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# UGANDA

## Facts about Uganda

The name Uganda was adapted from the name of a great East African kingdom called 'Buganda'. This was a great kingdom that still exists as part of Uganda today. Currently over 52 clans are part of this tribe of people.

**Population:** 30 million

**Life Expectancy:** 52 (UK – 78.5)

**Health:** 6% (approx) of Ugandans are living with HIV/AIDS. In the early 1990s this figure was as high as 18%. In the UK it is 0.2%.

**Education:** Primary school – Figures for Primary School attendance are unknown

Secondary School – 46% of Girls (UK – 94%) and 56% of Boys (UK – 90%) attend

**Literacy:** 81% of adult males can read and write (UK – 99%)  
64% of adult females can read and write (UK – 99%)

**Languages:** English (official), Ganda, Luganda

**Currency:** Ugandan Shilling.

**Poverty Levels:** 35% of Ugandans live below the poverty line

14% of British people live below the poverty line

Data from – [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org),  
[www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org) and  
[www.cia.gov.uk/library/publications/the-world-factbook](http://www.cia.gov.uk/library/publications/the-world-factbook)

Some figures are approximate.



The first people to inhabit Uganda were hunter gatherers, followed by Bantu people from western and central parts of Africa who settled in the south. They were skilled people who soon created their own kingdoms within the country. Cattle herders and farmers arrived after 100AD and settled in the north and east of the country. Arab traders worked their way to Uganda in the late 19th century followed closely by British explorers and then missionaries.

After 68 years as a British protectorate, Uganda became independent in 1962. In the 1970s, Uganda and its people suffered under the dictatorship of Idi Amin. He was removed in 1979 and Uganda has since become relatively stable and peaceful.



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## Want to learn more?

Try your local library, your school library or the internet. You could try getting in touch with Girl Guiding members in Uganda by email, their e-mail is [ugandaguides@yahoo.com](mailto:ugandaguides@yahoo.com) or try the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts website: [www.wagggsworld.org](http://www.wagggsworld.org)

## Some key dates:

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>1894</b>   | Uganda placed under British protectorate   |
| <b>1962</b>   | Uganda given back its independence   |
| <b>1971</b>   | A military coup ousted the government and military commander Idi Amin was named president of Uganda  |
| <b>1971-9</b> | The country suffered a military dictatorship at the hands of Idi Amin which resulted in severe human rights abuses. During this time up to half a million people were killed in state-sponsored violence |
| <b>1979</b>   | Tanzanian troops entered Uganda and removed Idi Amin from power which was celebrated across the country  |
| <b>1986</b>   | Yoweri Museveni becomes President and improves human rights in Uganda, notably by reducing corruption in the army and police   |
| <b>2006</b>   | The Ugandan government sign a truce with the Lord's Resistance Army to try to end long running conflicts   |

## Animals and Nature



Until the 1960s Uganda was one of the most popular tourist destinations in Africa – earning it's nickname – “Pearl of Africa”. From the 1960s however, the political climate in Uganda meant that people started to avoid going there. In recent years Uganda has started to become popular again. One of the main reasons for this is the amazing wealth of landscape and nature that Uganda has to offer. In Uganda you can visit Lake Victoria, one of the largest lakes in the world, white water raft down the Nile or climb the Rwenzori mountain range. It has 10 National parks in total which visitors can enjoy.

Safaris are extremely popular in Uganda because as well as amazing landscapes, Uganda contains a huge variety of animals and birds. While Idi Amin was in power, many animals and birds were poached and eaten and the wildlife numbers were severely depleted. However, the Ugandan Wildlife Authority has worked hard to return the

wildlife population back to its former glory. In Uganda you can find elephants, crocodiles, hippopotamus, lions, giraffes, buffalo, antelopes and many kinds of birds.

Uganda is really famous for its population of endangered mountain gorillas. There are only 600 of these animals left. They are found in the Bwindi national park, known as the impenetrable forest. Bwindi is one of the richest areas for flora in Eastern Africa. The forest is also sanctuary for colobus monkeys, chimpanzees and many bird types including some endangered species.

*See Activity Five*

## People

Ugandan people pride themselves on being extremely friendly and positive, despite a difficult history. Uganda is a hugely diverse country with over 30 different languages spoken. The people can be classified into the following broad categories, the Bantu, the Nilotics, the Madi-Okoru or the Sudanic speaking and the Pygmoid people. Women are traditionally seen as the subordinate gender in Uganda. Education and literacy rates are much lower from women than for men. However, organisations like the Women of Uganda Network who help women learn computer skills and the Uganda Women's network are working hard to improve equality and opportunities for women and girls in Uganda.





Each ethnic group has its own musical history which is passed down from generation to generation. Like many African nations, the drum is a very popular instrument as well as the amadinda (xylophone) and Lukeme (thumb piano). Recently a new kind of music called takeu has emerged which is a combination of music styles from Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya.

Dance also plays a large part in Ugandan culture. Children learn dances from a very young age to keep the traditions alive. Ugandan dances often tell stories and are always very lively and celebratory. Even when it is a war dance!

*See Activity Eleven*

## HIV/AIDS

The first HIV/AIDS case was diagnosed in 1981 in the United States of America and the disease has since spread around the world. Sub-Saharan Africa, where Uganda lies, bears the heaviest burden of the epidemic accounting for 68% of those living with HIV/AIDS globally, while about 76% of the HIV/AIDS related deaths in 2007 alone occurred in this region. As well as poverty and under-development, illiteracy is seen as one of the main causes for the rise of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. This is why the books that Book Aid International can provide (including medical books) and the literacy development work that we support is so important.

Uganda has won praise for its campaign against HIV/AIDS. This has helped to reduce the prevalence of the virus - which reached 30% in the 1990s - to single digit figures. This is widely viewed as the most effective national response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa.



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### Discussion

*Do you think books are important for improving health?*

*In what way can they help?*

# Book Aid International in Uganda

## Kitengesa Library

Kitengesa library is in the Masaka district, in western Uganda. It is in a typical rural area, with no electricity and they only recently got running water. Most of the people who live there are peasant farmers, growing their own food and depending on coffee and other crops to earn a living. Education is very important to the people of Kitengesa and what money they do have goes to educating their children. In 1999, the headmaster of the local school, Emmanuel Mawanda, and Kate Parry, a professor from New York, founded the Kitengesa library.

They started with a tin box of 161 books. In 2002 the building was completed and since then, their collection of books has increased to over 3,000 volumes. Book Aid International continue to send them books through the Ugandan National Library Service. As well as providing books and a place for students, teachers and the community to read and learn, the library also holds special workshops and activities such as The Women's Group. It is a really important resource for the community.



## The Women's Group

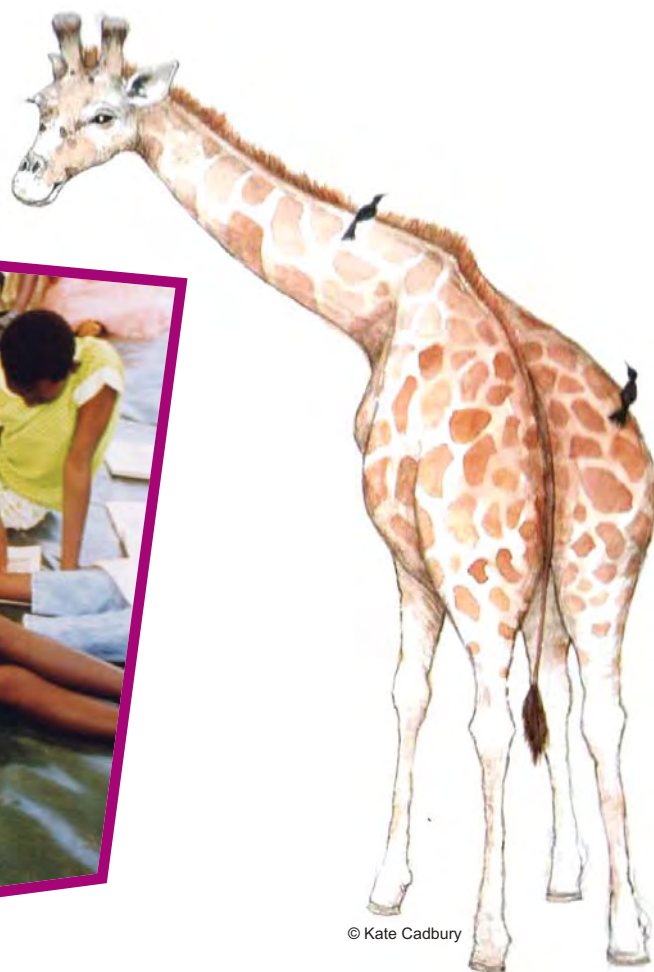
The Women's Group began meeting in the library in 2005 as an adult literacy class, with volunteers teaching them. But then they wanted to discuss possible income generation projects. The library arranged for a number of different experts to meet them and tell them about goats, pigs, and poultry farming, and they also worked on skills like book-keeping. One of the volunteers returned to Canada and raised some money for The Women's Group. They constituted themselves as a company, taking it in turns to borrow money to finance various projects. By June that year one of them was the proud owner of a cow ("It is BIG," she said), while another had pigs, and another chickens. In January 2008 the women are still meeting regularly and continue to develop their literacy skills.

*See Activity Twelve*

You can find out more about the Kitengesa Library at [www.kitengesalibrary.org](http://www.kitengesalibrary.org)

# Some Luganda Words and Phrases

Hello	Hallo	Book	Kitabo
How are you?	Oly'otya	House	Nyumba
Fine	Bulungi	School	Somero
Thank you	Webale	Man	Musajja
Welcome	Nsanyuse okukulaba	Woman	Mukazi
I would like to be your friend	Nsaba kuba mukwano gwo	Child	Mwana
I love books in Luganda	Nyumirwa anyo e bitabo by'o Luganda	Name	Elinya
No thanks	Sagala	Me	Nze
Goodbye	Welaba	You	Gwe
		Us	Ffe
		English language	Lungereza
		British person	Mungereza



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