

“But stone stew tastes better if it has some yams, some cabbage, and beans, rice, and meat. So if you bring me some, I’ll mix them right in. Then the stew will be ready to eat!”

The people brought everything Anna had asked for and put it in the pot. Anna cooked the stew some more, then ate it together with all the people.

Everyone loved Anna’s stone stew. Anna took her stone and walked home, hungry no more.



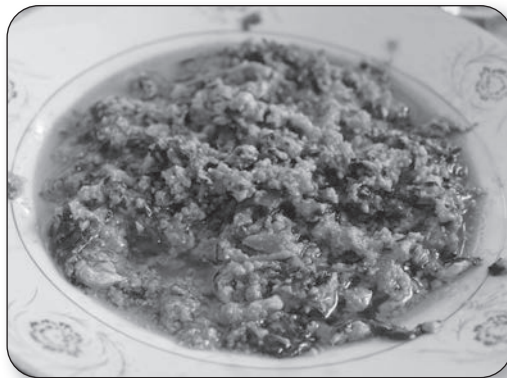
- 
1. Who are the characters in the story?
  2. What is Anna’s problem in the story?
  3. How does Anna’s problem get fixed or solved in the end?

# Let's Make Palava Stew

by Karen E. Martin

## Introduction

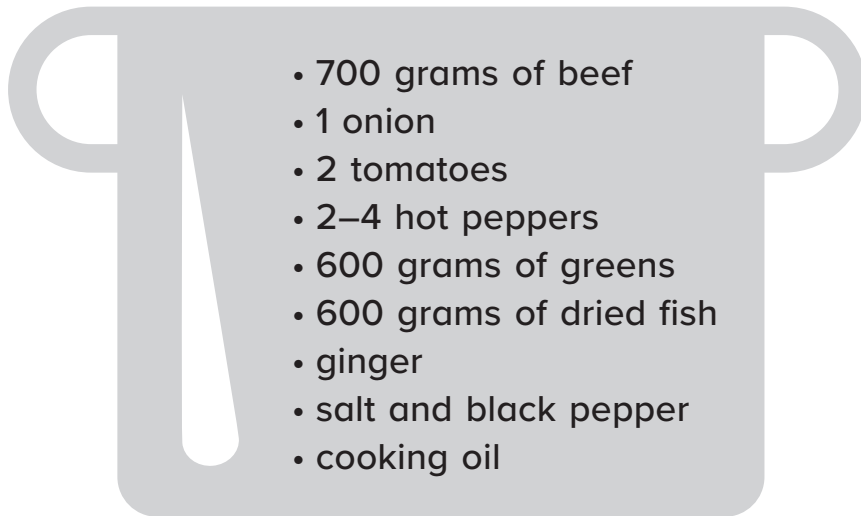
If you invite someone to eat at your home, you might want to serve palava stew. This delicious stew is made from **vegetables** and meat. Let's read about what you need to make this dish, where you can get your **ingredients**, and how you put the ingredients together.



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## Getting the Ingredients

Making palava stew is easy. Here is what you need:



Some people use different meats or vegetables. Some people like to add many hot peppers, but other people add only a few. You can use different ingredients if you want to.

Now that you know what you need to make palava stew, you need to get your ingredients.



Farmers grow many of the foods you need to make palava stew. They spend time planting and growing vegetables and then picking them. They sell their vegetables at the market. You can buy the onion, tomatoes, hot peppers, and greens from them.



How many vegetables do you need to buy?

Next, you need to buy meat, dried fish, **spices**, and oil. You can buy all of these things at the market.

## Greens

Some people use molokhia when making palava stew. Molokhia is a popular green in North Africa. In other places, people may use other types of greens such as spinach, kale, okra, or turnip leaves.



molokhia

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Ppy2010ha / Dreamstime.com



# Preparing the Ingredients

Before you cook, you need to **prepare** the ingredients:

- Put the dried fish in water for an hour or two. Then cut the fish into pieces, removing the skin, bones, head, and tail.
- Wash the vegetables in water, making sure they are clean.
- Cut the vegetables and the meat into small pieces.



Daleen Loest / Dreamstime.com

# Making Palava Stew

Now it's time to start cooking! Put the meat in a large pot. Cover it with water and add one small spoon of salt.

Let the meat cook on low heat for 20 minutes. As it cooks, the meat gets soft.



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As the meat cooks in the pot, heat the cooking oil in a pan. Brown the onions in the oil. Add the tomatoes and hot peppers to the pan and let them cook for a minute or two.



Joseph C. Salomis / Shutterstock.com

It is time to add the fish, greens, and cooked vegetables to your pot of meat. Put them all in the stew, and let it cook for a few more minutes.

Next, add the spices a little at a time, until the stew **tastes** good to you. Do not add too much at one time! Add a little and then taste the stew. If it needs more spices, add more.

**Stir** the stew so it does not stick. The stew gets thick as it cooks.



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## Serving Palava Stew

Your delicious stew is done! If you never knew how to make it before, now you have learned something new! Now you can serve it to your friends and family. Some people serve the palava stew with rice. Other people serve it with fufu. How will you serve your palava stew?



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Palava with rice

1. What is the topic of this text?
2. What are some ingredients that go into palava stew?
3. What steps do you follow to cook the stew?



# The Hopping Boy

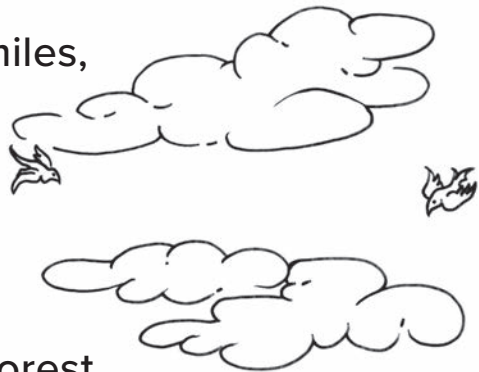
by Elizabeth Massie

A boy named Titus, whose nickname was “Tie,”  
wanted to travel the world,  
to see new places,  
new faces.

His feet could take him many miles,  
but not thousands  
and thousands of miles.

He was sad.

Deep sigh.



One day he took a nap in the forest  
and woke up to find his legs had grown very,  
very, very long.

When he stood, his head reached past the treetops.

He **hopped**,

and the hop took him up, up  
past the birds, beyond the clouds!

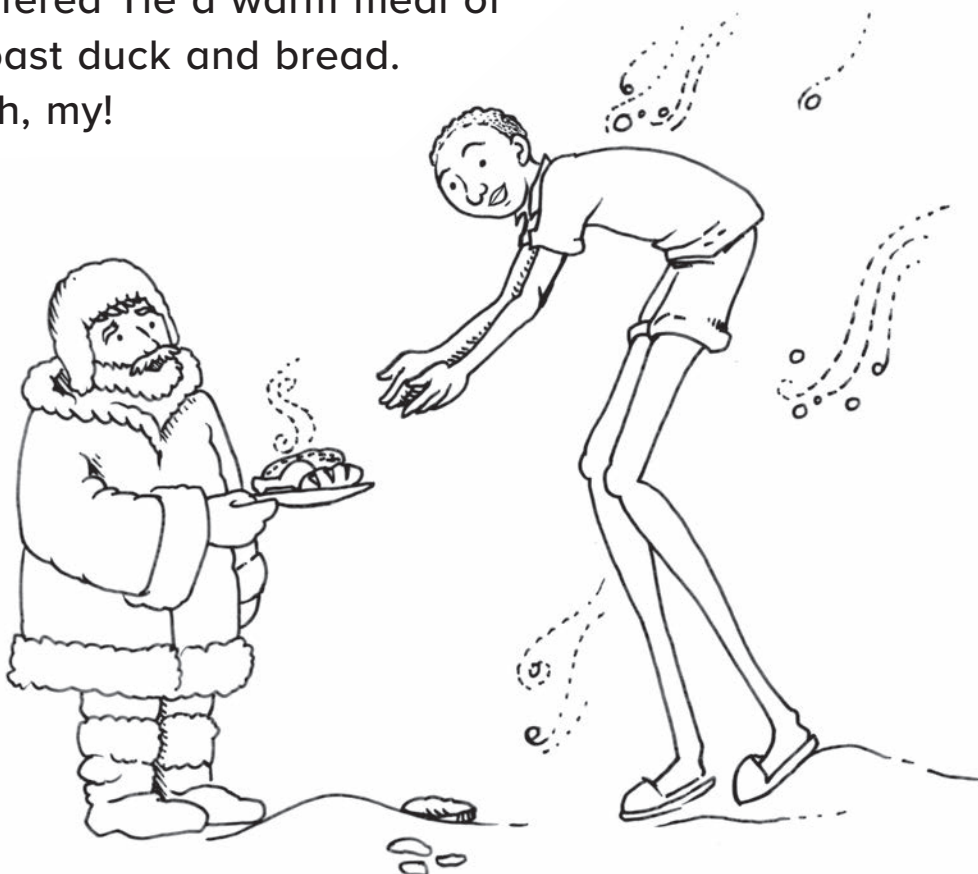
So high!



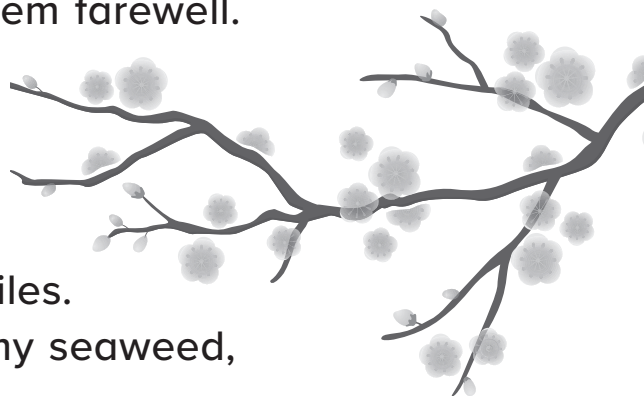
When he returned to Earth he sat to think,  
stretching his very,  
very, very long legs out through the trees.  
“This is how I can travel  
the whole world,” he said,  
“and still be back home in one day!”  
So up he stood up, took a breath,  
then hopped to the north.  
Good-bye!



He **landed** in northern Finland,  
where snow blew around in heavy, white sheets  
that covered the ground.  
Happy people wearing thick **coats**  
offered Tie a warm meal of  
roast duck and bread.  
Oh, my!



When he was done, he bid them farewell.  
With a big hop,  
he landed in the east  
in a sunny garden in Japan  
where pink trees bloomed.  
A family **greeted** him with smiles.  
They gave him rice and yummy seaweed,  
which he was happy to eat.



Tie hopped on,  
south across a wide, blue **ocean**.  
He landed in Fiji  
on a white beach where crabs **crawled**  
and frogs hopped—though not as high as Tie!  
A kind boy gave Tie “lovo,”  
a dish with vegetables, meats, and fish.  
He thanked the boy, and ate the food.



With several more hops Tie was home again.  
He fell asleep in the forest, happy and very  
very, very tired.  
When he woke, his legs were short again.  
He told and retold his stories of travel around  
the world.  
While most people just laughed  
and shook their heads,  
his best friend, Teta said, “That’s so cool, Tie!”



1. What are the different settings in this story?
2. What is Titus’s problem in the beginning of the story?
3. How does Titus’s problem get fixed or solved?



# Abebe Bikila

## The Barefoot Winner

by Judith Lipsett

### From Sheep to City

Abebe Bikila was born in 1932 in Jato, a small village in Ethiopia. Everyone there lived in tukuls, which are mud huts with straw roofs. When Abebe was young, he left his tukul each day and walked **barefoot**, looking for places for his sheep to graze. He did not know that one day those bare feet would win **races**.

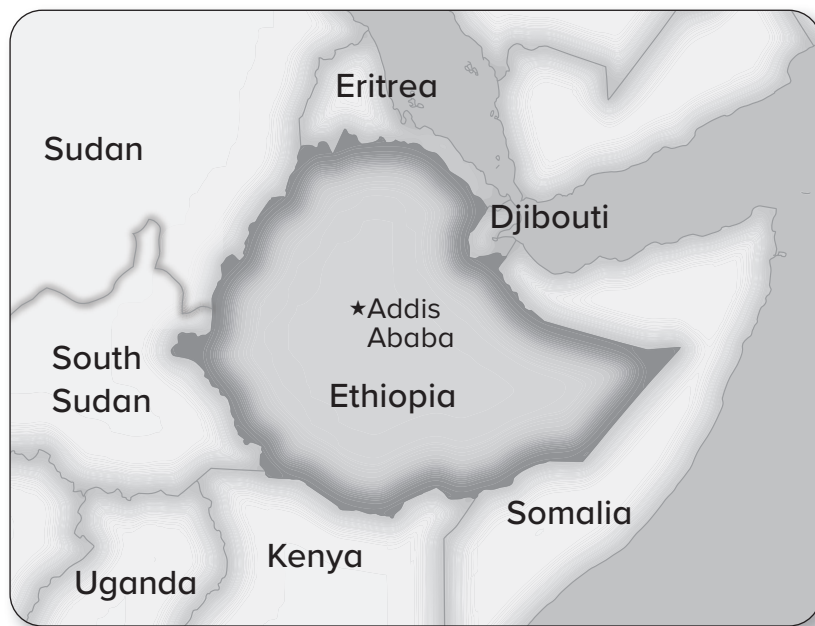


Lingbeek / iStockphoto.com

Abebe grew up tending sheep in a village like this one.



When he was 19, Abebe moved to the capital city of Ethiopia. He found a job as an Imperial Guard for the country's ruler. When he was not working, Abebe liked to play sports. He played football, basketball, and volleyball. Then, in 1956, he started running.



Addis Ababa, where Abebe worked as an Imperial Guard, is about 100 miles from the village of Jato where he was born.



## Getting Ready

The sports trainer for the Imperial Guards saw that Abebe ran 12 miles every day to get to work. He had a good idea. Maybe Abebe could run a marathon! (A marathon is a race where people run for 26 miles.) The sports trainer hoped that someday Abebe could run in the Olympic Games.

The sports trainer helped Abebe learn to be a better runner. To race for 26 miles, runners have to go just the right speed at the right time. If they go too fast, they will get tired before the end. If they go too slowly, they will not win. Abebe was able to stay fresh for the whole race. Running a long way was no problem for him.

Soon, Abebe began to win races. In 1960, he was fast enough to be on the Olympic team. Only two runners from Ethiopia could go to the Olympic Games in Rome, Italy. Abebe was one of them. His trainer went with the runners to Rome.



2013© International Olympic Committee

## The Olympic Games

In the days before the race, the two runners practiced on the track. Abebe was faster when he ran barefoot than when he wore **shoes**. Because the race was late in the day, the sports trainer knew the track would not be too hot. He told both men to run without shoes.

At 5:30 in the afternoon, the Olympic marathon began. People in the **crowd** did not notice Abebe in his orange shorts and green shirt. They had never heard of him before. But soon, everyone would know who he was.



By mile 25, Abebe was out in front. No one could catch him! When he won the race, he beat the world **record**.



Blackcat (Italian Wikipedia) / ww organizzatore dei Giochi della XVII Olimpiade (public domain)

After winning the marathon, Abebe told his trainer that he could keep going at the same speed for many more miles.

Abebe Bikila was the first African to win a **gold medal** in the Olympics. Then, four years later in Japan, Abebe became the first person from any country to win two gold medals in the Olympic marathon. This time he wore shoes!



Abebe earned his second gold medal at the 1964 Olympic Games in Japan.

2013© International Olympic Committee





## Leading the Way

Abebe Bikila was a hero for all of Africa. He was the first African gold-medal winner, but not the last. Abebe opened the door for many other **athletes** who followed in his bare footsteps.



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Abebe became a leader by working hard and doing what he loved to do.

1. What is this text about?
2. Why is Abebe called the barefoot runner?
3. How did Abebe become an Olympic runner?

# *The Morning Birds*

by Cynthia Moore



Some people like getting up in the morning. They jump out of bed at dawn, eager to start a new day. Korto was not one of those people. She was not very good at **waking up** in the morning.

Every morning her mother would call her to get up. And Korto would reply that she was getting out of bed. Sometimes she did get up, but sometimes she went right back to sleep.

On days when this happened, Korto would be **late** for school. She kept telling herself that she would get up early the next morning and get to school on time. But when the next morning came around, she would forget.

One morning Korto **woke up** early. She heard something outside that woke her up. **Yawning**, she went to the window and looked out. She saw two birds singing in the tree outside her bedroom window.



Korto went to the kitchen and took a few crumbs from the bread that her mother had baked. She leaned out her window and gave the crumbs to the birds. They chirped and sang nonstop after that.

While the birds were singing, Korto hummed along until she learned the song of the birds. As she walked to school that day, she sang like the birds.

After that, Korto did not need her mother to tell her to wake up. The birds outside her





window woke her up early every morning.  
She was not late for school even once.  
Korto's mother was very pleased with this,  
and so was Korto.

Then one morning, Korto's mother **knocked**  
at her door. "You need to wake up, Korto,"  
her mother said. "It's almost time for school."

Korto squinted at her mother through her  
sleepy eyes.

"But I didn't hear the song of the birds today,"  
she said sleepily.

"Look at the clock," her mother replied.

Korto was silent. She knew she would be  
late for school that day.

Korto hurried to get ready for school. She  
wondered what had happened to her birds.

When Korto came home from school, she  
saw one of the birds making a very loud  
noise in the sky. She followed the bird as it  
went behind the house. Then she saw that  
the other bird was **trapped** inside a box.  
Someone had caught it and placed it there.



Korto opened the box and set the bird free. She watched as the birds flew away. The next morning, Korto woke up suddenly.

Had she heard a **familiar** sound outside her window? Yes, there it was again. The birds were back, and they were singing to her! Korto looked out the window and smiled. She would not be late for school today!

- 
1. Why was Korto often late for school?
  2. What helped Korto wake up early?
  3. Why did the birds stop singing for a while?



# The Dancing Tree

by Cynthia Moore



Adu and his mother live all the way up on top of a hill. They live in a small house. One day, Adu plants an orange tree by the side of the house, just under his bedroom window. He waters it and watches it grow.

One morning, Adu looks out his bedroom window. To his **surprise**, he sees that his tree is dancing.

Adu smiles at the tree and whispers, "You are my **secret**."

The tree whistles and **waves** its leaves at Adu. Each branch on the tree shakes.



The months go by. The tree grows bigger, and small white flowers grow on the tree. After a while, the flowers turn into oranges.

One day, the tree puts its fruit down on the ground for Adu. Adu picks up the oranges and puts them in his school bag. He waves at the tree on his way to school.



His mother asks, “Adu, who are you waving at?”

Adu replies, “I am waving at my little secret.”

His mother smiles. She thinks that Adu's secret is a person.

When Adu comes home from school in the afternoon, he gives his tree some water.

He tells his tree, "I will take good care of you. You dance for me. You give me fruit.

I like how you wave good morning to me when I wake up and wave good-bye when I go to school. I like how you wave hello to me when I get home from school and goodnight to me when I go to sleep."

One morning, Adu wakes up with a smile on his face. He runs to see his little secret. "Good morning, Tree," he says.

But the tree is silent. It stands **still**. Its branches are still. Its leaves are still. It does not dance.

With tears in his eyes, Adu runs to his mother. "My little secret is still."

His mother thinks Adu is talking about a person. "Go call a doctor," she tells him.

Adu runs to the doctor. “There is something **wrong** with my tree!” he calls out to the doctor. “Come and treat it.”

The doctor smiles and shakes his head. “I am **sorry**. I can’t help you. I only treat people, not trees. Go to a farmer for help.”



Adu runs to the farmer and shouts,  
“Farmer, something is wrong with my  
tree. Please make it dance again.”

“I can’t make your tree dance,” the  
farmer tells him. “I can only make it  
grow. Go to a dancer for help.”

Adu runs to a dancer. “Dancer, can you  
make my tree dance?”

“No,” the dancer says. “I am sorry, but  
I can only teach people to dance, not  
trees. Perhaps a singer can help you.”

Adu runs to a singer. He shouts, “Singer,  
I know you are the right person! Please  
come with me and sing to make my  
tree dance.”

“I am sorry,” said the singer. “My singing  
only makes people dance, not trees. I  
am sorry I can’t help you.”

Adu walks home with tears in his eyes.





Adu wakes up at dawn the next day. He thinks about how he can help his tree dance again. Then he hears a whistle from outside his window.

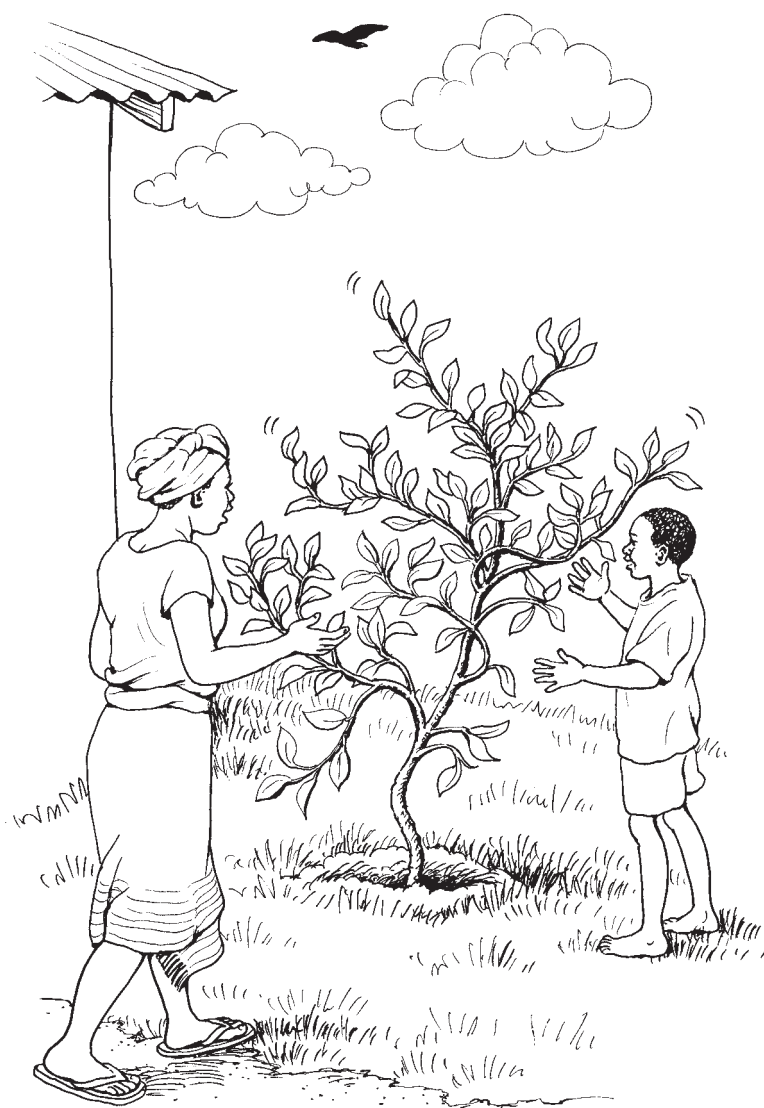
Adu looks out the window. His tree is dancing again! It whistles and waves to him.

Adu runs to his mother in the kitchen.

“Quick, follow me. My little secret is dancing again!”

Adu’s mother runs outside with him. She looks around. “Where is this little secret?” she asks.

“The orange tree is my secret,” Adu tells her.



“Oh, Adu,” his mother says, “a tree only dances when the wind blows. A doctor cannot make a tree dance. A farmer, a dancer, and a singer cannot make a tree dance. Only the wind can make it dance.”

Adu says to the wind, “Please do not stop blowing. My strong and beautiful dancing tree makes me smile.”

The wind smiles back at Adu.



1. What was Adu's problem?
2. What did Adu do to try to solve his problem?
3. In the end, how did Adu's problem get solved?

# Gorilla Park

by Katherine Follett

May 21

Today I start my job at the wildlife park. It is a **beautiful** place. There are high **mountains** and many trees.

**Gorillas** live inside the park. In many places, gorillas are in danger. Here, they are safe from hunters. My job is to watch the gorillas. When people visit the park, I show them where to find the animals.

Gorillas do not hurt people. In fact, they are shy. They will need some time to get used to me.



Ivan Kuzmin / Shutterstock.com

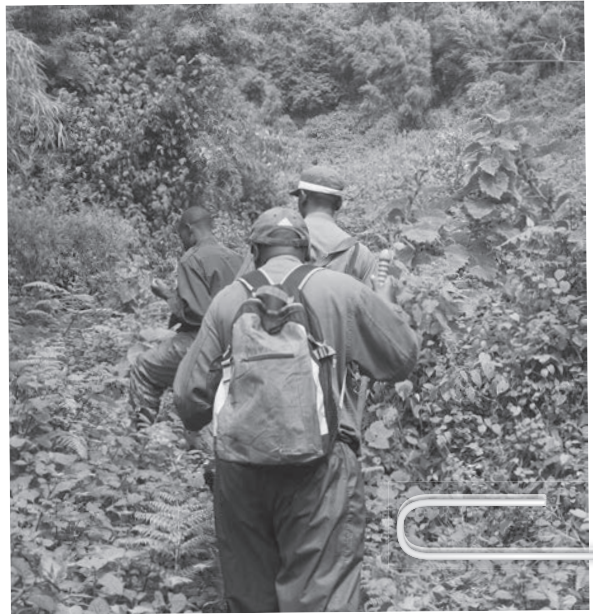
*May 23*

Today Emine, my boss, showed me around the park. We walked on almost every **trail**. I saw beautiful birds in the forest.

I heard animals hurry away. We did not see gorillas. Emine showed me where the gorillas eat.

“They come to this hillside every morning,” she said. We stopped and listened. But we were alone.

I was sad that I did not get to see the gorillas.





*May 24*

This morning, I walked to the same hillside. I sat and waited. The sky was gray. Rain fell. The forest was thick by the trail. Nothing moved.

After almost an hour, I heard something. I saw a dark shape. A male gorilla came out of the trees. He stopped and looked right at me. I held my breath.

Another dark face looked out. It was a baby! But the male led his family back into the trees.

I waited, but they did not come back. The male must not like me.



Sergey Uynadnikov / Shutterstock.com

*Gorillas eat leaves and fruit.*



May 30

Emine gave me some **advice**. She said that when a gorilla sees me, I should act like a gorilla. I should move slowly. I should pretend to eat leaves. The gorillas will see that I do not want to hurt them.

I waited on the hill just after sunrise. Soon, the male gorilla came out of the forest. I put leaves near my mouth.

The male seemed to relax. Then, female gorillas came out. There were baby gorillas, too. They ate. Some of them slept. It was beautiful to see them in their park home. The male stayed between me and his family.



- Male gorillas can be 6 feet tall and weigh 500 pounds.
- Their arms can reach 8 feet across.
- Females are about half the size of males.
- Old males grow light fur on their backs. They are called "silverbacks."
- There are three kinds of gorillas—mountain gorillas, eastern lowland gorillas, and western lowland gorillas.



*June 4*

This morning was very special. Again I went to the hillside to watch the gorillas. The male came out first. The females came out next with their babies.

One baby liked to play. He liked to jump and **roll** around. Then all at once he rolled down the hill. He rolled right next to me!

I did not move. I thought the male would be angry. But he just watched. The mother gorilla let her baby play near me.

I knew that the gorillas were not afraid. They knew I was their friend.

I am so happy to have this job. I cannot wait to show people how smart and good these animals are.

1. What does the journal writer mostly write about?
2. How does the journal writer feel about the gorillas in the park?
3. How do you think the gorillas feel about the journal writer? Why?



guentertgumi / iStockphoto.com

# Parks to Protect the Planet

by Judith Lipsett

## The Pygmy Hippo

All day long, this pygmy hippo stays in the **swamp**. The swamp keeps him cool when the sun is out. When it gets dark, he **climbs** out of the water and looks for plants to eat.



Kieren Welch / Shutterstock.com

Pygmy hippos are found in the wild only in Liberia and three other African countries.

Most pygmy hippos live in Liberia or in nearby countries. But there are not many pygmy hippos left. People hunt them for food. People also move onto the land where they live. But this hippo's home is safe. He lives in Sapo **National Park**. Sapo is the only national park in Liberia.



The dark area on the map shows where Sapo National Park is.



# Why Do We Need National Parks?

A national park is a large area where people are not permitted to live. We need them because people change the world. We dig up dirt to build houses and roads. We cut down trees to plant crops. The more people there are, the more we transform the land.



Dr. Morley Read / Shutterstock.com

Why is it a problem that people cut down trees and change the land? Trees give shade from the sun. They hold dirt in place. After trees are cut down, there is nothing to hold the **soil** in place when it rains. This causes the soil to wash away. Then plants can't grow there.



Courtesy of Brattle Publishing Group

Monrovia is full of buildings, streets, cars, and people. What was here before the city was built?



Trees are important because everything in nature is **linked** to each other. Trees make the oxygen we breathe. Trees give birds a home. Birds eat insects. Insects carry seeds from place to place so new plants grow. People, animals, plants, and trees all need each other.

For many years, no one thought about the changes people made to the land. But then we learned more about our planet. We learned that if we use up all the land, there will be no more places for trees to grow or for animals to live.



hallam creations / Shutterstock.com

As we learn more about our world, we learn that we have to **protect** the forests, rivers, swamps, and grasslands. But how can we do that? One way is to make national parks.

More than 140 years ago, America created the first national park. Since then, almost 100 countries have created national parks.

In Africa, there are many parks. These parks provide a place for animals and plants to be safe.

Country	Number of National Parks
Angola	11
Cameroon	9
Cape Verde	1
Kenya	23
Liberia	1
Mauritania	2
Zimbabwe	12

This chart shows some of the countries in Africa that have national parks. There are many more.

## Sapo National Park

Sapo National Park has many different sorts of plants. In 2009, people found six kinds of plants in the park that no one had ever seen before!



© Ben Collen / ZSL

The zebra duiker lives in Sapo National Park. It is similar to a deer. It may die out. Because of the park, animals like the zebra duiker have a chance to survive.



# Protecting the Parks

The reason for parks like Sapo National Park is to protect the land, plants, and animals. But we need to protect the park, too. People are not permitted to hunt or farm or dig for gold in the park. Sometimes people do these things anyway. Every time they do, they hurt the park.

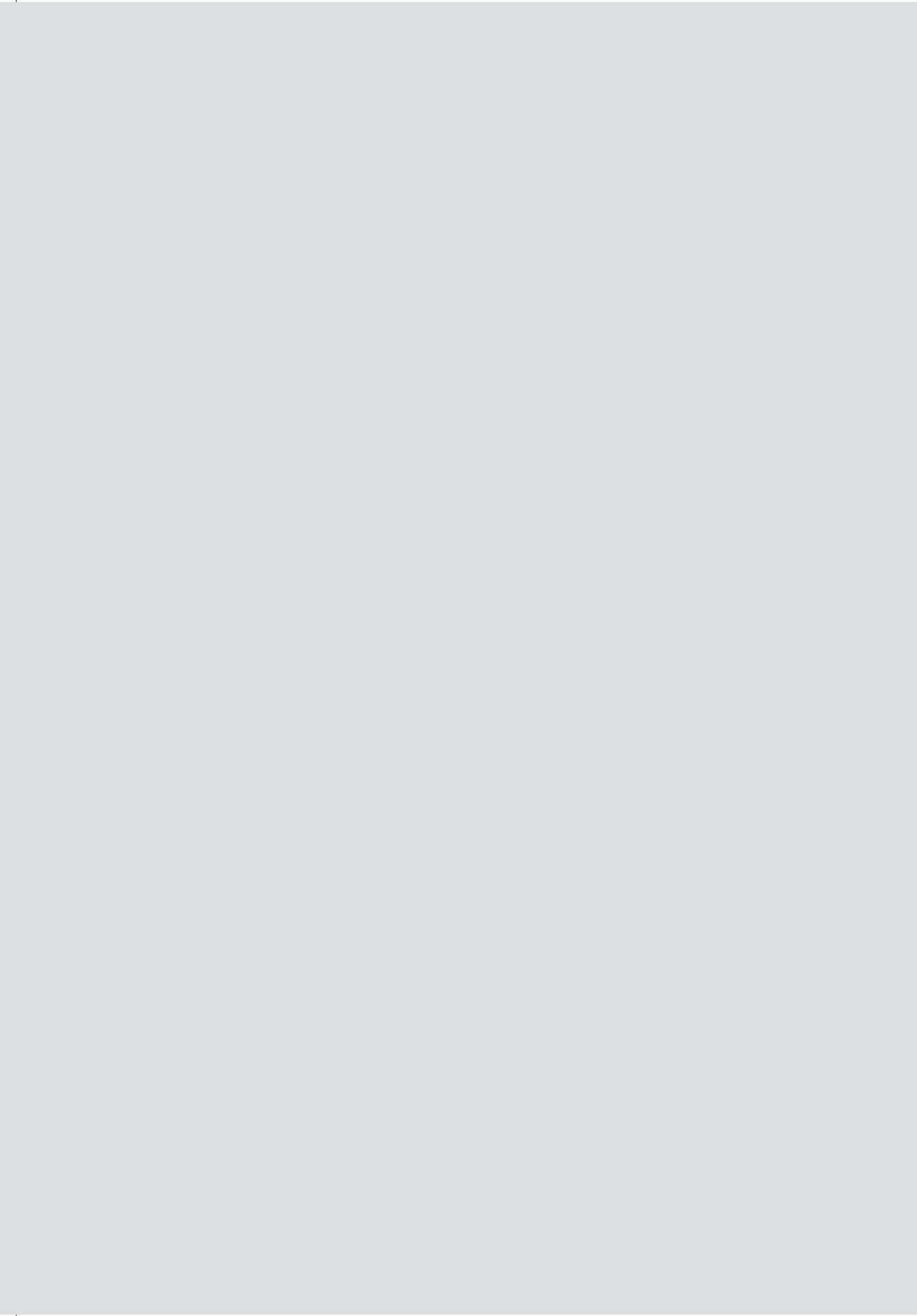
If people knew how important national parks are, maybe they would be more careful to follow the rules. What do you think?



© Ben Collen / ZSL

1. What is the topic of this text?
2. What is the main idea of the text?
3. Why do national parks need to be protected?

# **Additional Stories**



# The Hawk and the Vulture

by Kenneth Harding



Once, a hawk and a vulture talked.

“How do you get food to eat?” Hawk asked Vulture.

“I eat the food that people throw away at the dump,” answered Vulture. “How do you get your food?”





“I grab chicks and carry them away,”  
said Hawk.

“Well, I don’t think that is a good  
way to live,” said Vulture. And he  
flew off.

The people in town didn't like that Hawk grabbed their chicks. They set a trap for him.

When Hawk flew down to grab a chick, he got caught in a trap.



Vulture flew to the dump to find food as he always did. On his way back home, he saw Hawk trapped in a net. He flew down and helped Hawk get away.





“What did I tell you?” Vulture said.  
“Do not grab chicks. It is not a good way to live.”

“Thank you, my friend,” said Hawk.  
He was glad that he was free again!



# The Liberian Mongoose

by Terry Miller Shannon


Have you seen a Liberian mongoose? If you have, you are lucky! Not many people have seen these animals. This is because they like to stay away from people. They live deep within the forests around streams.

What does a Liberian mongoose look like? It is almost all dark brown in color. But its long bushy tail is not as dark, and its neck has stripes.

A Liberian mongoose has long, strong claws. It uses its claws for digging. It has a long muzzle that it also uses for digging.

People almost never see a Liberian mongoose.





A mongoose spends a lot of time digging.  
It digs a hole near a tree to make its home.  
When it is time to eat, it digs for food in  
streams. It eats worms it finds in the sand.  
It also eats insects and insect eggs.

Scientists caught the first Liberian mongoose  
in 1989. They took it to a zoo in Canada.

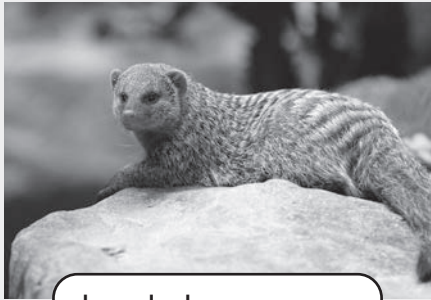
Scientists learned some things about the  
Liberian mongoose from people who live  
close to the mongoose.

### **What Scientists Know About Liberian Mongooses**

- They have long claws, a long snout, and short, sharp teeth.
- They eat worms and insects.
- They live in burrows at the base of trees.
- They are diurnal, which means they hunt during the day.



## Live in Africa



Aurell / Dreamstime.com

banded mongoose



Lukas Blazek / Dreamstime.com

Somali dwarf mongoose

## Live in Asia



Kietr / Shutterstock.com

Indian brown mongoose



Jayanand Govindaraj / Dreamstime.com

Indian gray mongoose

There are more than 20 different species of mongooses in the world. Some live in Africa, and some live in Asia.

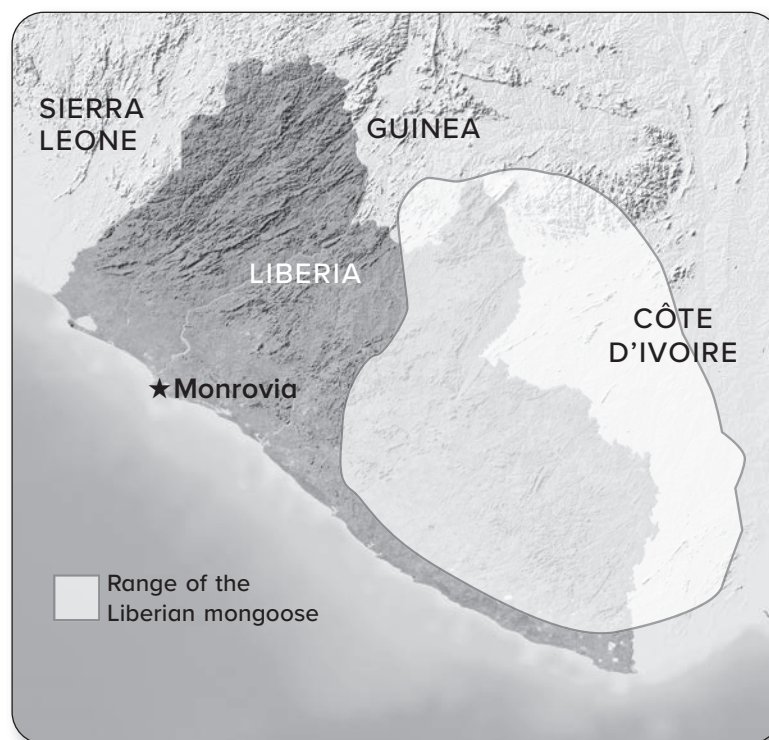
Even though Liberian mongooses don't want to be near people, they do not like to be alone. They enjoy being around other Liberian mongooses. It is common for three to five mongooses to live in one hole. They may go out together to find food. They spend most of each day looking for food.

If you do see a Liberian mongoose, be careful! Wild animals can bite and claw you. Stay away and stay safe.



Liberian mongooses live in Liberia and the Ivory Coast. But, humans want wood to make houses. They also cut trees so they can clear the land to plant crops. Then mongooses lose their homes. Mongooses are also in trouble because some humans hunt them.

Some people are afraid that all of the mongooses may die out. These people work to find ways to help these animals. Then one day it may be possible for you to see a mongoose.



This map shows where Liberian mongooses live.

# My Trip to Monrovia

by Katherine Follett

*November 9*

My name is Islah. I am going on a trip with my father. I will write every day. I will write about what I see and do. I want to always remember this trip.

It is long past my bedtime, but I am still awake. When I get up in the morning, my father and I will go to Monrovia. We will visit his sister, my Aunt Nejay. I have never been to a city before. I cannot wait, but I am also a bit scared.



*November 10*

---

Today was a very long day. My father and I walked to the next village. Our bag was very heavy. We had to take turns to carry it.

We got a ride from a friend of my father's. He drove us to Monrovia. It was a long ride. I rode in the back of the truck. I looked at all the places that we drove by.



Smamy / Dreamstime.com

Then the road became paved. I began to see many buildings. We were in Monrovia. I saw cars and pen-pens. There were people all around. Monrovia is a busy place!

My father's friend dropped us in front of an apartment building. Aunt Nejay stood outside. She had a wide smile. My father was happy to see her.

My aunt's apartment is on the second floor. I like to look out the window and watch people go by on the street below.

*This is Aunt Nejay's building where we stayed.*



Courtesy of Brattle Publishing Group

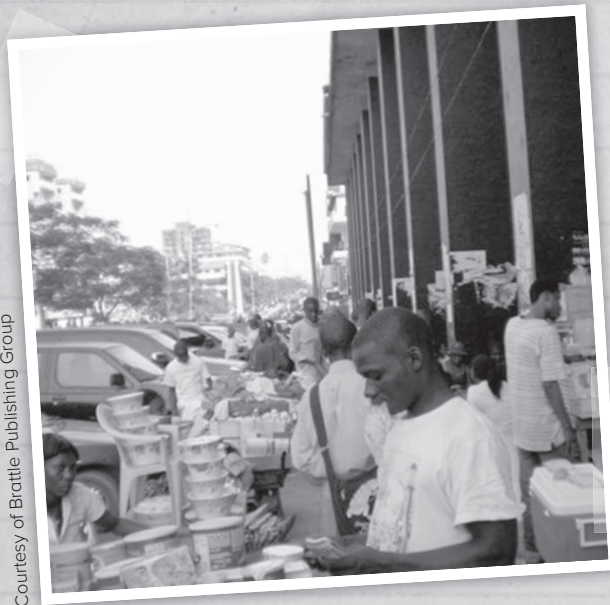


## *November 11*

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I did not sleep much. I am used to the quiet of my home, but Monrovia is loud. Cars honked and people talked outside my window most of the night.

In the morning, we walked to the center of Monrovia. There were tall buildings on both sides of the street. I held my father's hand so I would not get lost. I had a lot of questions for Aunt Nejay.



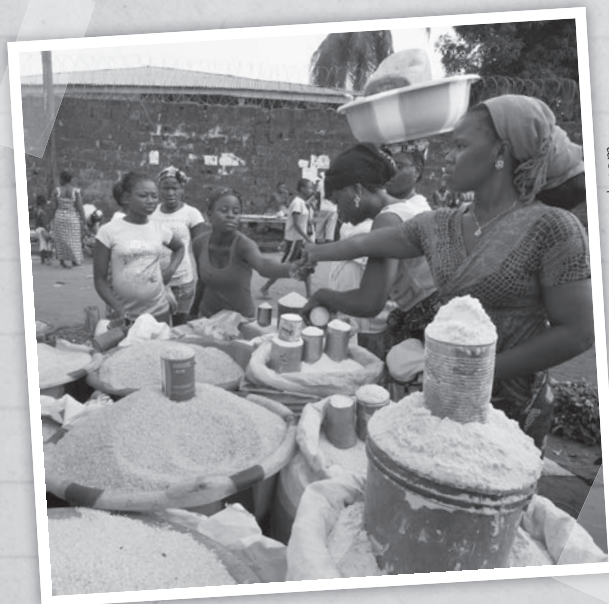
Courtesy of Brattle Publishing Group



*November 12*

Today Aunt Nejay took us to a place where we could buy almost anything. I saw food, drinks, clothes, and toys for sale. It was very busy. I did not mind all the cars and people. I took a lot of pictures.

When it was time to eat, we found fish and rice for sale. Other people around us bought food to eat. The city may be big and busy. But in some ways, the city is like a big village. People here also do things together.



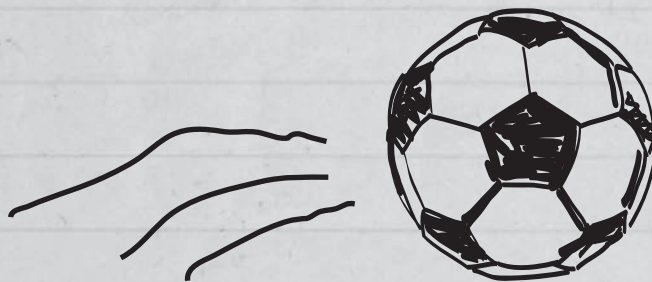
MickyWiswedel / Shutterstock.com

*November 13*

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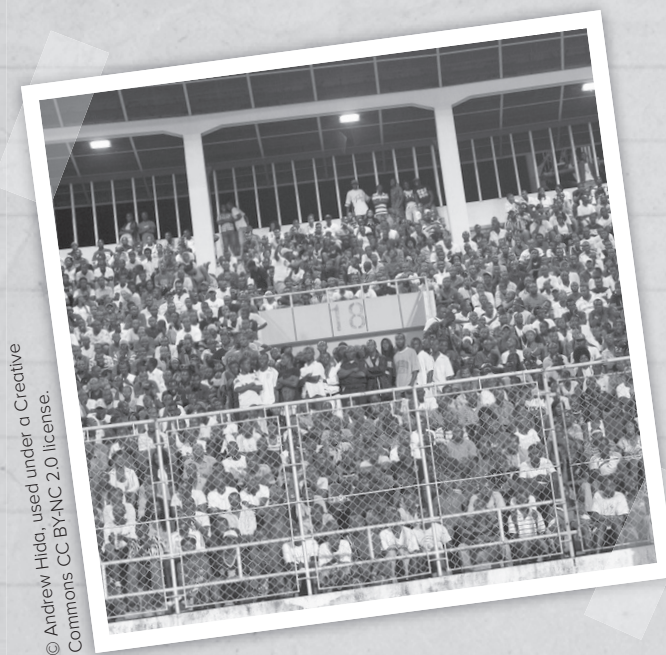
Today was a special day. At first, I didn't know what we would see. We walked on a street where I had yet been. Lots of people walked on the street, too. What would I see?

Then I saw a building I had never seen before. When we got near, I knew what it was. It was a football stadium. We would see a football game!



We climbed into seats that seemed to be up high. Soon, the seats were full of people. People shouted and laughed. It was a happy noise.

Below us, on the green field, we watched the Lone Stars play against Angola.



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*November 14*

Today was our last day in Monrovia. It was hard to leave. I had so much fun. I gave Aunt Nejay a big hug. She told me she would try to visit me in the country.

Monrovia is big and lots of fun. But it is also noisy and crowded. In some places, it is not very clean. I missed the green landscape and the quiet nighttime. So I was ready to go home.

Courtesy of Brattle Publishing Group



*The city of Monrovia*



As soon as we climbed into the truck,  
I went to sleep. I had done and seen so  
many exciting things in Monrovia. When  
I woke up, it was dark. I was happy  
when I heard my mother's voice. It was  
good to be home.



MissHibiscus / iStockphoto.com

*My home*




# A Good Friend

by Yolanda Issac-Sie



Feh and Muah live in Tinway Town, Grand Bassa County. Feh had a hard life. Muah had an easy life. But that did not stop the girls from being good friends. They spent a lot of time together. What one girl did, the other girl did.



So Feh was sad when Muah started school. Feh could not go to school. She had to stay home and help her mother. She helped her mother sell bread. She knew this was important. She thought it was important to go to school, too.

Every day, Muah went to Feh's house after school. Feh was glad to see her friend. Muah told Feh what she learned that day.


One day Muah had a book with her when she went to see Feh.

“Please come in, Muah,” Feh said.  
“What is that book you have with you?”



“We read this story in school today. It’s a story that I know you will like,” said Muah. “I want to read it to you.”

Feh was glad that Muah had a book with her. She was glad to have something fun to do. She had worked all day.



The girls sat down and Muah started to read. The story was about a girl who went to school and became a doctor. The story told how the girl's mother became very sick. The girl helped her mother get well again. Feh was glad that Muah had read such a good story to her.


When Feh's mother came home that night, Feh told the story to her.

“Don't you think that I should go to school, too, Mother?” Feh asked.  
“I could learn how to be a dentist and take care of the hole in your tooth. Muah said that a dentist is a doctor who takes care of people's teeth.”

Feh's mother smiled. She knew how much Feh wanted to go to school. She also knew it would be good for her to learn new things. She said that Feh could go to school, too.








The next year, Feh went to the same school that her friend Muah went to.

Muah helped Feh learn to read. Soon Feh could read books by herself. At night, she would read the books to her mother.

The girls were glad that they went to the same school. Feh was happy that her friend Muah had read her the story about the girl who became a doctor. That story had helped Feh get to go to school. Feh was glad she had such a good friend.



# Who Is Best?

by Elizabeth Massie

The animals met on a bright, sunny day.  
In a circle they gathered around.  
They couldn't decide which one was the best.  
Their fussing made quite a loud sound!

"I am the best," said the lion with pride.  
"I can run swift and fast, as you see.  
My legs are quite long and are so very strong.  
Yes, no one is better than me."



“I am the best,” said the soft, little bat.

“Here are my wings, look and see!

I can fly through the sky, down low  
and up high.

Yes, no one is better than me.”



“I am the best,” said the chubby  
gray hippo.

“Just watch me right now and you’ll see  
how I swim in rivers and lakes with great ease.

Yes, no one is better than me.”



“I am the best,” said the monkey up high  
on a branch in a tall, shady tree.

“I can climb and can scramble on limb  
and on bramble.

Yes, no one is better than me!”





There in the middle a tiny mouse stood.  
And she said with a wink of her eye,  
“You each are the best at what you can do,  
whether you run fast or swim, climb or fly.”

“To test this,” she said, “I’ve a letter to send  
to my uncle who lives far away.  
There are mountains, a river,  
tall trees, and wide plain,  
and I need it to get there today.”

So each took a turn to carry the letter.  
The lion ran swift on the plain.  
The hippo swam fast in the deep, flowing river  
in a sudden and hard, falling rain.

The monkey swung through the really tall trees.  
The bat flew across mountains high.  
The letter arrived in less than a day.  
To say thanks, the mouse baked them a pie!



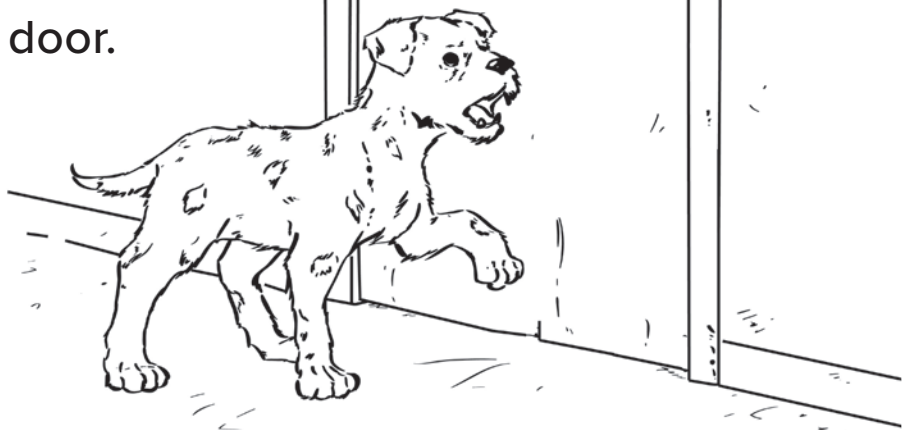


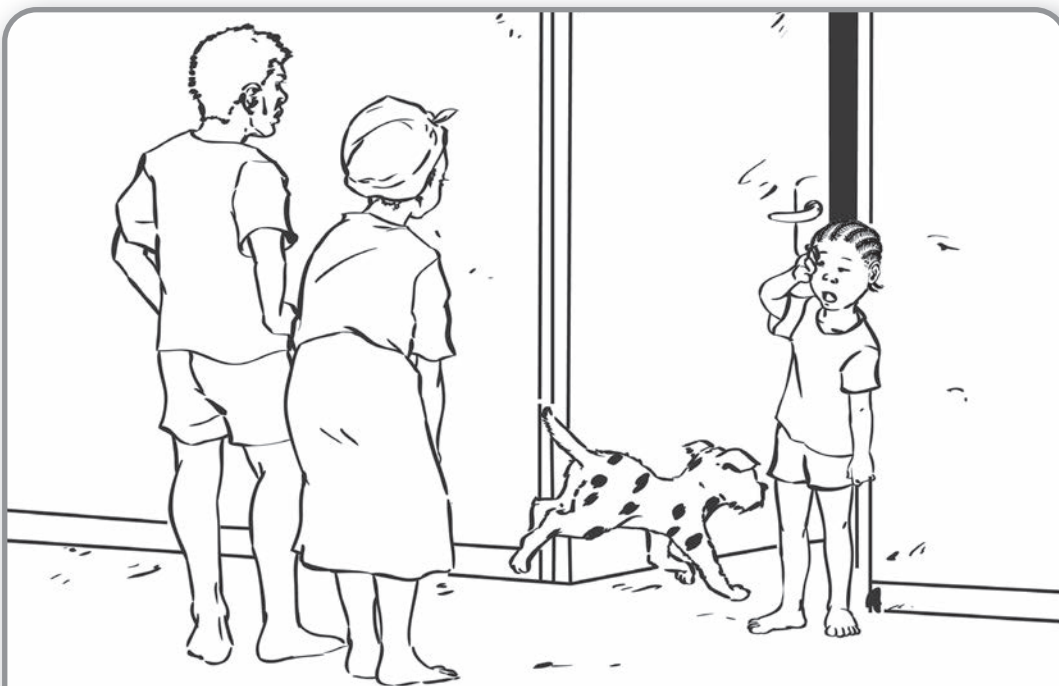
# Spot's Surprise

by Thomas Jensen

I have a black-and-white dog named Spot. She is a good dog. She almost never barks or gets into trouble.

But early one morning at about four o'clock, Spot came to my bedroom door. She was barking, but I didn't hear her bark. The barking woke up my father though. He came out to see what was wrong. He saw Spot barking at my door. He tried to reach out to pet her, but Spot wouldn't let him pet her. She just kept on barking at my door.





Then my mother woke up. She saw my father standing at the door of my bedroom. She saw Spot barking at my door. She looked at Spot, and then she knocked on my door.

The knock finally woke me up, but I was still sleepy. When I opened my door, Spot rushed in. She went straight under my bed. Once under my bed, she stopped barking and went to sleep. We all went back to sleep, too.

At six o'clock, Spot barked again. I woke up with a start.

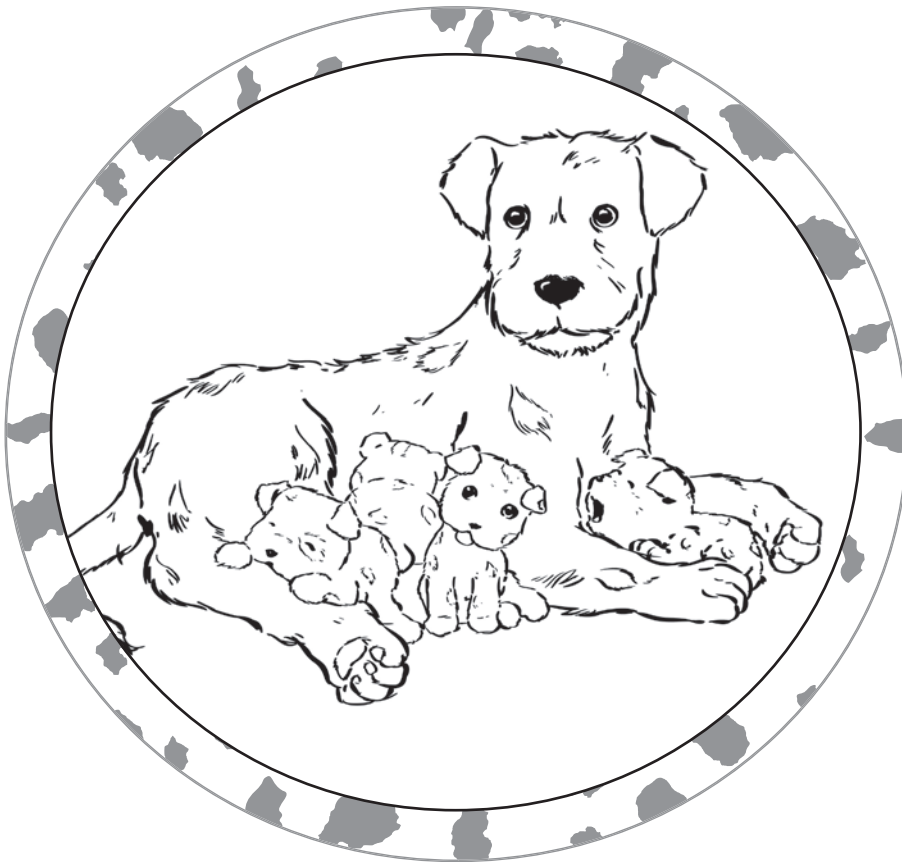
“What’s wrong, Spot?” I asked her.

She just looked at me and then went back under the bed.

I lay down again. I wanted to go back to sleep. Just as I fell asleep, Spot came out from under the bed. She started barking again. Her barking was starting to annoy me! I told her to leave the room, but she wouldn’t move. Her barking was beginning to make me very mad. But I also wanted to know if something was wrong with her.

I told her to leave my room, but she hid under my bed. I thought I would have to drag her out of the room. I knelt down on the floor to reach for her. I got a big surprise when I looked under the bed.

There was Spot, but she wasn't alone. There were four puppies with her! I shouted for my father and mother. They ran into my room. They knelt down to look under the bed. Then they grinned at the four new puppies. Spot wagged her tail. She had given us a special gift.



# More About the Honeybee

by Frankie Baer

## Making Honey

Many insects eat nectar from flowers, but honeybees use the nectar to make honey. Honeybees are the only insects that make food that people eat.

A worker bee drinks the nectar from flowers. It stores the nectar in its stomach and takes it back to the hive.



lkordela / Shutterstock.com

This bee is getting nectar and also picking up pollen.





Alexandru Razvan Cofaru / Dreamstime.com

This bee is putting nectar into the honeycomb.

When it gets back to the hive, the bee puts the nectar into cells in the honeycomb. It fans its wings to dry the nectar. When the nectar is dry, it turns into honey and is ready to eat.

Bees work very hard. A honeybee will fly to 50 to 100 flowers on each trip from the hive. To make just one pound of honey, a hive of bees will fly about 55,000 miles. They will go to about two million flowers.

## A Friend to Flowers

Honeybees spread pollen from one flower to another. To get the nectar, a honeybee crawls deep into a flower. It rubs against the flower. Pollen from the flower sticks to the hairs on the bee's legs. Then the bee flies to another flower. The pollen from the first flower rubs off on the second flower. The pollen helps the flower make seeds so that new plants can grow.



Nanostock / Dreamstime.com

Honeybees also collect pollen from flowers to bring back to the hive for the other bees to eat. They have a basket on their back legs made from hairs. They use the basket to carry pollen.

Honeybees are good at finding their way. They use the sun to help them. They also dance in the air to tell other bees where to find flowers and how to get back to the hive.



### **Bee Facts**

About a third of the food that you eat was able to grow because animals such as bees take pollen from plant to plant.

# Hairy Frogs

## Not a Cute Frog!

by Lisa Harkrader

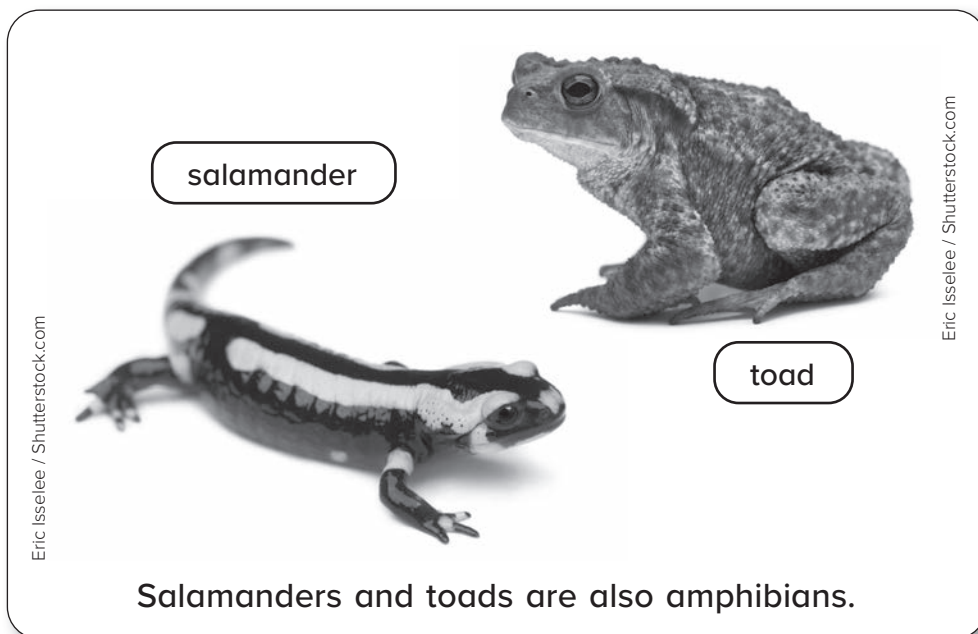


J. Green / Public Domain

## Frogs

When you think of frogs, do you think of cute green animals? Do you think of animals that make a sound like a croak? Frogs live all over the world. But not all frogs are cute!

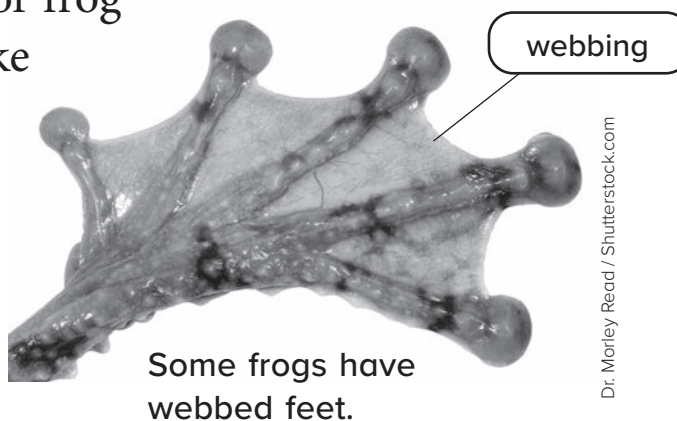
Frogs are amphibians. Most amphibians spend part of their life in water and part of their life on land.



Frogs are cold-blooded. Since they can't heat their own bodies, they sit in the sun to get warm. They go in the water to cool off.

Because frogs have long, strong back legs, they can jump a long way. Some frogs have webbed feet and can swim well.

Most frogs have smooth skin. However, there is one kind of frog that looks like it has hair!





# Hairy Frogs

One large African frog is called the hairy frog. It doesn't really have hair. But male hairy frogs grow long strands of skin. The strands grow along the sides of the frog's back and hind legs. Because of these strands, it appears that these frogs have hair.



Male hairy frogs look as if they have hair on their sides and legs.

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## Home

Hairy frogs live along the coast of central Africa from Nigeria to the Congo. Like all frogs, hairy frogs can only live in fresh water. Since the ocean is saltwater, hairy frogs do not live in the ocean.



Hairy frogs live along the coast of central Africa.

Hairy frogs sometimes live around people's farms. But they like dense mountain forests best. They live near rivers or streams. They like streams where the water flows fast. Hairy frogs live most of their lives on the land. They only return to the water when it is time to lay eggs.

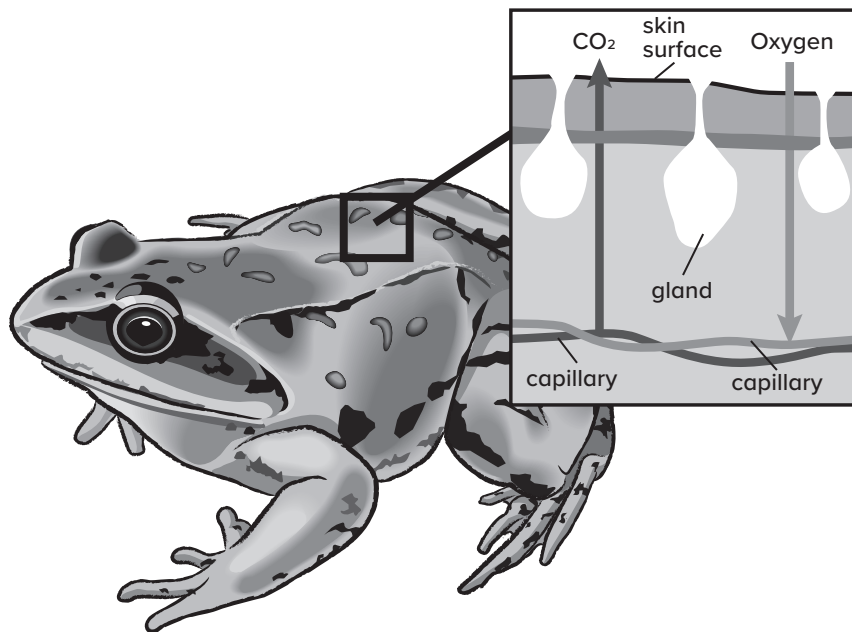
## Hairy Frogs . . .

- are about 4 inches long
- have large heads
- are brown to olive green in color
- have powerful fingers and toes to help them catch their food
- like to eat snails
- live on land but lay their eggs in water



## "Hair" and Air

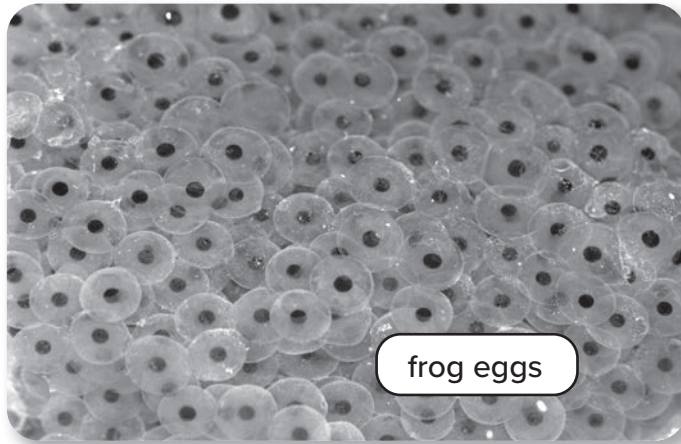
Animals need oxygen to live. Frogs breathe oxygen through their lungs. But their lungs are small, so frogs also take in oxygen through their skin. It goes into small blood vessels close to the surface of their skin. Frogs can take in oxygen from the air or from water.



Frogs take in oxygen through their skin into their blood vessels. Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is released to the air through their skin.

Since male hairy frogs have long strands of skin, they have lots of skin surface. Small blood vessels run through their hairlike strands. They take in oxygen through the strands. The oxygen goes into their blood vessels. Because they take in more oxygen, male hairy frogs are able to spend more time under water.

Female hairy frogs lay their eggs in water. Male hairy frogs might stay under water for a long time to protect the eggs.



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## Claws

Hairy frogs are sometimes called “horror” frogs. This is because they make their own claws.

Frogs have bones in their toes. The last bone in the toes of the hairy frog’s hind feet is shaped like a claw. The frog can make the bone become a claw.



The bony claws do not poke out all the time. Most of the time, the bone rests beneath the skin in the frog's foot. But sometimes the frog feels threatened. As a result, the frog reveals its claw by pushing it through its skin.

The claw is very sharp. The frog uses the claw to defend itself.

The next time you hear a frog *croak*, you may think of hairy frogs. With their hairlike skin and sharp claws, these frogs are not cute little animals!



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The bones of hairy frogs can push through the skin and become claws.