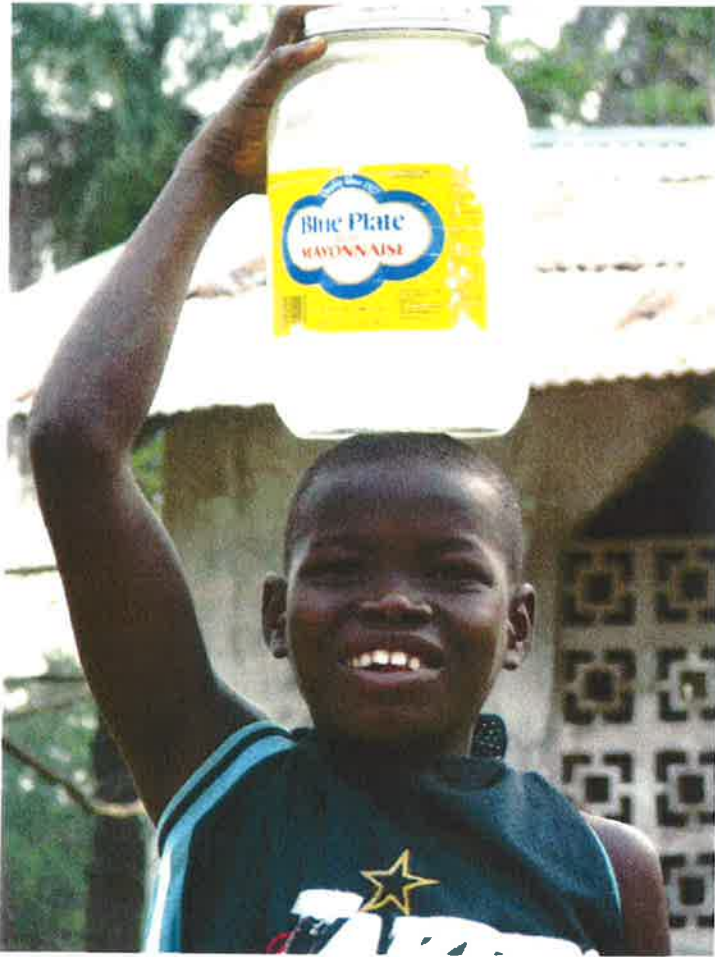
Give students the **blank maps** to complete. Display your map so students know where to write the rivers and tribe names.



Traditional village home in the Kpelle Tribe.

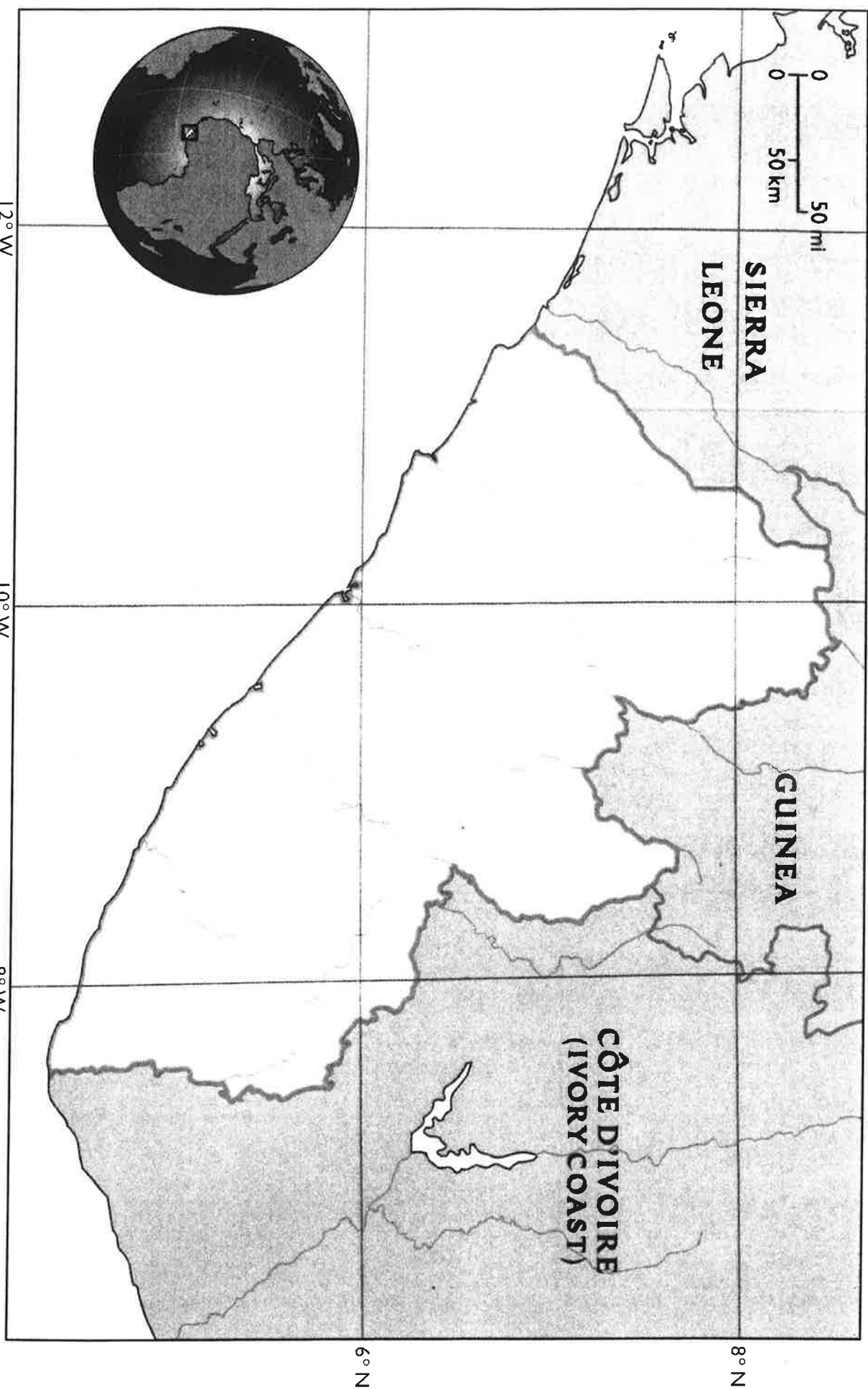
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Traditional village home in the Kpelle Tribe.



Children carry water for the family. An old glass jar will do.





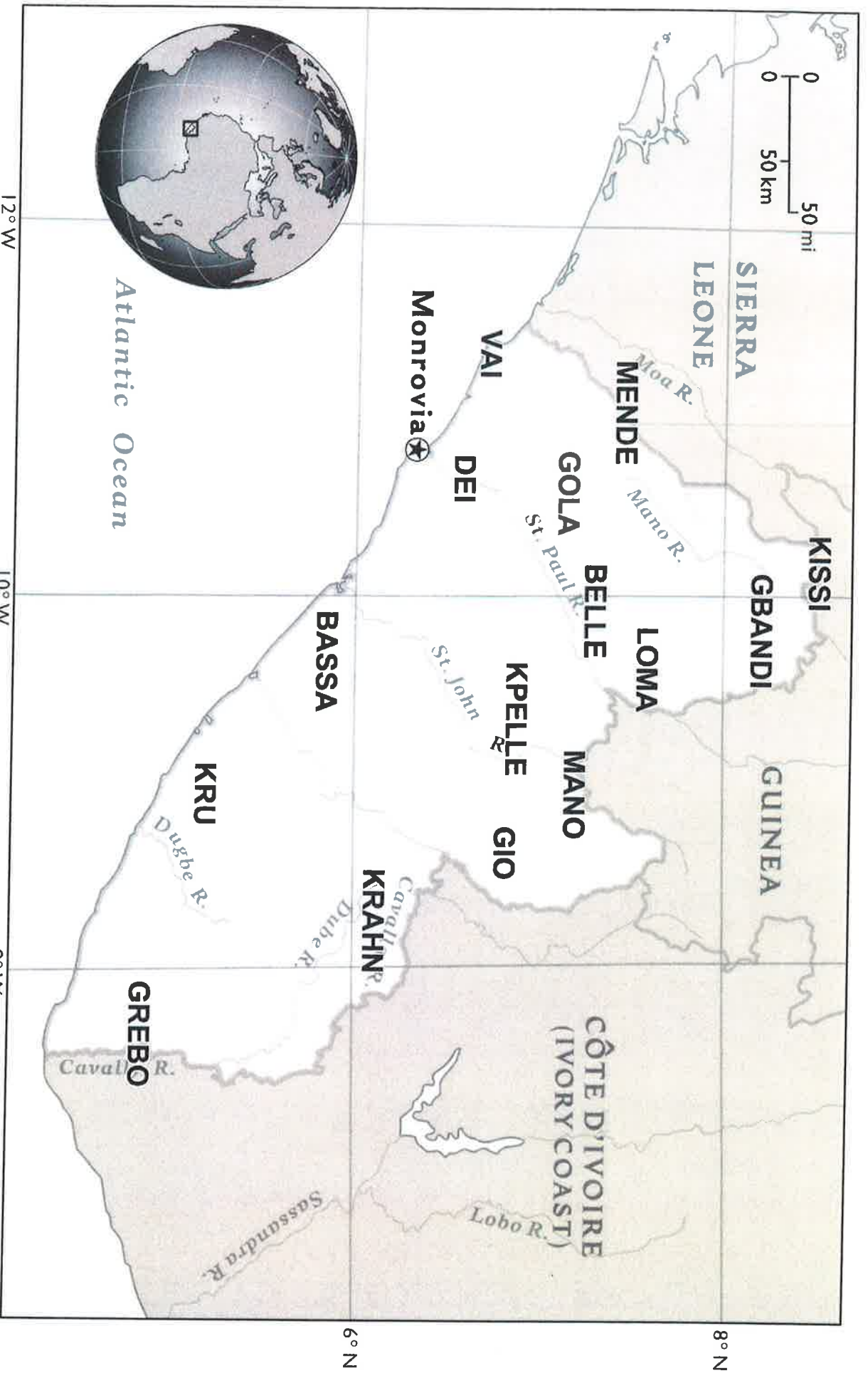
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Locate The following places on the map: Atlantic Ocean, Mano River, St. John River, Cess River, Dugbe River, Dube River, and Liberian Tribes:

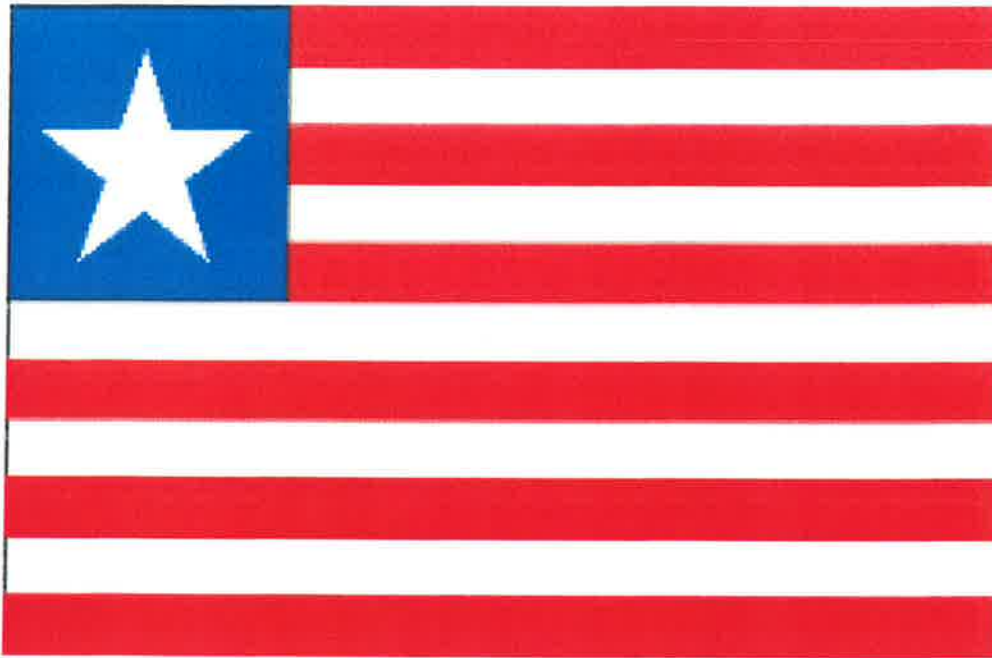
f , Belle, Dei, Gio, Gola, Grandi, Grebo, Kissi, Kpelle, Krahn, Kru, L Mana, Mandingo, Mende, Vai,



BASSA	DEI
GOLA	KISSI
LOMA	KPELLE
KRU	MANDINGO
	VAI

Tribes of Liberia

PEOPLE OF THE FOREST	HUNTING AND GATHERING	DEVELOPED OWN WRITING
HOUSE SERVANTS		TRANSPORT CAPTURED SLAVES
INVOLVED IN SLAVE TRADE	LIVE ALONG THE COAST	USE SLAVES TO WORK FARMS
SALT TRADERS	CARVED WOODEN MASKS	RICE FARMERS
BEST FARMERS IN COUNTRY	SLAVES	LITTLE RESPECT
LIVE ALONG COAST	SAILING AND FISHING	WORK FOR COAST GUARD
MUSLIM TRADERS	MILITARY STRENGTH	BROUGHT KORAN TO LIBERIA

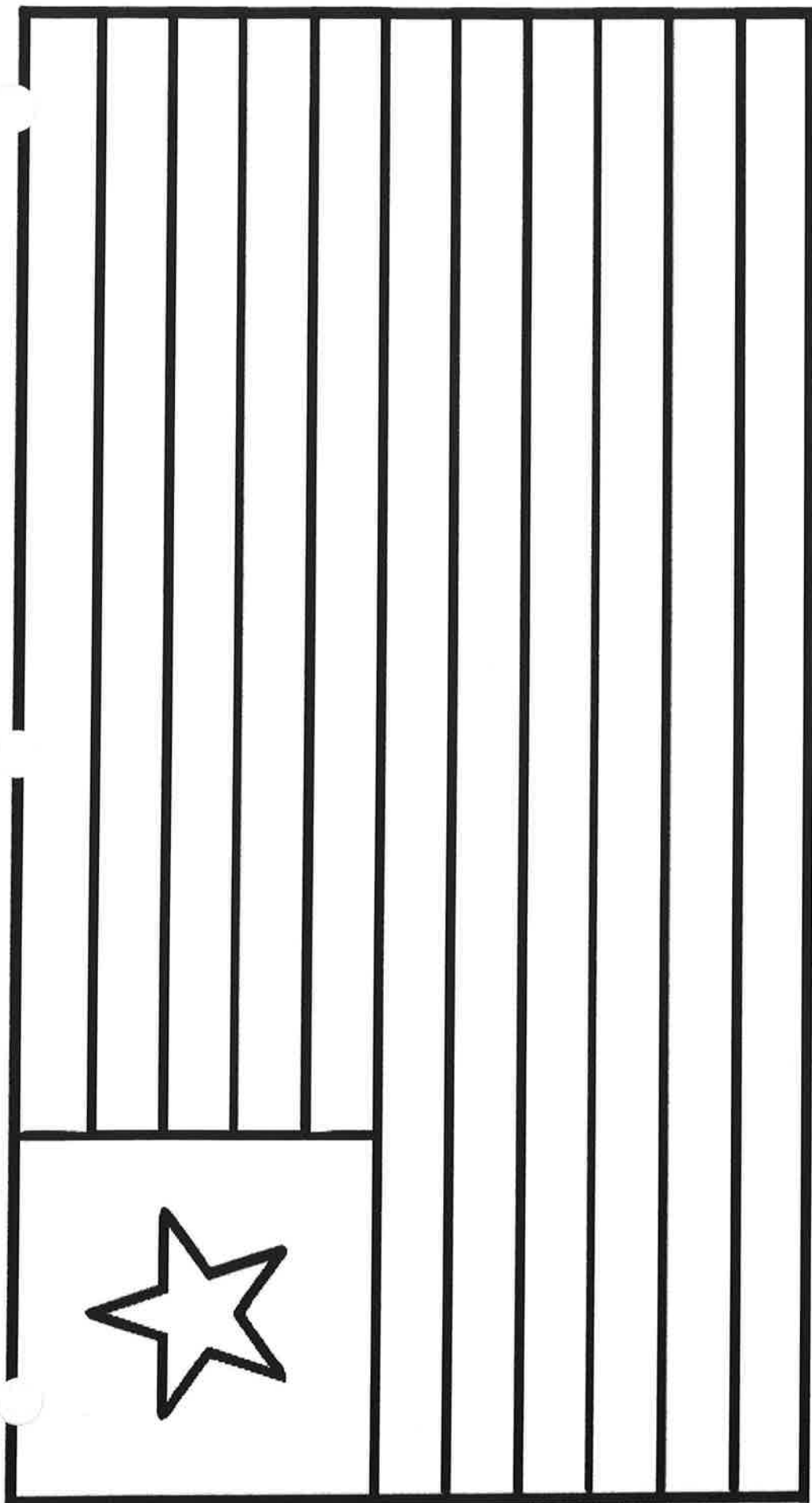


The official national symbols reflect the American origin of the nation-state. The flag is a replica of the American flag, but with a single large white star on a blue field representing Liberia's long history as the "Lone Star," the only independent republic on Africa during the colonial period. The eleven red and white stripes represent the 11 signer of the Liberian Declaration of Independence.

The **Great Seal** depicts a sailing ship like that which carried the American settlers to Africa, a palm tree, and a plow and ax with the motto "The Love of Liberty Brought Us Here."

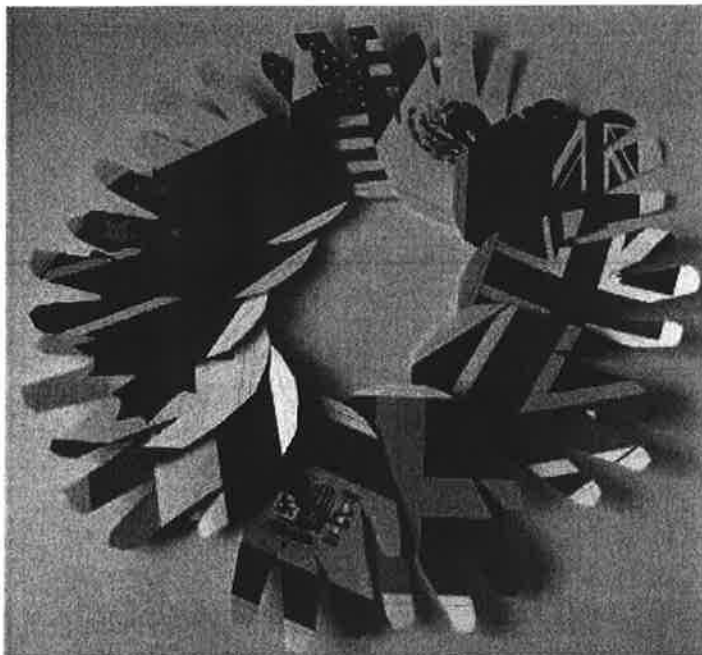


LIBERTY



Flag Handprint Wreath

This flag handprint wreath makes an excellent group project for international days or sporting events such as the Olympic Games - and it makes a stunning wall or table decoration too!

**You will need:**

White card

colouring pens

Glue

Our flag printables or our flag colouring pages (optional)

Instructions:

Give each child a piece of white card and have them draw and cut out their hand.

Let each child decorate their card hand with the design of a different flag. For older children you could just give them the country name and have them research the design of their flag.

Flag Collage

Here's a fun, hands-on way to learn about your country's Flag!



You will need:

Rectangle of card

Scraps of red paper (junk mail, tissue paper, catalogues etc)

Gold star stickers (1 large, 3 small)

PVA glue

Instructions:

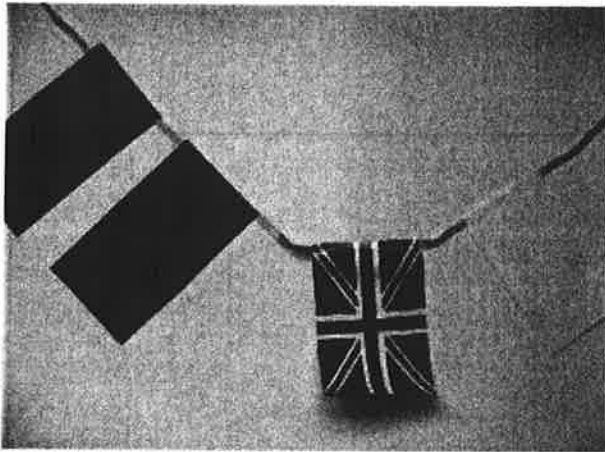
Cover your rectangle with glue. Rip the paper into small pieces and cover the card.

Paint a layer of glue over the top to stick down any loose bits and leave to dry.

Trim any untidy edges. Stick the large star in the top left corner, with the three smaller stars around it.

Flag Bunting

You can use our printable flags to make bunting to decorate your house, school or classroom for sporting events, national holidays or other patriotic celebrations. There are many ideas below..

**You will need:**

Print-outs on paper of our large flags and coloured paper rectangles (optional, but they save on printer ink!)

Ribbon

Sticky tape

Instructions:

Cut out the flags. Tape the ribbon along the top end of the flags. Hang your bunting.

World Cultures Scavenger Hunt

Fill in the form and draw pictures to show what you have learned about this country.

Name of the country: _____

On which continent is the country located? _____

What is the capital? _____

What grows in this country? _____

What is the weather like? _____

What are some games children play in this country? _____

What do the people eat? _____

What interesting animals live in this country? _____

What are the religions in this country? _____

What is a special holiday or event? _____



Country Fact Sheet



Capital City:

Population:

Terrain:

Climate:

Natural Resources:

Type of Government:

Ordering Countries:

Map:

Flag:

Holidays and Traditions:

Famous people:

Famous landmarks:

Foods:

Cultural Investigators Worksheet

Write the name of a popular visitors' attraction (such as a museum or landmark).	
What is the biggest city in the area? What's the city's population?	
What is the name of a sports team in the area?	
What language is spoken there?	
Who are the people (ethnic groups) who live there?	
What is a popular food eaten there?	
What is one interesting fact about the area?	
What's one thing you would want to do if you visited the city?	
What is the climate?	
What is the major export product?	
What is a major import product?	
What is a tradition of this particular culture or place?	
What is a special holiday for this country?	
Who is the current leader of the country?	
What is the country known for?	
What colors are in the country's flag?	