

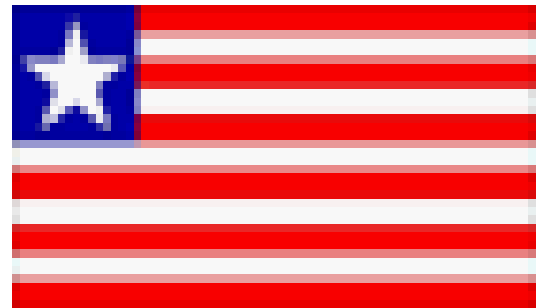


WORLD FOR KIDS

FOCUS: Africa (Liberia)

→ BEAUTIFUL LIBERIA

Liberia is a small country in West Africa. It has beautiful beaches, lush forests and wonderful people. Liberia also has the largest fleet of ships of any nation in the world.



The Flag of Liberia

→ WAR-TORN LIBERIA

In the mid 1990's, there was a terrible civil war. Over 250,000 people were killed during the fighting. The war lasted for seven years.

Many children were kidnapped and forced to serve as soldiers. They were brainwashed. They were taught to fight. They were taught to lie and steal and kill.



Even though the war has been over for about five years, most of the buildings have not been rebuilt. Many of the children still do not have schools. There are very few jobs.

And many of the children who served as soldiers still do not feel peace within their hearts. They experienced so much trauma, and have not fully healed.

Children in Liberia need help. They need people to teach them about God, and to help heal their hearts of the many hurts caused by war.

Please pray for the children of Liberia.

→ GOING TO SCHOOL

Going to school is very different in Liberia. In most classrooms, the teacher has a very simple chalkboard, and that's all. Children must bring their own chairs to school. Some will carry them on their heads.

Children all wear uniforms to school. For some families, the \$25 for one year's uniform and school supplies, is too much money. So many children do not get to go to school at all.

Still, children really love to learn and want to attend school. They want to work hard at their lessons so that when they grow older they can have jobs that will help Liberia heal from it's years of war and hardship, and become strong and beautiful once again.



Close to Jesus: the greatest place on earth!

➔ TRY THIS ON YOUR OWN

Many people in Africa wear clothes made from beautiful, colorful cloth. Make your own "tie die" scarf by following these directions:

MATERIALS:

16" X 16" white cotton materials
permanent markers or diluted paints
3-4 rubber bands
newspapers

1. Spread newspapers all around your work area.
2. Pinch the center of the cotton material and allow the rest of the cloth to drape down. Tightly wrap one rubber band every 2-3 inches along the draped materials.
3. Color the section between each rubberband a different color.
4. Carefully remove the rubberbands, spread out on newspaper and allow to dry.



➔ DOES THIS "BUG" YOU?

In neighborhoods all around Liberia, you will see small towers of dirt or sand. At first, they look like a child's sandcastle or leftovers from a road construction project. But they are neither.

These towers are homes to tens of thousands of bugs: termites! There are a few birds that eat termites, but not enough to keep the population down. So termite mounds can be found all over the place.



Oh ... did you know that there is one other animal that eats termites, too? Kids!

Yes, children eat termites as a treat. When they see a lot of termites flying around during a hatch, they fill a large tub with water. They hold a bright light far above the tub. As termites fly toward the light, kids bat the bugs into the water, where their wings get wet so they can't fly away.

Then the kids eat them. When eaten raw, they taste like honey with a honecomb. When fried, they have a toastier flavor. Mmm. Do you want to try?

➔ WHAT CAN KIDS DO?

S - Show God's Love -- Encourage teachers who work in Africa to keep teaching and loving children. Send them cards saying you are praying for them.

Look up this Bible verse to fill in the blanks:

**A new _____ I give you: _____
one another. As I have _____ you, so
you must _____ one another. By this all
_____ will know that you are my
_____, if you _____ one another.**

John 13:34-35 (NIV)