

# engage Kids

Volume 12 | Issue 1

HIM AFRICA



**NEW PLACES, NEW FACES**



# HALLO, VASHON!



**Greetings and happy New Year!** New things are exciting, aren't they? I am doing something new—I just got off a plane...in Africa! I've never been here before, so I will be seeing many new sights and making new friends. But don't worry. I plan to report regularly and share my adventures with you.

Now I've been told someone will be here to meet me. I wonder how I will know who that is.... Waaait a minute! Is that a...MONKEY? Like me? He's coming this way. Oh, I'm so excited! He will be my first new friend in Africa. Greetings! My name is Louie.



Hallo! I am Vashon (Vah-shawn), which means “God is gracious.” I am a vervet monkey from South Africa. It is good to meet you! I have many adventures planned for you. Africa is a wonderful place!



I’m very excited! Tell me more.



To begin with, Africa is VERY large.



The United States is pretty big...



You are right, but Africa is THREE TIMES the size of the USA. Africa claims 20 percent of earth’s land area and is home to over 1.4 billion people.



WOW! I am guessing those people do not all live in Egypt or South Africa.



And you would be correct. Africa is made up of fifty-four countries. It is the second-largest continent both in land area and population. Africa boasts much beauty with the world’s largest desert and longest river; tall mountains and gorgeous waterfalls; vast grasslands and tropical rainforests.



And so many cool animals!



Of course! Africa is home to many fascinating creatures. But...we are going to be on a hunt for...something different.



Right! We will be hunting for stories of how God is working among His people in Africa. I am SO excited! Where do we begin?



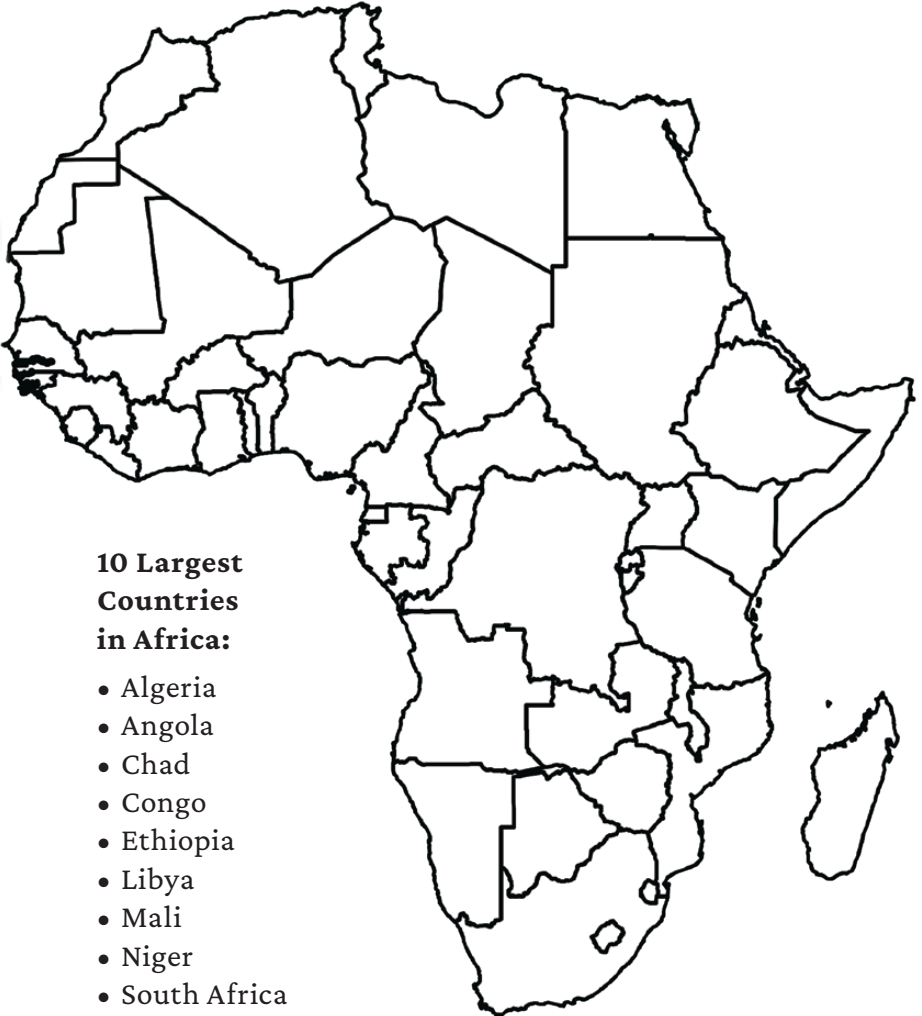
By heading right this way....

# WHERE IN AFRICA?

Find, label and color the ten largest countries in Africa.

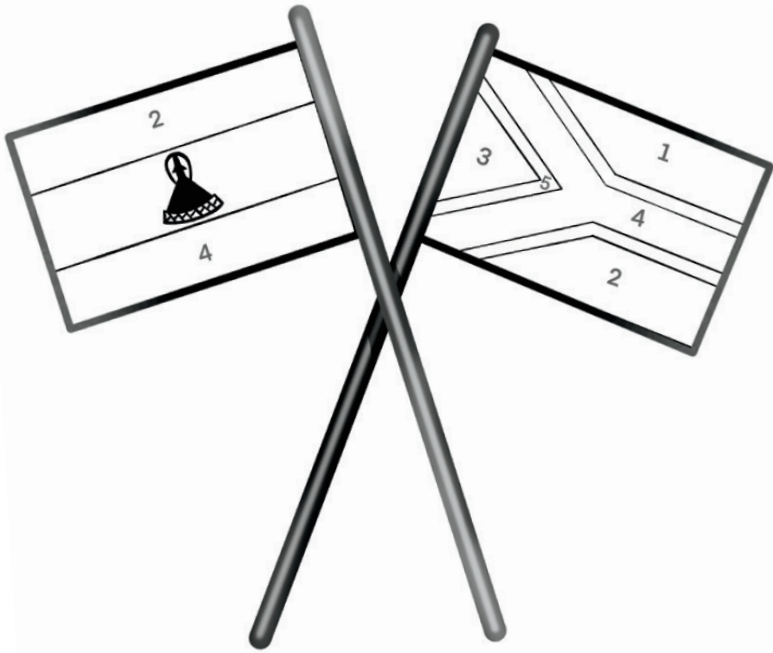
Also, can you find Lesotho? It's a small country coming in size at #43 of the 54 African countries.

(HINT: It's inside another country.)



## 10 Largest Countries in Africa:

- Algeria
- Angola
- Chad
- Congo
- Ethiopia
- Libya
- Mali
- Niger
- South Africa
- Sudan



## FLAGS OF LESOTHO AND SOUTH AFRICA

Use the following color code to finish the flags.



### MEMORY VERSE

The heavens proclaim his righteousness;  
every nation sees his glory.

*Psalm 97:6 (NLT)*

# HARD THINGS CAN BE FUN



I am sooo relieved my luggage all made it to Africa with me! I don't sleep well without my stuffy and my special pajamas.



Well, then, I'm glad it's all here. Did you remember your toothbrush?

**Louie:** I think so.... I'm most excited about the books and Bibles I brought to give as gifts.

**Vashon:** So *that's* why these two cases are so heavy! Let's head to the car...oh, wait! I think I see someone you need to meet. Jeremy Howard, is that you?

**Jeremy:** Hallo, Vashon! I had hoped to see you on this visit, and here you are! What's up?

**Vashon:** I am excited. Louie is here for a long visit, and I plan to show him everything. Louie, Africa is very special to Jeremy.

**Jeremy:** That's right! My parents Jim and Fredde Howard were HIM's first missionaries to Africa. Our family moved to Ghana when I was only five. Six years later, we moved to Lesotho and worked there a couple of years before moving

back to the States. Even all these years later, Africa is still home. I wouldn't trade the adventures and lessons I learned for anything. I even picked a wonderful girl from South Africa to be my wife.

**Vashon:** Delani is very sweet. Will you greet her and your boys for us?

**Jeremy:** Sure thing!

**Louie:** So what types of things did you do as a child on the mission field?

**Jeremy:** I did chores and schoolwork, made friends, and helped anywhere I could. I learned how to sing and speak publicly during our Stateside talks about the mission work. It's interesting; as a grownup I can now see the many ways my life was impacted by my years in Africa. I know what it's like to live without electricity, indoor toilets, or running water and...I didn't mind! I appreciate how those experiences shaped me into an adult with a different, deeper way of thinking. I value relationships more than things and telling others about Christ more than comfort. But you don't have to live in Africa to live this way. Any kid anywhere can show God's love to people through kind words and actions—even if those people don't yet love God.

**Louie:** Thank you for that important reminder! I am so happy to have met you.

**Jeremy:** God bless you! Enjoy your visit!

**Vashon:** Our next adventure is just around the corner.



# Louie's Treehouse Lain



## Meeting Needs of the Vulnerable

An orphan is defined as a child whose parents have both died. The mission of HIM's Orphan and Vulnerable Children's Ministry (OVCM) is to show God's love to such children through offering food, clothing, school supplies, and more. Though OVCM is actively working in several countries, Louie wants to introduce you over the next few months to some of the program's African participants. Some are orphans with no living parent, while others fall into the category of "vulnerable children"—children whose life circumstances keep them from attending school or getting their basic needs met. OVCM works to connect these needy children with the people who want to help them.

Will you take a moment to pray for OVCM and those impacted by their ministry?

Have a parent scan the QR code for more information about the program.



**ENGAGE KIDS** is a ministry of  
Hope International Missions  
PO Box 1065  
Hobe Sound, FL 33475  
Phone: (772) 546-1113  
Email: [engagekids@feaministries.org](mailto:engagekids@feaministries.org)  
Web: [feaministries.org/engagekids](http://feaministries.org/engagekids)

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