



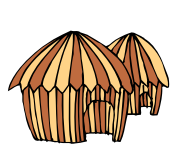
Can you think of any traditions in YOUR country that may not be acceptable to God, according to the Bible?

It is not surprising that there are many different languages spoken in Kenya, but because of the British presence for so many years, most people learn English. One of the most common Kenyan languages is Swahili. Here are some useful words and their translation in Swahili - maybe you can learn them!

Welcome! - KARIBU! Hello/how are you? - JAMBO
 fine - MZURI Praise the Lord! - BWANA ASIFIWE!
 Jesus - YESU love - UPENDO
 children - WATOTO

SWAHILI SEARCH PUZZLE

Look through this month's PAL page and see if you can match up these pictures with the correct Swahili word!



1. mahindi



2. baba



3. ndizi



4. bibilia




5. nyumba

6. kitabu

If you would like to write to Mike or to one of the children he teaches, contact us and we'll be happy to give you his address. Let's pray that God will bless his family and his ministry especially this year! 'Til next time, love, Shirley.

Here are the answers to the puzzle - (house-5; banana-3; book-6; maize-1; father-2; bible-4)

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World Kids
Fun facts for kids!  *true stories!*
PAL Page
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If you wanted to go on a REAL safari, where would you go?

Our country this month is visited by thousands of people every year, from all around the world, who come to see and take photos of the incredible wildlife in its magnificent national wildlife parks. Do you know which country that is? It's **KENYA!**



Kenya was governed for over 100 years by the British, and even after it gained independence in the late 1950's, Kenya continued to have close ties with Britain and Western countries - through the coffee and tea it exported, and its famous safaris. Originally, elephants, lions, rhinoceroses and many other animals that we see today in zoos, were killed by game hunters who wanted to sell the precious hides, and hang the stuffed heads as trophies in their homes. Fortunately this is now banned and instead of using guns, tourists now shoot pictures with cameras!

You can find Kenya on a map of Africa - it's in the eastern part, bordering the Indian Ocean, and several other countries including Sudan and Ethiopia. Its capital is Nairobi, which is probably the most important city in the whole of East Africa, and its inhabitants come from all over the world.



It's reported that 85% of the population of Kenya are Christians, and Kenya seemed to have a very bright future until the 1980's, when it had the highest population growth in the world, and many of its leaders became very corrupt. Today, the terrible disease of AIDS affects many of the people, and there are frequent clashes between the 42 different tribes that live in Kenya.



Many people living in rural areas depend on farming, and because of frequent droughts, when crops can't grow, there is often great poverty. Most young college graduates can't find work because of high unemployment, and in some areas parents give their children in early marriage so they can earn a living.



The staple food in Western Kenya is "ugali" which is made from maize (mahindi) and flour; in Central Kenya it is a mixture of maize and beans; but near the coast people usually eat rice. Tropical fruits and the well-known banana (ndizi) are also found in many places.

Although so many people say they are Christians, many still believe in tribal gods and traditional ways of worship. Some worship Mt. Elgon to please the spirit of the dead founder of the religion, who was against missionaries. Some people worship evil spirits, some worship trees and rocks, and some worship men!



The Kikuyu tribe is still very powerful and over 22% of Kenyans are Kikuyus.



One big tradition marks the passage into manhood for 11-year-old boys. Every two years, there is a special ceremony with 3 days of wild dancing, shouting and swearing, and visiting the homes of relatives to collect money. It continues through the night and early in the morning the boys go to the river where they are covered with mud and decorated with flowers. They then walk back to the village and invite everyone to watch the ceremony, where each is cut with a knife and circumcised in his home. Sadly this leads to many of them catching the AIDS virus.

Mike Mwanikha is a young man who has a wonderful children's ministry in the small town of Kimilili in Western Kenya. He and his wife, Irene, have a baby boy about 6 months old. They receive this page each month through the Internet and recently sent us a lot of interesting information about life in Kenya, including the following true story:



True story! As he teaches from the Bible (bibilia) in his local church, Mike shows the children how to learn what is acceptable to God, and not just follow the local traditions. In 2000, he talked to a group of young boys about the local ceremony of circumcision that marks a boy's entry into manhood. When Mike was 11 and ready for this himself, his parents weren't at home to perform the ceremony and he felt left out and rejected by the community because of it. But later, when he became a Christian, he realized that it was a satanic ritual and was glad he had not participated in it. But the local superstition is that any boy who does not pass through this ritual at home, will become a woman! As Mike taught the truth to the group of boys, he was able to prove that this superstition isn't true! As he says, "for sure I have never been and I will never be a woman!"

One of the young boys, called Innocent, went back to his house (nyumba) and told his unsaved father (baba) what he'd learned. Many boys even from church-going families secretly go to the ritual and then afterwards return to church. The next Sunday, Innocent's mother came to the church and in a loud voice called out to Mike. He immediately thought she was angry with him, but instead she told him how glad she was that he had told the boys the truth. Innocent's father had talked it over with her and then taken his son to the hospital for the small operation instead. She was praising God! Now Innocent is in high school and the money his family would have spent on the traditional celebration is helping to pay for books (kitab) and the boy's schooling. Hopefully as more young people learn the truth, Kenya will have a brighter future again.

