Africa

AMAZING AFRICA



THE FIRST human beings to walk this planet were Africans. Some made a long journey out of Africa and ended up populating the rest of the world. So we are all from Africa – if you go back far enough.

Africa is *amazing*. It is a gigantic continent: as big as Europe, the USA and Mexico, India and Japan all put together! At the moment, it is divided into 55 countries – and each of those countries has an incredible history and geography, and its own culture, languages and biodiversity.

Africa is hot, blinding deserts; wild, wet deltas; dark, dripping rainforests; white, sandy beaches; flat, grassy savannahs; cold, snowy mountains; black-volcano islands; deep blue oceans and more…

Africa is modern mega-cities with skyscrapers and motorways. Africa is ancient cities of clay with mosques and libraries. Africa is villages of huts with goats and chickens. Africa is shanty-towns made out of cardboard and corrugated iron.



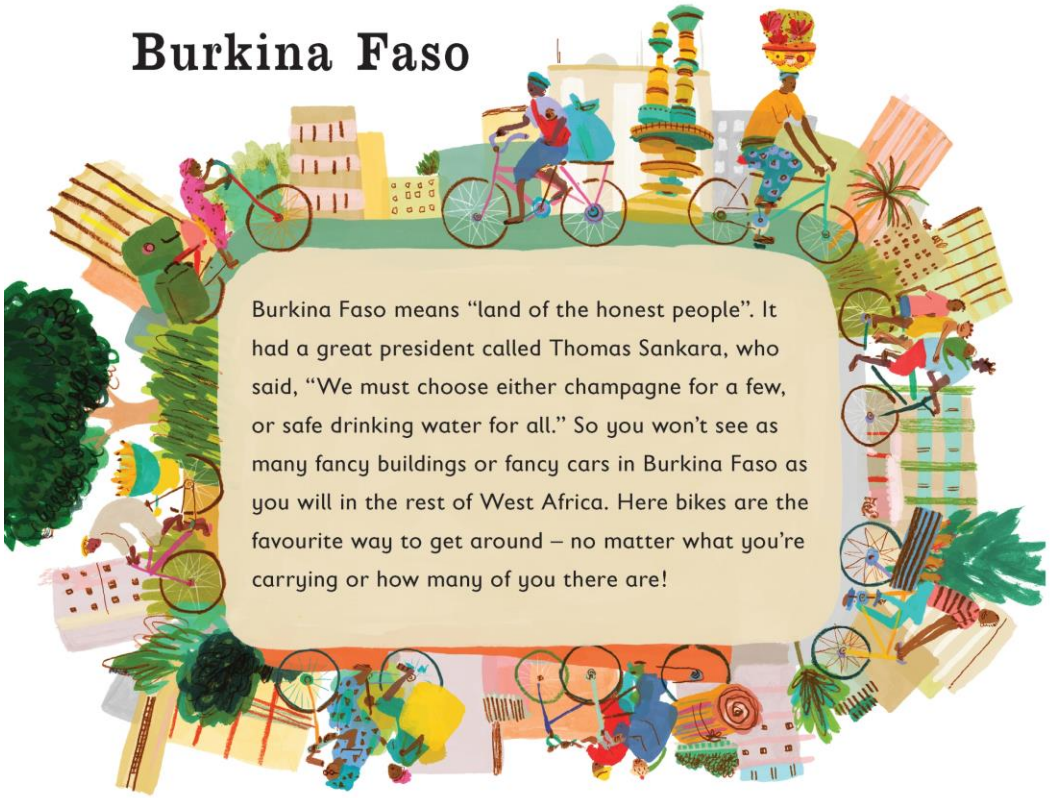
Africa is donkeys and diamonds, camels and Coca-Cola, Lamborghinis and lions, oil-rigs and armies, football and voodoo, and more…

Africa is people – billions of people. Light people and dark people, tall people and short people, plump people and skinny people. People playing music, playing football, playing board games and computer games. People dancing, texting, coding and studying studying studying. People in offices, in traffic, in queues. People selling food and water and mobile phones. People shouting and singing and smiling. And almost half the people on the African continent are young people – we are the youngest population on the planet!

Africa is animals. Elephants, rhinos, hippos, giraffes, antelope, cheetahs,



Burkina Faso



Burkina Faso means "land of the honest people". It had a great president called Thomas Sankara, who said, "We must choose either champagne for a few, or safe drinking water for all." So you won't see as many fancy buildings or fancy cars in Burkina Faso as you will in the rest of West Africa. Here bikes are the favourite way to get around – no matter what you're carrying or how many of you there are!

★ Burkina Faso has lots of big shady shea trees and sells shea butter all over the world to make creams and lotions to soften skin and hair.

● Caterpillars are a popular food in Burkina Faso. The yummiest are the shea caterpillars that eat only the leaves of shea trees.



Cabo Verde

Around 20 million years ago volcanoes started erupting in the Atlantic Ocean, and for 12 million years they kept erupting. The molten lava cooled into an archipelago of islands off the coast of West Africa, now called Cabo Verde. Sea levels all around the world are rising because of climate change, and one day the beautiful islands of Cabo Verde will disappear back under the sea.



★ More people from Cabo Verde live abroad in foreign countries than actually live in Cabo Verde! This is because life can be hard and scary there. Volcanoes still erupt from time to time, jobs are hard to find and sometimes all the fresh water runs out.

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