

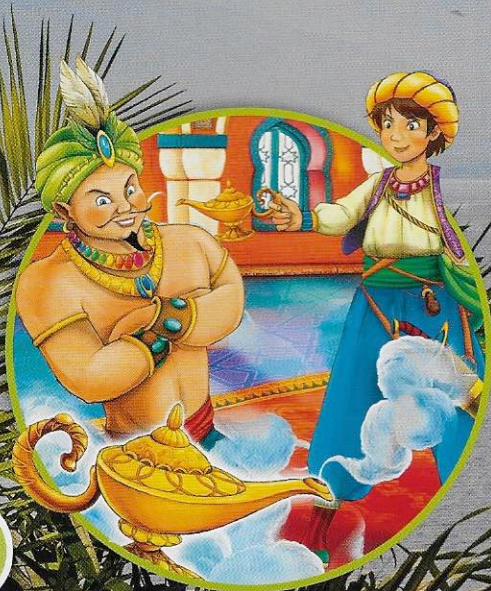
Richard Burton and John Hanning Speke

Europeans knew very little about Africa until the 19th century. The landscape of deserts and rainforests made it difficult to explore and there was great danger from diseases such as malaria. In 1857, Richard Burton and John Hanning Speke set out to explore the River Nile and were the first Europeans to reach Lake Tanganyika.

Source of the River Nile

While Burton was ill with malaria, Speke continued to explore further along the river and made it as far as the biggest lake in Africa, which he named Lake Victoria. He claimed that he had found where the River Nile began, but Burton didn't agree. The men fell out over this and their friendship never recovered.


While at Lake Tanganyika, John Hanning Speke went deaf for a short while after he had to remove a beetle from his ear with a knife!



Richard Burton was a very clever man. He translated the book 'One Thousand and One Nights' into English, including the story of Aladdin.

Isabelle Eberhardt

Two hundred years ago it was difficult for women to travel, especially alone. The Swiss explorer and writer Isabelle Eberhardt had to disguise herself as a man in order to explore parts of the African desert. She learned to speak many languages, and wrote books about her adventures, but even had to publish some of these under a male name.



Isabelle Eberhardt made her home in the West African country of Algeria.

Mary Kingsley



Mary Kingsley climbed Mount Cameroon, the tallest mountain in West Africa.

In 1892 the Englishwoman Mary Kingsley sailed to Africa to study nature and religion. She wrote about her adventures and was not afraid to speak out about the slave trade. Her belief was that all people were equal and deserved respect.

David Livingstone

The Scottish explorer David Livingstone was the first European to see the Victoria Falls, naming them after the British Queen Victoria. He went to Africa in 1841 as a doctor and to teach about Christianity, and also spent his time exploring the Zambezi River and the Kalahari Desert.

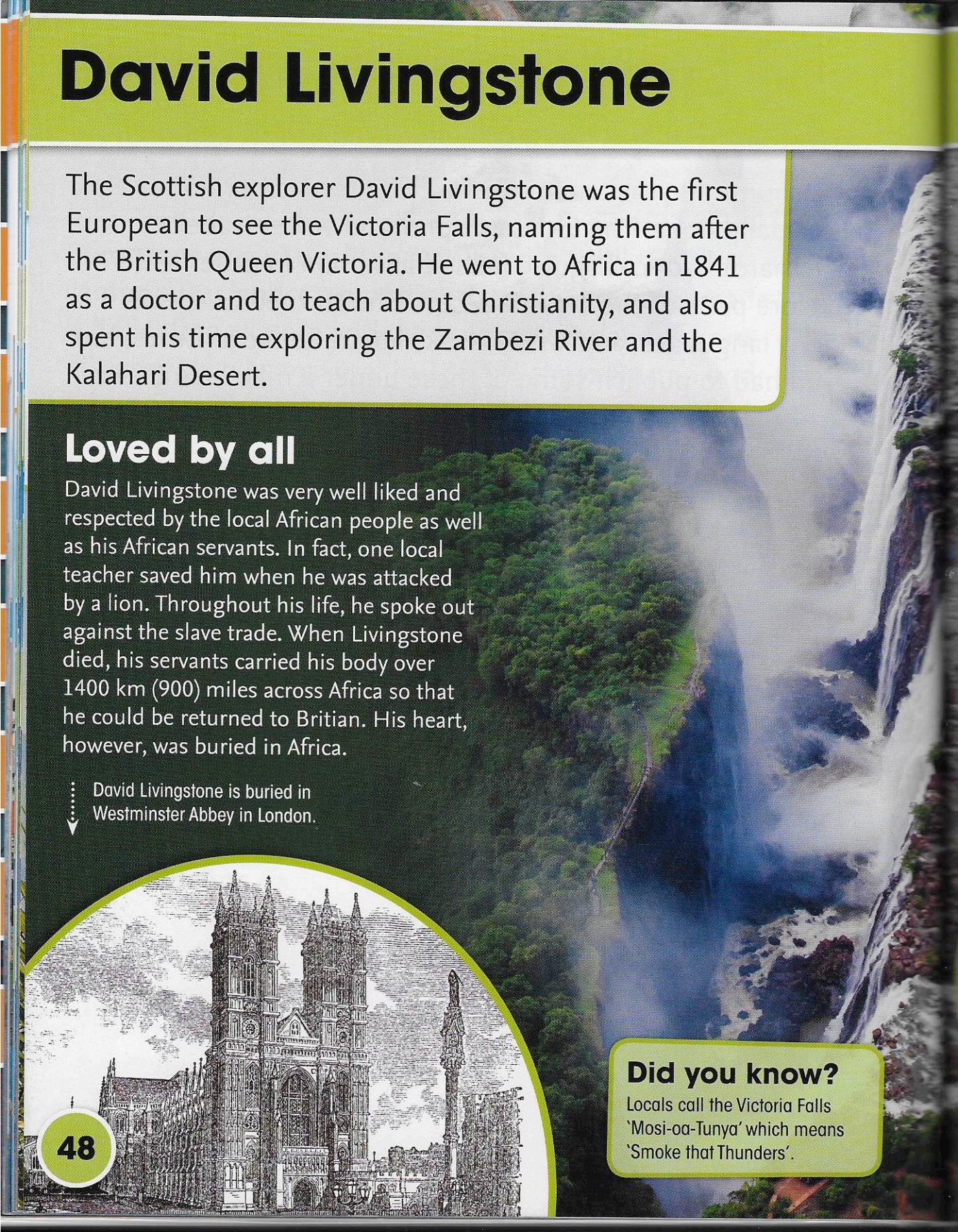
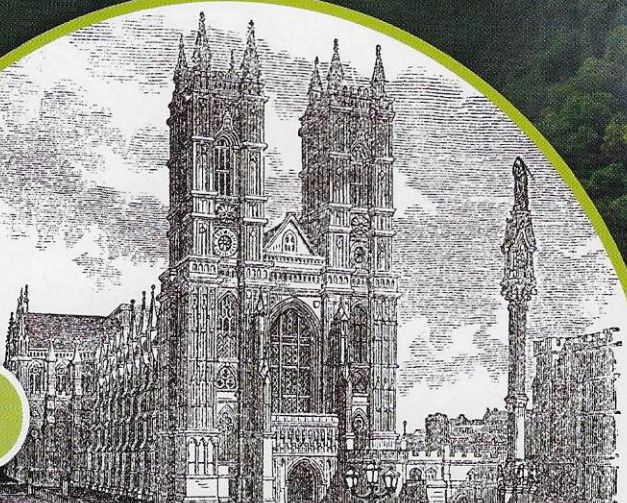
Loved by all

David Livingstone was very well liked and respected by the local African people as well as his African servants. In fact, one local teacher saved him when he was attacked by a lion. Throughout his life, he spoke out against the slave trade. When Livingstone died, his servants carried his body over 1400 km (900) miles across Africa so that he could be returned to Britain. His heart, however, was buried in Africa.

David Livingstone is buried in Westminster Abbey in London.

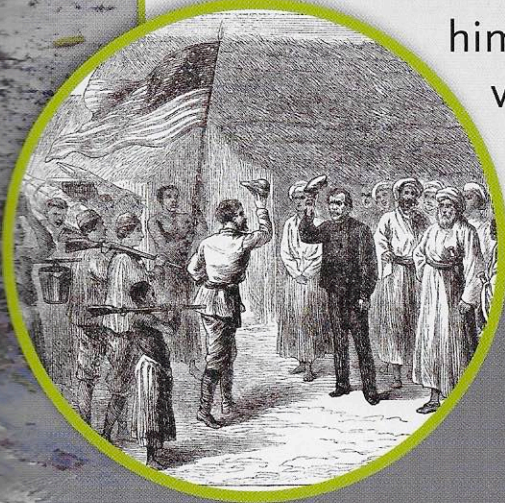
Did you know?

Locals call the Victoria Falls 'Mosi-oa-Tunya' which means 'Smoke that Thunders'.



Henry Morton Stanley

Sent by the *New York Herald* in 1871 to track down David Livingstone in Africa, Welshman Henry Morton Stanley (born as John Rowlands) found him eight months later in a small African village. Together the two great explorers sailed around Lake Tanganyika, before Stanley returned to Britain.



▲ 'Dr Livingstone I presume' – Stanley's famous words on meeting the Scottish explorer.

Hooked

After David Livingstone died, Henry Stanley was hooked on exploring and decided to return to Africa. He travelled around 1600 km (1000 miles) along the Congo River to the Atlantic Ocean. Funded by the Belgian king, he employed people to build roads through the Congo, but was said to have treated the African workers with some cruelty.

'The Scramble for Africa'

David Livingstone and Henry Morton Stanley were just two of the explorers involved in the race between countries (especially Britain, Portugal, and France) to claim land in Africa. One of the main reasons for doing this was to put an end to the slave trade, something that David Livingstone felt very strongly about.

←.....

Over a period of around 300 years, Europeans are said to have taken approximately 11 million people away from West Africa on ships to make them slaves.

