



What's going on this week?

The new president of Zimbabwe, Emmerson Mnangagwa, has been officially sworn in. The country's new leader is the former vice-president. He came to power after former leader, Robert Mugabe, stepped down after being president for 37 years. Mugabe made the surprise announcement he was quitting on 21 November as people in the country debated forcing the 93-year-old leader out of power. Lots of people in the capital Harare, and around the country, celebrated the news that Mr Mugabe was stepping down. Crowds of people, including children, were seen dancing and cheering in the streets, waving the Zimbabwean flag, while drivers used their car horns to show how excited they were at the news. The army took over control in the country of Zimbabwe in Africa on 22 November. They said they were angry at the way people around Robert Mugabe were running Zimbabwe and treating its people.

Main question:

Can you imagine living a life of uncertainty?

Listen, think, share

- Ask the children if anyone knows where Zimbabwe is?
- Explain that Zimbabwe is a country in southern Africa and it's one of the poorest countries in the world. Does anyone know why it has been in the news recently? Explain that they recently have a new president, after the last one has resigned after 37 years in power. Many people there didn't like how he ran the country, so the army decided to step in and requested for him to step down.
- For a couple of weeks, the people there didn't know what was going to happen. Can you imagine how this might feel, not knowing what changes might happen and if things in your country would get better or worse?
- After President Mugabe resigned, lots of people were celebrating, excited for the changes that a new, more positive leader might bring. Can you imagine how they might feel?
- Read through the stories about the children's lives in Zimbabwe when Robert Mugabe was the president there from the assembly resource. What challenges do their families face? Why do you think they took the risks they took?

Reflection

In the UK, we are all lucky enough to have the security of schools and hospitals to keep us educated and well! There are many countries around the world who aren't as privileged.



KS1 Focus

Question:

What is life like in Zimbabwe?

Listen, think, share

- Show the children where Zimbabwe is on a map or a globe. Explain that Zimbabwe has been in the news a lot recently as their leader, a man called Robert Mugabe, has recently stepped down because lots of people there weren't happy about how their country was being run. Robert Mugabe is 93 years old and was the prime minister and president there for 37 years!
- Look at the pictures from the KS1 resource which show life in Zimbabwe. Talk about what things would be similar and what things you think might be different about life there. Talk about things like the weather, the types of housing, the animals and schools there. Explain that hardly any families have a car or access to public transport in Zimbabwe. What do we think that would be like?
- Explain that the country has gone through many difficult periods where there has been very little rain to grow crops, so many people have had periods of being very hungry. What might this be like?

Reflection

Life is very different for children in Zimbabwe. It is important to remember that we are very lucky to be able to come to school every day!



KS2 Focus

Question:

What hardships do children in Zimbabwe face?

Listen, think, share

- Ask the children what they may know about life in Zimbabwe or other African countries. Talk about how Zimbabwe is one of the poorest countries in the world, meaning that the people there have very little and things like education and health systems are hard to come by and often too expensive for people to pay.
- Ask the children what they think some of the hardships of living in Zimbabwe might be. What things might be more difficult living there than where we live?
- Read through some of the difficulties children in Zimbabwe face from the KS2 resource. Talk through why they are hard and what kind of things the new leader there might put into place to help improve things.

Reflection

Many children in Zimbabwe will face and endure many difficulties caused by things that are out of their control. We are lucky to live in the UK where we don't have to face such problems. We can help people who are less fortunate than us through charity work and giving donations.



KS2 Cross-Curricular Ideas

English: Discuss features of a non-chronological report. Re-cap some of the difficulties faced by children in Zimbabwe from KS2 assembly. Use the resource to draw on reading and research to note initial ideas. Use these ideas to write a non-chronological report about life as a child in Zimbabwe.

Maths: Some children of Zimbabwe collect and carry their water daily. Discuss capacity and its units of measure, both metric and imperial. Explore how much water weighs. Ask the children how much water they think they could carry. What distance? How long might it take? The children could write their own problem based on some or all of the above.

Geography: Discuss what the human and physical features of a country are. Compare human and physical features of Zimbabwe and Great Britain.

History/Computing: Research the history of President Mugabe. Ask the children to find out why he was called Prime Minister Mugabe not President Mugabe when he first came into power. If possible, use the computers to do this and recap how to search effectively and internet safety.

DT: Some children in Zimbabwe have very little and will not have all the wonderful toys and games children in Britain often have. Ask the children to design and make a toy or game with no budget. They cannot spend any money or use any school resources. Ask them to consider the use of natural resources like sticks, stones, soil, grass to create their toy/game.



KS1 Cross-Curricular Ideas

English: Ask the children to imagine they were Prime Minister for a day. What would they do? Share ideas and discuss. Allow children time to use pictures, words and sentences to show what they would do.

Maths: Robert Mugabe is 93 years old and has been president for 37 years. Ask if anybody knows how to work out how old he was when he became president. Explain that children need to find the difference between the two numbers by subtracting. What is the difference in age between the oldest and youngest child in school? Allow children a range of mathematical resources to support subtraction.

Geography: Recap KS1 assembly and discuss in more detail similarities and differences of life in Zimbabwe and their own lives

History: Look at a timeline. President Mugabe came into power in 1980. Where does this go? Ask children to find the year they were born and the year they started school on the timeline.

Art: Look at the flag of Zimbabwe. Ask the children to create a piece of artwork with the flag. They could choose whether to use paint, pens or materials including items such as glitter, sequins, buttons to give their work texture.

Music: Allow the children to listen to a piece of music from Zimbabwe (a quick google search gives many options for you to find something suitable for your class). Ask them to describe it. What instruments can they hear? Tap the beat. Do they like it?



This Week's Useful Websites

This week's news story

<http://bbc.in/2j2osRF>

Zimbabwe information site

www.our-africa.org/zimbabwe

This Week's Useful Videos

Welcome to Zimbabwe!

<http://bit.ly/2Afh671>