

David Livingstone: Geographer

An educational worksheet for children aged 9-13 published by

LivingstoneOnline.org

To Roderick Murchison written on the 4th of December 1863 at Murchison's cataracts, Malawi

My dear Sir Roderick,

I was under explicit orders not to take any long journey but have the Pioneer down to the sea by the earliest flood. I might have speculated on a late rise in that river, but did not like the idea of failing in my duty with the vessel, and gave up further progress. The temptation to go on was Lake Bemba said to be but ten days distant. Thence according to native, and Arab report, issues the River Loapula or Luapula which flowing westward forms the Lakes Mofu or Mofue and Moero, then passing the town of Cazembe it turns round to the North and is lost in Tanganyika. Is there an outlet to Tanganyika on the west into the River Kasai east of where I formerly crossed that river? All agreed in asserting that no river flowed eastward into Lake Nyassa. Two small ones do. But at a distance of say 80 or 90 miles from the Lake the watershed is to the west. One should have no bias in investigating these questions by the aid of travelled natives, but I had a strong leaning to a flow from Tanganyika into Nyassa.

As we (the steward of the Pioneer and I) were on our metal not to overstep the limited time at our disposal it may be worth mentioning, that we travelled 660 geographical miles in 55 travelling days - averaging 12 per day in straight lines.

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Experiences and Outcomes:

Literacy and Numeracy

Students can practice deep reading and textual analysis to explore nineteenth-century measurements of geographical distance and time.

Social Studies

Students can investigate the differences between cultures in a historical context.

Suggested Questions:

How many days journey was Lake Bemba?

Name one of the rivers that David mentions.

How is David gathering information about the geography of the area he is in?

How would you find out about a new place you were visiting?

David had to use latitude and longitude to find out where he was. What are latitude and longitude?

Further Reading:

Click on David's hat, or the link below, to read about expeditions in the nineteenth century at *Livingstone Online*. Can you name two other explorers?

<http://livingstoneonline.org/life-and-times/18th-and-19th-century-european-expeditions>



Hat courtesy of the David Livingstone Centre

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.