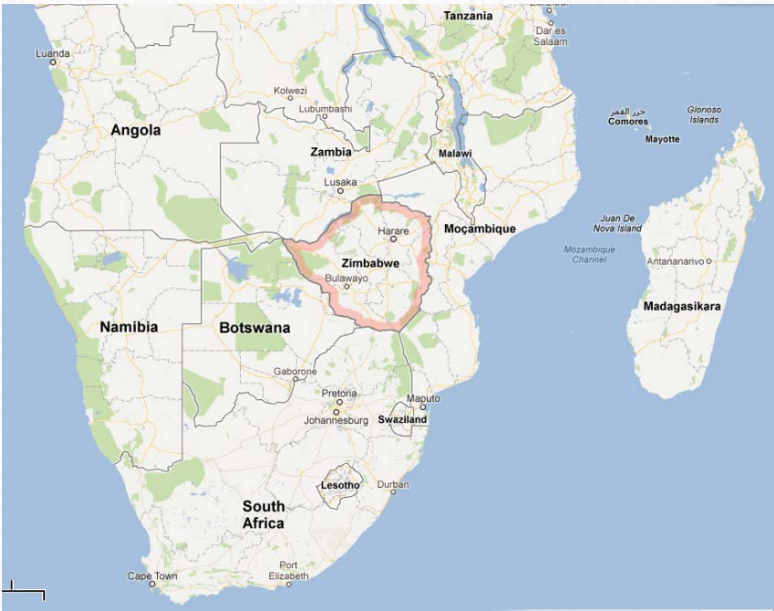
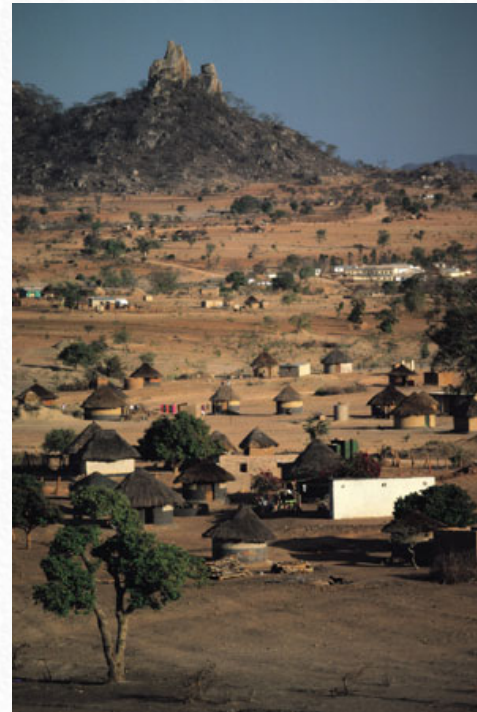


Zimbabwe





Victoria Falls



The ancient city 'Great Zimbabwe'



A day in the life of rural children in Zimbabwe



Waking up

My day starts at 5:30am.

I wake up, brush my teeth and have a wash.



Breakfast time

My mother makes breakfast for us.

We have either:

- Bota – a thin porridge flavoured with peanut butter, butter or milk and sugar.
- A cup of tea with bread and butter, jam or peanut butter.



Getting to school

We leave for school at 6.15am. It takes us 45 minutes to walk to school. On our walk we see squirrels, birds and sometimes snakes.



School assembly at 7am

We stand in lines depending on our grades. Students with lower grades stand in the front.

We sing the national anthem called '*Simudzai Mureza*', (in Shona or Ndebele), meaning 'raise up the flag'.

A teacher picks a topic or a Biblical story and a prayer.



Morning classes

The first lesson starts at 7.15am. We have two lessons before break time which starts at 10am and two lessons afterwards. Morning subjects are; English, Shona or Ndebele & Maths. There are about 30 children in the class, and we work in groups of about 5 or 6.



Lunchtime

We have an hour for lunch, and usually go outside to play. Some children bring their own packed lunch, some buy food from the tuck shop, and some children who live close enough will go home for lunch.



Afternoon lessons

In the afternoon we have lessons like; football, netball, athletics, traditional dance, quiz, drama, poetry and others. Lessons finish at 2.30pm. For the last half an hour of the day we clean and tidy our classroom. School finishes at 3pm, and we walk home.



Resources

Our classroom is usually decorated with charts showing drawings, graphs and problems that need answers.

There are never enough text books so we normally share.

Sometimes there is only one book for the whole class.



When I get home

When we get home and before it gets dark I help my parents to look after the cattle and goats.

We have to take special care to make sure that the chicks and chickens are safe from foxes and wild cats.

Then I have a bath before dinner.



Dinner Time

For dinner we have Sadza – a porridge cooked by mixing mealie meal with hot water to produce a thick paste.

Sadza is usually eaten with things like; spinach, cabbage and chomolia, beans, beef stew, chicken, curdled milk and dried fish (kapenta).



Bedtime

Before bedtime I get my homework done. My brothers and sisters help if I get stuck. Then I get ready for bed.

I usually in the same room and bed as my brothers.





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