

RELIGION



TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES


From a young age, David's father read him Bible stories and he attended the local church twice every Sunday. He learnt about the work of Christian missionaries – people who travel across the world to tell others about their God. David especially loved reading about the German missionary Karl Gützlaff and his work in China. Gützlaff advised missionaries to become doctors so they could carry out their missionary work and convert people through serving others with their medical needs. This teaching encouraged David to become both a missionary and a doctor.

David trained at the London Missionary Society and he planned to go to the East Asia, but then the first Opium War broke out between Britain and China. By chance, he went to a talk by Robert Moffat, a Scottish missionary who was on leave from his base in Southern Africa. David was inspired by Moffat's stories and decided to go to Southern Africa instead.

When David got to Africa, he was interested in learning about the religious and cultural beliefs of the people he met, however his work as a Christian missionary meant he was there to convert people to his faith. He shared



Lantern slide depicting David Livingstone using a magic lantern.
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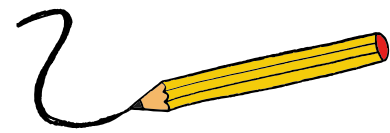


his beliefs by learning African languages so he could read the Bible to lots of different community groups. His wife, Mary, knew many African languages, including Setswana. Knowing the local languages was important for missionary and other colonial work. Another way he shared the stories from the Bible was through images. He used a magic lantern, which worked similarly to a projector. Lantern slides were used to show biblical stories.

At the time, many European missionaries in Africa set up mission stations near the coast, but few had gone into the heart of Africa because there were no maps and no roads. David, wanting to spread the Christian message far and wide, spent much of his life exploring and mapping Southern and Central Africa, opening up these routes for other missionaries and commercial activities.

ACTIVITY 1

HAPPY LAND



I am developing respect for others and my understanding of their beliefs and values.

RME 2–07a

I am developing an increasing awareness and understanding of my own beliefs and I put them into action in positive ways.

RME 2–08a

I am developing my understanding that people have beliefs and values based upon religious or other positions. RME 2–09b

TASK A

During David's travels through Africa as a missionary explorer he experienced some terrible things. During his first travels there he was attacked by a lion! He survived this but was ill many times after that. Many and many of his friends died from tropical diseases. At times, some of his expedition crew stole his belongings, which included important medicine that meant that he became more and more sick. He sometimes struggled to get food and clean water. He also found himself in many dangerous situations.

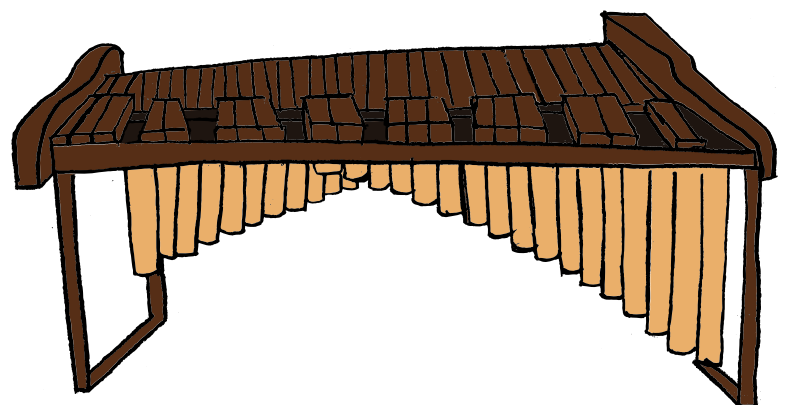
As well as these physical hardships, he was affected emotionally and psychologically by the horrors of the East African slave trade.

Throughout his life, David found solace in his Christian faith. When he felt lonely, sad or angry he had a favourite hymn (a Christian song) that helped to motivate him on his mission. The lyrics for There is a Happy Land were written by Scottish school teacher Andrew Young in 1838.

What do you think the Happy Land means? In this song, The Happy Land refers to Heaven and the word 'aye' translates as 'always' or 'forever'. Search for the lyrics to the hymn online. **Why do you think the words were a comfort to David?**

TASK B

What is your favourite song? How does it make you feel? Draw a picture of where your 'Happy Place' might be.



ACTIVITY 2

MISSIONARY WORK TODAY

I can explain why different people think that values such as honesty, respect and compassion are important, and I show respect for others. RME 2–09c

I am developing my understanding of how my own and other people's beliefs and values affect their actions. RME 2–09d

I am increasing my knowledge and understanding of different forms of Christian worship and artefacts and can explain their importance for Christians. RME 2-03a

There are still Christian missionaries today. Missionaries can live lives very similar to David's and they aim to help others by sharing their faith with people all around the world. There are missionaries that represent all faiths and all seek to serve others and share their faith through relationships and acts of service. This can be through education, social justice, healthcare and economic development. Missionaries are also present in disaster zones and global catastrophes. Some examples of these include Islamic Relief and Christian Aid.

People's values are shaped by many things, including religion. For David, his Christian faith helped him to develop important values that would inspire him to dedicate his life to helping others. Many missionaries today are also driven by these values. This is because of their faith and love for people and the world in which they live. They reflect their values in their actions, demonstrating peace, kindness, care for the

environment and a commitment to social justice. These values shape and motivate individuals to make a difference to the world and those who live in it.

TASK A

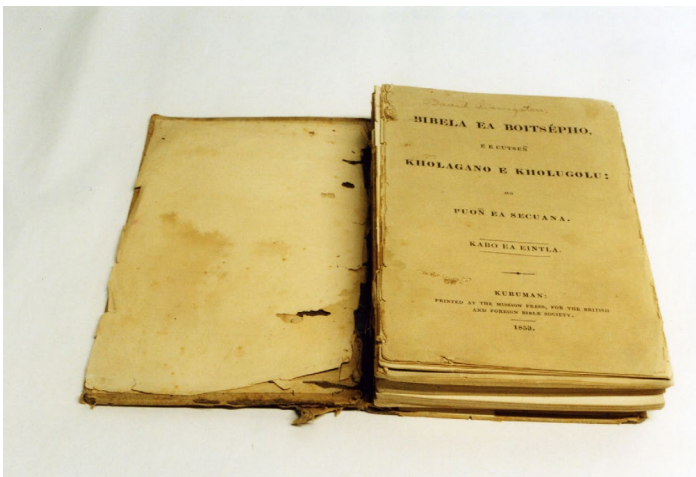
Consider the values of a Global Citizen, as defined here by Oxfam:

1. **Sense of identity and self-esteem**
2. **Commitment to social justice and equality**
3. **Respect for people and human rights**
4. **Value diversity**
5. **Concern for the environment and commitment to sustainable development**
6. **Commitment to participation and inclusion**
7. **Belief that people can bring about change**

As a class make a list of values. Consider:

1. **What values are important to you?**
2. **Where do these values come from?**
3. **How do you put these values into practice?**
4. **How will you use these values to form your future goals?**

Through this discussion consider a personal goal that will impact others.



Signed Copy of the Holy Bible (1853) (in Setswana)

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My goal is

