

## ***Missionary Travels: Animals***

An educational worksheet for children ages 9-13 published by  
[livingstoneonline.org](http://livingstoneonline.org)

While travelling through Mozambique in 1853 explorer David Livingstone came across a herd of animals in a river...

It is impossible to judge of the numbers in a herd, for they are almost always hidden beneath the waters; but as they require to come up every few minutes to breathe, when there is a constant succession of heads thrown up, then the herd is supposed to be large. They love a still reach of the stream, as in the more rapid parts of the channel they are floated down so quickly that much exertion is necessary to regain the distance lost by frequently swimming up again: such constant exertion disturbs them in their nap [...]

The young, when very little, take their stand on the neck of the dam,\* and the small head, rising above the large, comes soonest to the surface. The dam, knowing the more urgent need of her calf, comes more frequently to the surface when it is in her care.

*David Livingstone*

\*A dam is the female parent of an animal.

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### **Experiences and Outcomes:**

#### **Literacy and English**

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

#### **Social Studies and Environments**

Students can investigate the habitats of animals in Africa and at home.

### **Suggested Questions:**

- 1) What kind of animals has David encountered (Hint: There is a drawing of them as the background to the worksheet)?
- 2) Why do you think the young of this animal need to stand on their mothers' backs when they are in the river?
- 3) What animals live near or in rivers where you live? Can you describe one of them? Imagine the person you are describing the animal to has never seen one before.

### **Further Reading:**

Find out more about the famous nineteenth-century explorer David Livingstone's *Missionary Travels* at [livingstoneonline.org](http://livingstoneonline.org)

This educational resource was developed by Kate Simpson and Justin Livingstone, who are staff of *Livingstone Online* ([livingstoneonline.org](http://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.