

The Thundering Smoke

1 Listen 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 Every minute 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.

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. **1 B**

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. **2 D** "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. **3 P** But Livingstone named it Victoria Falls after his queen.

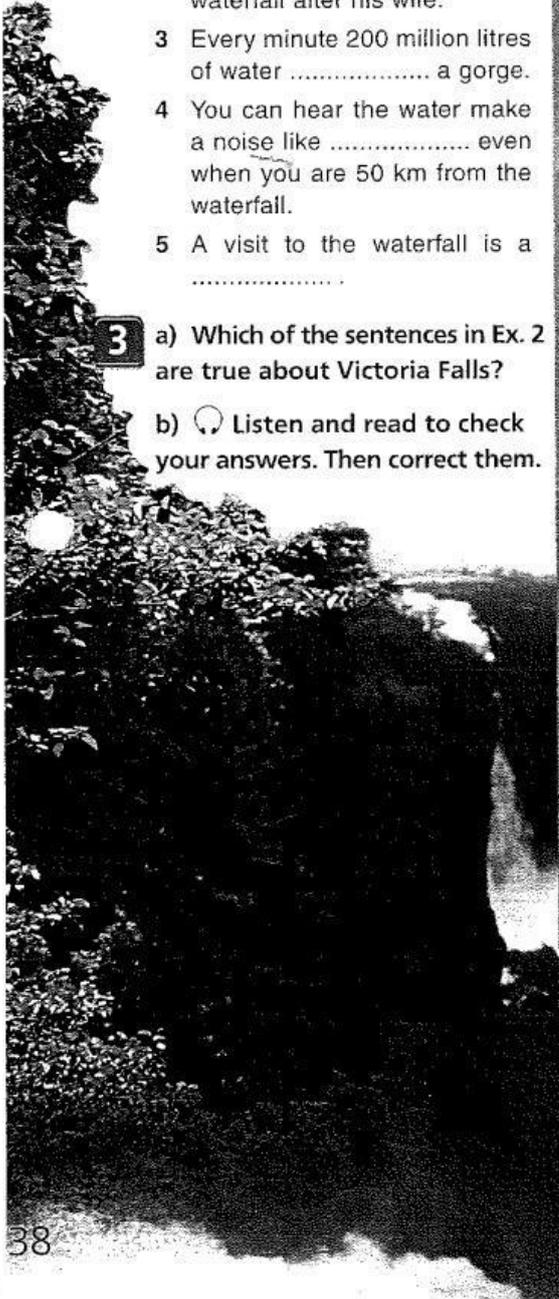
C Victoria Falls is located in the national park of the same name in southern Africa on the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe. While it is neither the highest nor the widest waterfall in the world, it is the largest. The falls itself is 1,708 m wide and 108 m in height. **4 G** Every minute, 500 million 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. **25**

D The waterfall is undoubtedly one of the most magnificent natural spectacles in the world. **5 A** Victoria Falls is considered one of the seven natural wonders of the 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. **6 C** All stand before the falls in awe, just as Dr Livingstone did over 150 years ago. **35**

STUDY SKILLS

Missing sentences

Read the text to get to know what it is about. Read the missing sentences and identify the main point in each. Read the text again and pay attention to the words before and after each gap. Look for clues e.g. reference words (*he, it, etc*) or linking words. Check that your choice fits grammatically. Read the whole text to check it makes sense.





4 Read the text and fill in the gaps (1-6) with a correct sentence A-G. One sentence is extra.

- A Consequently, it has become a very popular tourist attraction.
- B Little did he know what marvels he would find.
- C Around 300,000 people visit the falls every year.
- D He described it as the most wonderful sight he had seen in Africa.
- E The discovery would be unlike any he had made before.
- F The waterfall was known to the local people as 'the smoke that thunders'.
- G This makes it the biggest single sheet of falling water on the planet.

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 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. 20) |
| 2 extremely (l. 6) | 5 <u>unique</u> (l. 30) |
| 3 lovely (l. 15) | 6 adds (l. 34) |

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.



Speaking & Writing

Use the sentences in Ex. 2 to write or give the class a short summary of the text.

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.



Unit 3a

1. Exploration:
2. Circulated:
3. Vast mass of land:
4. Dared venture:
5. Mysterious interior:
6. Enthusiastic:
7. Passionate:
8. Extremely eager:
9. Medical missionary:
10. End up:
11. Entire:
12. Stumbled upon:
13. Witnessed:
14. Gazed:
15. Named...after:
16. In located:
17. National park:
18. Border:
19. Neither the highest nor the widest:
20. Itself:
21. Plunge:
22. Narrow gorge:
23. Undoubtedly:
24. Magnificent:
25. Natural spectacles:
26. Considered:
27. Natural wonders of:
28. Unique experience:
29. Spectacular:
30. Form:
31. Surrounding area:
32. Adds:
33. Magnificence:
34. Awe:
35. Consequently:
36. Little did he know:
37. Marvels:
38. Sight he:
39. Thunders: