



Fourth stage



kasule the Crested Crane

and his ten wonders of africa



a hanging library book

Words by Annie Hawes. Pictures by Ruth Herbert.

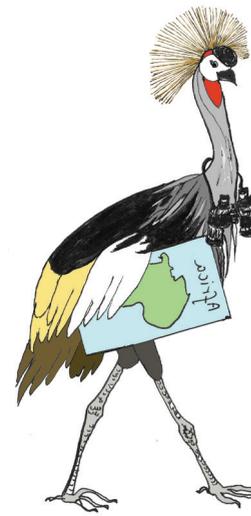


READING IS THE KEY TO LEARNING

These books have been developed from an idea by Hugh Hawes and Sam Muwonge and used since 2007 in schools in and around Kampala. The books have been revised since 2014 and new titles created.

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Our thanks go particularly to the schools for their feedback and especially their suggestions on how to improve the project.



I am Kasule the Crested Crane. I was born in Uganda but I like to fly all over Africa. Follow me, and I will show you 10 magnificent wonders of this beautiful continent.

My first stop is Egypt at the North Eastern corner of Africa to see the Pyramids. There are one hundred and thirty eight pyramids in Egypt. We believe that many more are buried under the sands.

Pyramids were built as tombs for ancient Egyptian kings, called Pharaohs, thousands of years ago. The largest is the Pyramid of Khufu at Giza near Cairo. It is 146.6 metres high equal to 35 elephants standing on top of one another!



People used to think that the Pyramids were built by slaves. Now they believe that the Pharaohs used very skilled workmen and paid and fed them well. Some worked for twenty or thirty years on the same pyramid.



My next stop is the town of Lalibela in Ethiopia. The wonderful rock churches in this town were built during the reign of King Lalibela in the 12th and 13th centuries. They are still used for worship to this day.

Each church is carved either into the ground or into the hillside from a single piece of rock. The most famous of the rock churches of Lalibela is Biete Giyorgis, the Church of St George, which is built in the shape of a cross. Many people travel here on pilgrimages, as it is seen as a very holy place.



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5 Questions

1. Which of the man made wonders was the oldest?
2. Who was Mansa Musa?
3. Where do the Chagga live?
4. What is the Devils's Armchair?
5. Who made some of the oldest hunting paintings in the world?

Something to do

Find all countries mentioned in the book in an Atlas and write down the names of their capital cities.

Discuss what you think are the ten wonders of Uganda.





And now I fly further north and west again, stopping before the great Sahara desert in the city of Djenné in Mali. In the years between 800 and 1600AD great empires were set up in West Africa along the edge of the desert. The rulers made their money trading in gold and salt.

The great king Mansa Musa, who ruled the Mali empire in the 1300s, was a Muslim so from that time great mosques were built in all the cities. Islamic scholars from all over the world travelled to those mosques to study in places such as Timbuktu. Since the mosques were made of mud, they did not last over the ages but the Great Mosque of Djenné, the largest mud brick building in the world, shows what they may have looked like. Although it is only 105 years old it was built in a city which had many famous mosques and places of learning. Now every year the faithful come in large numbers to put fresh mud on the walls to preserve them.

I am tired now so I shall fly back east to my beautiful Uganda, 'The Pearl of Africa', and rest on the shores of the Great Lake Victoria. I hope you have enjoyed our tour of this amazing continent.



I have flown a long way to my third wonder of Africa as I look down into the Great Rift Valley.

This is a huge valley stretching over 6,000 kilometres from Syria in Asia to Mozambique in East Africa.

The valley cuts across many African countries, including Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique.

In the south, it splits into two branches. The rift varies from 395 metres below sea level in the Dead Sea to 1,830 metres above sea level in southern Kenya, and at some points forms cliffs hundreds of metres high.

In the rift, long narrow lakes such as Lake Turkana, Lake Albert and Lake Nyasa are home to wildlife such as hippos, Nile crocodiles, elephants and poisonous snakes. I am glad that I am safe up here!





I am now on my way to Tanzania. Here thousands and thousands of animals are all on the move. This migration takes place twice a year.

In October about two million grass-eating animals cross the Mara river from the northern

hills to the southern plains to find the rains. In April they return across the same river completing a journey which is often called 'The Circular Migration'.

This journey can be dangerous; 250,000 wildebeest alone die during the 500 mile migration from Tanzania to Kenya. Many are killed by the lions who follow the herds. We'd better keep a safe distance!



I will make my way north over steamy forests to Nigeria still south of the Sahara where you can see amazing sculptures made over 2000 years ago by artists from the Nok culture, often showing very detailed hairstyles and lots of jewellery.

1000 years later, the people in Ife made these beautiful clay portraits of their kings. Most of the sculptures are likely to have been made by women as the Ife sculptors belonged to the Yoruba people, amongst whom women commonly carried out clay work.



500 years later still, at the peak of the powerful Benin Empire, wonderful statues were made for kings and chiefs. Although known as 'Benin Bronzes', most of these sculptures were made from brass.

All of these sculptures are famous and admired throughout the world and still inspire artists today.



Come further south and west with me now to Botswana, to see some rock paintings in the Kalahari desert. It gets its name from 'Kgalagadi' meaning a waterless place and stretches over 900,000 square kilometres in southern Africa.

The Basarwa people, later called 'Bushmen', have been living here in the desert for thousands of years. Their ancestors have left us wonderful rock paintings of the animals they hunted. These are some of the oldest paintings in the world.



In northern Africa the Sahara desert is even bigger. 9,000,000 square kilometres stretching across the continent making it almost as large as the whole of Europe! But I will not fly there yet.



I must fly very high to show you my fifth wonder, Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain top in Africa, standing almost 6,000 metres high. Mount Kilimanjaro is an inactive volcano, and many people climb up the mountain to look out at the beautiful view of the surrounding plains.

Most people take a week to get to the top of Kilimanjaro but in August 2014, Swiss-Ecuadorian Karl Egloff completed a run up and down in just 6 hours, 56 minutes and 24 seconds, although he did not carry his own food and water for the run. Simon Mtuy from Tanzania held onto the record for climbing Kilimanjaro the fastest while carrying all his own food and water. In 2006 he did this in only 9 hours and 19 minutes. Will you set the next record?

Mount Kilimanjaro is the homeland of the Chagga people who live on the side of the mountain. They grow delicious coffee which is famous all over the world.





It is a long way now to Great Zimbabwe where I want to show you some magnificent stone ruins. They are spread out over 1,784 acres of land. They give their name to the modern country of Zimbabwe.

Africans who spoke the Shona language began to build Great Zimbabwe around 1,000 years ago, and continued to work on the buildings for 300 years. Once as many as 18,000 people lived in Great Zimbabwe.



The most famous part of the ruins is the Great Enclosure, where the kings lived and kept their cattle. Its stone walls are up to 6 metres thick and 12 metres high, twice the height of a giraffe!

It is not too far now, flying south, to reach the Victoria Falls on the Zambezi river between Zimbabwe and Zambia. This is the largest waterfall in the world and has been named as one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World.

The Victoria Falls is 1,708 metres (over 17 football pitches) long and 108 metres high. Hundreds and thousands of people visit the Victoria Falls every year. A famous feature of the falls, known as 'The Devil's Armchair', is a naturally formed swimming pool near the edge of the waterfall created by a rock wall below the water which stops the current from pulling people over the edge.

When the water is low, usually during the months of September and December, some tourists swim in this pool and look over the edge of the Victoria Falls. Would you dare to do this? Not !!

