



- 1  Look at the picture and listen to the sounds. How do you think you would feel if you were in this place?

- 2 Check these words/phrases in the Word List. Use five of them to complete the gaps.

- *thunder* • *plunge into*
- *natural wonders* • *rainbows*
- *unique experience*
- *tourist attraction* • *named*

- 1 Victoria Falls is in Africa. It's one of the seven ... of the modern world.
- 2 Livingstone ... the waterfall after his wife.
- 3 200 million litres of water ... a gorge.
- 4 You can hear the water make a noise like ... even when you are 50 km from the waterfall.
- 5 A visit to the waterfall is a ...

- 3 a) Which of the sentences in Ex. 2 are true about Victoria Falls?

- b)  Listen and read to check your answers. Then correct them.

# The Thundering Smoke



**A** Before the exploration of Africa in the 19th century, myths and legends circulated around Europe about the continent. Europeans knew very little about this vast **mass** of land as few travellers had ever dared venture into its mysterious interior. One enthusiastic Scottish explorer by the name of Dr David Livingstone was passionate about Africa and extremely **eager** to discover its secrets. Little did he know what **marvels** he would find.

**B** Dr Livingstone was sent to South Africa in 1840 as a **medical missionary**. He would end up spending a large part of his life there. Between 1842 and 1846, he explored south and central Africa and became the first European to travel across the **entire** country west to east. On 16th November 1855, Dr Livingstone **stumbled upon** a huge waterfall that he described as the most wonderful sight he had seen in Africa. "No one can imagine the beauty of the view from anything **witnessed** in England. It had never been seen before by European eyes; but scenes so lovely must have been gazed upon by angels in flight," he later wrote. The waterfall was known to the local people as 'the smoke that **thunders**' but Livingstone named it Victoria Falls after his queen.

**C** Victoria Falls **is located** in the national park of the same name in southern Africa on the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe. While it is neither the highest nor the widest waterfall in the world, it is the largest. The falls itself is 1,708 m wide and 108 m in height, making it the biggest single sheet of falling water on the planet. Every minute, 500 million litres of water plunge 100 m into a narrow **gorge**. The spray from the falls rises to a height of 400 m and can be seen up to 50 km away.

**D** The waterfall is undoubtedly one of the most spectacular natural features in the world and not surprisingly it has become a very popular **tourist attraction**. It is considered one of the seven natural **wonders of** the modern world and the entire national park is a UNESCO **World Heritage Site**. A visit to Victoria Falls is a truly unique experience. The noise from the water falling sounds like thunder and the air above it seems as if it is filled with clouds of smoke. Spectacular rainbows form in the skies above it in all seasons and the natural beauty of the surrounding area **adds** even more to its **magnificence**. Around 300,000 people visit the falls every year and there is no doubt that it inspires visitors as much today as it inspired Dr Livingstone over 150 years ago.



4

Read the text and complete the sentences in your own words.

- 1 In the 19th century, people in Europe didn't know much about Africa because ...
- 2 Dr Livingstone hadn't planned to ...
- 3 Victoria Falls is between two ...
- 4 Victoria Falls attracts a lot ...
- 5 What makes Victoria Falls special is ...

5

In your own words, and based on the text, answer the questions. Do not copy from the text.

- 1 Why did Dr Livingstone go to Africa?
- 2 What was Dr Livingstone's reaction when he first saw the waterfall?
- 3 Why did Dr Livingstone call the waterfall Victoria Falls?
- 4 Why did the locals call it the smoke that thunders?
- 5 Where would you expect to find this kind of text?

6

a) Find words in the text that mean:

- to go somewhere dangerous (para A)
- strange (para A)
- to travel around (para B)
- to look steadily (para B)
- dividing line (para C)
- to fall (para C)
- surely (para D)
- to arouse strong feelings (para D)



~~b) Explain the words in bold. Check in the Word List.~~

7

Write a synonym (=), an opposite ( $\neq$ ), a definition or a sentence for the following words to show that you understand their meaning in the text. Use your own words. Check in your dictionaries.

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 vast (l. 3)      | 4 widest (l. 23)  |
| 2 extremely (l. 6) | 5 unique (l. 35)  |
| 3 lovely (l. 17)   | 6 adds to (l. 39) |

- 1 *vast = extremely large  $\neq$  small*  
*The Sahara is a vast desert in Africa that covers an area almost as large as the United States.*

### ✓ Check these words

- exploration • circulate • dare
- venture • stumble upon • witness
- gaze • name after • plunge
- gorge • undoubtedly • unique
- spectacular • magnificence



### Did you Know?

The forest around Victoria Falls is the only place on Earth where it rains 24 hours a day. This is due to the spray from the Falls.

### PRESENTATION SKILLS p. PS4

You are a television presenter filming a documentary about Victoria Falls. Present information about the waterfalls to viewers. Talk about: *name, location, features, history, and the falls today.*



### Speaking & Writing

Imagine you are Dr Livingstone and you are seeing the Falls for the first time. In three minutes write a few sentences describing your experience and feelings. Tell the class.