

The Republic of Zambia is a country in southern Africa. It is bordered by the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the north, Tanzania to the northeast, and Malawi to the east. To the south are Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Namibia. Angola is its neighbor to the west. Its capital is Lusaka. It is in the south.

Most of the residents live around the capital and the Copperbelt to the central northwest. The population of all of Zambia is about 11.6 million. They have a great history.

The Khoi-San people, who were migratory hunter-gatherers, were the first to live in Zambia. Anthropologists study peoples' pasts. Years ago, anthropologists found that by the 12th century, other people came. They were Bantu-speaking peoples. Those tribes are the peoples who continue to live in Zambia today. This has been their land for hundreds of years.

Sometimes history is not fair, as you will find when you learn about Zambia. Other people came and took control of this land for about three centuries. At first, explorers came. They came from Europe. One was David Livingstone. He was an explorer who "discovered" Victoria Falls – the biggest waterfall in Africa. Livingstone was not the first person to see the falls. So he did not discover them. But he was the first European to see them, and he named the falls after Queen Victoria of England. The name for the falls in the local Tonga language is "The Smoke that Thunders." That is a much better a name. In the rainy season the falls splash so much that you can't see through them. They make great loud sounds.

Zambia has many mineral resources, like copper, cobalt, magnesium and more. In the late 19th century, British explorers were able to gain mining rights in Zambia. They took over an area they called Northern Rhodesia. The people who had lived there for centuries no longer were in charge. But they kept trying to get their country back. In 1964, Northern Rhodesia declared independence from Great Britain and re-named itself Zambia.

Zambia has nine provinces and over 70 tribes. English is the national language. It is the language of instruction in school. But there are over 70 local languages spoken, too. Most the languages are Bantu languages. Those languages are part of the country's history.

Zambia does not have any seashore. So it has to work with other countries to ship goods. In the 1970s, Zambia worked with the Chinese and the Tanzanian governments to build a railroad from Zambia to Dar es Salaam. Dar es Salaam is the capital of Tanzania. It is an important global seaport.

Zambia is a very beautiful and peaceful African country. From the falls in the south, to the high wide plateaus of the north, to the national parks, to the dancing of the traditional tribal ceremonies, Zambia's tourism ad campaign that states Zambia is the "Real Africa" couldn't more true.

Contrast and Evaluate Fact and Opinion – Nonfiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. Which of these words tells you this sentence is an opinion? "Sometimes history is not fair, as you will learn when you read about Zambia.

- a. sometimes
- b. fair
- c. learn
- d. find

3. Which words tell you this statement is a fact? "Remarkably, anthropologists found that by the 12th century other people came."

- a. Years ago
- b. anthropologists found
- c. by the 12th century
- d. other people came

2. Which of these statements is a fact?

- a. There are over 70 local languages spoken as well.
- b. Zambia is a very beautiful country.
- c. Zambia is the real Africa.
- d. They have a great history?

4. Which of these statements is an opinion?

- a. Obviously, Livingstone was not the first person to see the falls.
- b. So he did not discover them.
- c. Other people came and took control.
- d. That is a much better name.

5. *Write your own answer to this question. Choose a sentence from the passage that is a fact. Write it here.*

How do you know it is a fact?

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	b	a	b	d

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response. Students should identify a fact and explain that it is verifiable.