

David Livingstone: Abolitionist

An educational worksheet for children aged 9-13 published by
LivingstoneOnline.org

To Robert M. Livingstone written at Lake Nyassa on
the 26th of September 1861

My dear Robert

We went up with Bishop Mackenzie to the highlands to show him a healthy place and introduce him to the people and met four parties of slave hunters. We took about 140 captives from them and I gave them to the bishop to commence his mission with. Most of them were women and children all naked and tied to each other by thongs passed round their necks. The men had a horrid stick on their necks fastened with iron. These slave hunters had induced a number of another tribe to capture people for them we came to this tribe while burning three villages, and though we told them that we came peaceably and to talk with them they saw that we were a small party and might easily be overcome, rushed at us and shot their poisoned arrows. One fell between the bishop and me another whizzed between another man & me. We had to drive them off, and they left that part of the country.

David Livingstone

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Experiences and Outcomes:

Literacy and English

Students can practice deep reading and textual analysis to explore Livingstone's letters.

Social Studies

Students can explore the differences between cultures and what happens when those cultures meet in a historical context.

Religious and Moral Education

Students can respond to nineteenth-century Christian ideas of morality and explore ways in which they are different from or similar to morals today.

Suggested Questions:

How many captives about to be sold into slavery did David and Bishop Mackenzie come across?

Why might members of the tribe capture people for the slave hunters?

The drawing below shows something David wrote about in the letter. What has he drawn?

Further Reading:

Further on in this letter David writes to his son about the children in Malawi. Why do you think it was important, in the nineteenth century, for people in Britain to know what children in Malawi were like?



This educational resource was developed by Kate Simpson and Megan Ward, 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.