

## Squiz the World goes to... Tanzania

Each fortnight, we give the world globe a spin, and see where we land. Then we take the kids of Australia on an audio excursion to visit that country and its people.

I'm Christie Kijurina, and today on Squiz the World we're visiting a country where millions of exotic animals thunder across the plains every year, it's home to some of the oldest human footprints ever discovered, and is crowned by a mountain so tall it rises through five different climate zones above the clouds.

Can you guess? ... Strap yourselves into the Squiz Kids Super Fast Supersonic Jetliner as we take off and take a squiz at Tanzania.

### JUST THE FACTS

Tanzania sits on the east coast of Africa, right beside the warm waters of the Indian Ocean. It shares borders with eight countries: Kenya and Uganda to the north, Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west, and Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique to the south. And just offshore lies the tropical island region of Zanzibar.

"The country's name comes from two places joining together in 1964: Tanganyika on the mainland and Zanzibar off the coast, becoming Tan-zan-ia.

Around 67 million people live in Tanzania, making it one of the biggest countries in Africa by population. The capital city is Dodoma, but the largest city is Dar es Salaam, a huge bustling port city beside the ocean."

Tanzania is also one of the most culturally diverse countries in Africa, with more than 120 different ethnic groups and over 100 languages spoken across the country. The national language is Kiswahili, often just called Swahili. And you might already know some Swahili words without even realising it. Simba means lion, safari means journey, rafiki means friend, and hakuna matata of course means "no worries."

One of Tanzania's best-known peoples are the Maasai, famous for their bright red clothing, cattle herding traditions, incredible jumping dances and deep connection to the grasslands and wildlife of East Africa.

"Tanzania is packed with enormous landscapes and wild places, from the giant Serengeti plains and tropical coastlines to volcanoes, forests and huge lakes. It's also home to Africa's tallest mountain, Mount Kilimanjaro, which is so tall it passes through five different climate zones on the way to its snowy summit.

The country sits along the Great Rift Valley... a gigantic crack in the Earth's crust that helped shape many of Tanzania's mountains and lakes. One of those lakes being Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake."

And when it comes to wildlife... Tanzania is an absolute superstar. Around a third of the country is protected as national parks and conservation areas, and later in the podcast, we'll discover why millions of animals thunder across these plains every single year.

Now we know what Tanzania looks like today... but to really understand this fascinating country, we need to travel waaaaay back in time. Like... before humans even behaved like humans. Let's do some...Time Travel!

## TIME TRAVEL

Tanzania's history stretches back so far that scientists believe some of the earliest human ancestors ever, once lived here. In a place called Olduvai Gorge, archaeologists have uncovered ancient bones and stone tools that helped researchers understand how early humans lived 1.8 million years ago. And nearby at Laetoli, scientists discovered something even more incredible: fossilised footprints left behind by ancient human ancestors walking across soft volcanic ash.

"Over thousands of years, different communities and kingdoms developed across the region. People farmed, fished, raised cattle and traded goods across East Africa. And because Tanzania sits beside the Indian Ocean, it slowly became part of one of the world's busiest trading networks.

Along the coast and on the islands of Zanzibar, traders arrived from Arabia, Persia, India and even China in large wooden sailing boats called dhows. They brought fabrics, ceramics and spices, while local traders sold ivory, gold and other goods from inland Africa. Over time, African, Arab and Asian traditions mixed together, helping create the Swahili culture still seen along the coast today."

Zanzibar became especially famous for its spice trade, with cloves, cinnamon and nutmeg grown on plantations across the islands. But sadly, Zanzibar also became an important centre in the East African slave trade, where enslaved people were cruelly bought and sold through the island's ports.

"In the late 1800s, Germany took control of much of mainland Tanzania which at the time was called Tanganyika, After World War One, Britain took over control of the territory, while the islands of Zanzibar remained separate and were ruled mainly by Arab sultans under British influence.

Both places eventually gained independence, and in 1964, Tanganyika on the mainland and Zanzibar off the coast agreed to join together as one new country: Tanzania.

Today, Tanzania is a country made up of many cultures, languages and traditions, all shaped by thousands of years of movement, trade and history."

Now, enough about ancient footprints and spice traders... what's it actually like being a kid in Tanzania today? It's...Time for School!

## TIME FOR SCHOOL

School life in Tanzania would feel both familiar and very different to kids here in Australia. Like Aussie students, many Tanzanian kids wear school uniforms, sit tests, play sport at lunchtime, rush to class when the bell rings and sometimes complain about homework too. And just like in Australia, football aka soccer, is hugely popular. At many schools, dusty playground matches can become very serious business.

"Most children attend primary school for seven years before moving on to secondary school. One interesting difference is language. In many Tanzanian primary schools, students learn mainly in Kiswahili, but when they move into secondary school, lots of subjects switch into English.

Imagine turning up to high school and suddenly most of your maths, science and history lessons were taught in another language. That's a challenge many Tanzanian students work through every year."

School can also look very different depending on where children live. In large cities like Dar es Salaam, schools may have computers, science labs and large classrooms. But in more rural areas, some students walk long distances to school each day, share textbooks and learn in crowded classrooms.

And after a full school day and a long walk home, we're heading onto the Serengeti plains to discover something so huge it might actually make the ground rumble beneath your feet. Believe It or Not!

## BELIEVE IT OR NOT

"Believe it or not, Tanzania is home to the largest mammal migration on Earth.

Every year across the Serengeti plains, more than a million wildebeest, along with hundreds of thousands of zebras and gazelles, begin an enormous circular journey in search of fresh grass and water. It is known as the Great Migration, and at some points the herds become so huge and tightly packed that people say the ground can actually rumble beneath your feet like a distant thunderstorm."

"The next month is when many of the herds begin moving north across Tanzania's Serengeti toward rivers and greener grasslands, with predators like lions, hyenas and cheetahs following close behind.

The word Serengeti is believed to come from a Maasai word meaning "endless plains," and when you see photos of it, that name makes a lot of sense. Huge open grasslands stretch as far as the eye can see, dotted with acacia trees and packed with wildlife."

"Tanzania is one of the greatest wildlife countries on Earth, with more than 300 species of mammals and over 900 species of birds. It's home to enormous populations of elephants,

giraffes, hippos, crocodiles, flamingos and lions, including one of the largest lion populations in Africa.

And if some of this sounds strangely familiar, there's a good reason for that. The landscapes, animals and even some of the language from Disney's The Lion King were inspired by East Africa."

After all that exploring across the Serengeti, I don't know about you... but I'm starving. Which means it must be Dinner Time!

#### DINNER TIME

Tanzanian food is all about sharing, family and community, with many meals eaten together around large plates of food. And thanks to centuries of trade across the Indian Ocean, Tanzanian cooking mixes African, Indian and Arab flavours together in delicious ways.

"One of the most common foods is ugali, a thick maize flour dish a bit like very firm mashed potato or polenta, often served with vegetables, beans or meat. Rice dishes like pilau are also popular, flavoured with spices like cinnamon, cloves and cardamom that have been traded through Zanzibar for hundreds of years.

Many families don't eat meat every day, so meals often include beans, vegetables, rice, chapati bread and even bananas cooked into soups and stews. Tanzania has 20 different types of bananas!"

"Tea, or chai, is also a big part of daily life, with friends and families gathering together to chat over cups of sweet, spiced tea.

And then there's Zanzibar pizza, which despite the name, doesn't really look much like an Aussie pizza at all. It's a popular street food made by folding dough around fillings like meat, cheese, vegetables or even chocolate and banana before cooking it on a hot grill. I've stuck a link to a recipe in the episode notes. I can not wait to this!!"

#### THE S'QUIZ

This is the part of the podcast where you get to test how well you've been listening.

"In Tanzania, millions of wildebeest and zebras travel across the Serengeti every year in search of fresh grass and water. What is this enormous journey called?"

- a) The Great Safari
- b) The Great Migration
- c) The Great Expedition
- b) The Great Migration"

"TRUE OR FALSE: Some of the oldest human footprints ever discovered were found in Tanzania, preserved in ancient wet clay.

False - Volcanic Ash"

"In Disney's The Lion King, several words come from the Swahili language spoken in Tanzania. What does the phrase "hakuna matata" mean?

No Worries"

That's all we have time for today. Thanks for staying curious about the world, and joining me on this incredible trip to Tanzania.

Now get out there, and have a most excellent day. Over and out.