

Missionary Travels: Sites and Sights

An educational worksheet for children aged 9-13 published by
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In December 1854 the explorer David Livingstone visited the fort of Pungo Andongo. He described it in his book, *Missionary Travels...*

The fort of Pungo Andongo is situated in the midst of a group of curious columnar-shaped rocks, each of which is upward of three hundred feet in height. They are composed of conglomerate, made up of a great variety of rounded pieces in a matrix of dark red sandstone. They rest on a thick stratum of this last rock, with very few of the pebbles in its substance. On this a fossil palm has been found, and if of the same age as those on the eastern side of the continent, on which similar palms now lie, there may be coal underneath this, as well as under that at Tete. The asserted existence of petroleum springs at Dande, and near Cambambe, would seem to indicate the presence of this useful mineral, though I am not aware of any one having actually seen a seam of coal tilted up to the surface in Angola, as we have at Tete. The gigantic pillars of Pungo Andongo have been formed by a current of the sea coming from the S.S.E.; for, seen from the top, they appear arranged in that direction, and must have withstood the surges of the ocean at a period of our world's history, when the relations of land and sea were totally different from what they are now.

David Livingstone

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Experiences and Outcomes:

Literacy and English

Students can practice deep reading and textual analysis to explore a Victorian bestseller.

Social Studies and Environments

Students can develop a curiosity and understanding about different environments.

Students can engage with the world's long-term use of fossil fuels.

Suggested Questions:

- 1) David says the rocks of Pungo Andongo are made "of rounded pieces...of dark red sandstone." What other details does he provide about these rocks? Why do you think he describes them so carefully?
- 2) Using David's description, can you draw Pungo Andongo?
- 3) David wrote in *Missionary Travels*, "I was always anxious to transmit an account of my discoveries on every possible occasion". Can you write a description of something you have discovered recently?
- 4) Why do you think David is interested in the possibility of finding coal at Pungo Andongo?

Further Reading:

Find out more about the famous nineteenth-century explorer David Livingstone's Victorian bestseller, *Missionary Travels*, at
livingstoneonline.org

This educational resource was developed by Kate Simpson and Justin Livingstone, who are staff of *Livingstone Online* (livingstoneonline.org). *Livingstone Online* is the leading site for learning more about the life and writings of David Livingstone. Visit our site to discover an array of images and texts that supplement the educational material found in this worksheet.