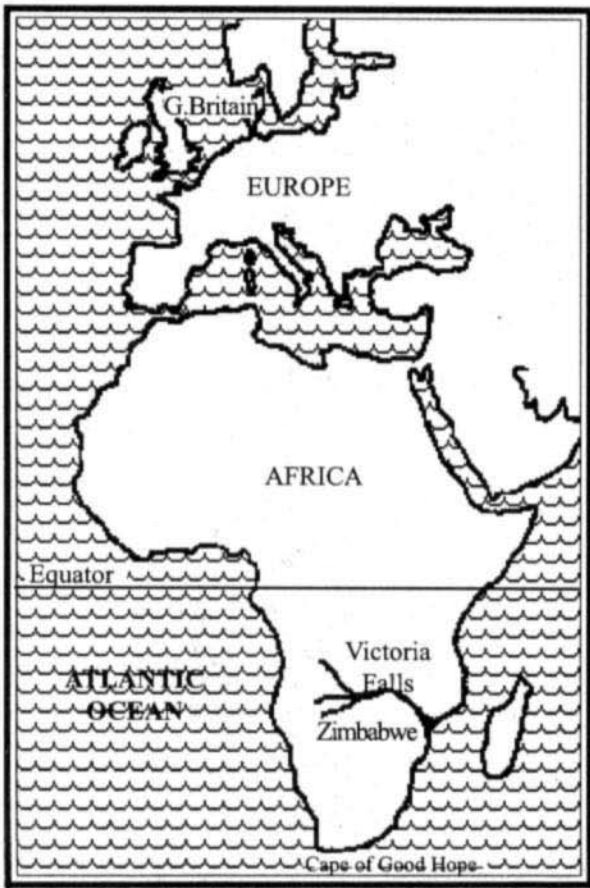


IAN AND MARY GO TO SEE THE VICTORIA FALLS

It was the warm month of June and Ian and Mary were very excited. Their parents had promised to take them on a trip to southern Africa to see the Victoria Falls and a wild life sanctuary nearby. Victoria Falls as you may know is one of the most spectacular waterfalls in the world. It is situated in Zimbabwe, a country in southern Africa. Here, the river Zambesi descends into a deep valley from a height of about 360 feet. While descending into the valley, the Zambesi forms a waterfall. This is called the Victoria Falls. Forests, which are reserved for the free movement of animals and where hunting is prohibited, are called sanctuaries.

Ian and Mary study in a school in Great Britain. They were very keen to know the location of Victoria Falls. How would they reach there? Their mother had told them that they would be flying from London to Cape Town in South Africa. From there they would travel by train to Victoria Falls. Cape Town is situated on the Cape of Good Hope. A cape is the tip of a large landmass jutting into the sea and Cape of Good Hope forms the southern tip of Africa. You had read in an earlier lesson that Vasco da Gama, the Portugese sailor, was the first European to go around Africa to reach India. He had landed at this place and realised that he had finally reached the end of Africa. This gave him the hope of reaching India. Hence the name 'Cape of Good Hope'.

Map 1. Great Britain to Zimbabwe



- Which ocean would Ian and Mary be crossing in their flight?
- Trace the route they would be taking on the map.

Southern Africa

Mary brought the globe and began to search for the countries of South Africa and Zimbabwe. You too bring a globe to your classroom and see where these countries are located.

"Ian, look! This country is south of the Equator" Mary exclaimed. "So what?" asked Ian. "Hey, don't you know that when it is summer to the north of the Equator, it is winter to the south of the Equator? This means that in June, it will be winter in Zimbabwe!" Mary explained.

The southern part of Africa is situated to the south of the Equator, that is, it is in the southern hemisphere. Countries like India and

England are north of the Equator, which makes them countries of the northern hemisphere. You are aware that it is warmer near the Equator and gets cooler as we move away from it. Here's another interesting fact. The seasons are reversed as we cross the Equator. That is, when it is summer in countries of the northern hemisphere like India, it is winter in countries of the southern hemisphere.

• Look at map given on page 76 and find out in which hemisphere the following countries of Africa are and fill in the following table:

Country	Hemisphere	Season in June
Algeria		
Namibia		
Botswana		

ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe is a small country in southern Africa. In the old maps, this country goes by the name of South Rhodesia. To the north, lies Zambia, which was earlier known as North Rhodesia. Rhodesia is an English name. How did this name come to Africa?

Cecil Rhodes

Originally this was the land of the Zulu tribe. In 1889, an Englishman named Cecil Rhodes came here to prospect for minerals, and set up a company for this purpose. Rhodes sent about 200 Englishmen to this region, who later settled here. By 1895, they made Rhodesia a colony of Britain. The whole region was named Rhodesia after Cecil Rhodes. Thousands of British and other Europeans settled down here after displacing the Zulu people.

The native people of Zimbabwe fought several battles with the British, in which many lost their lives. But eventually the British established their rule. The native people of this region kept up their struggle for independence, and finally in 1980, Rhodesia attained

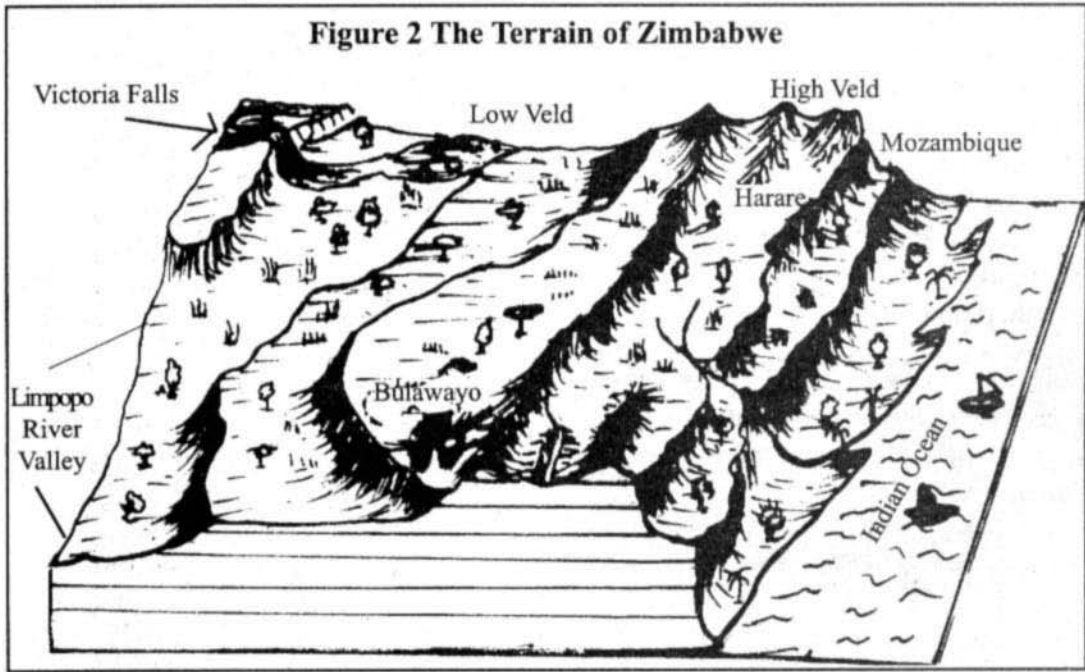
independence. This independent nation was named Zimbabwe after the ruins of a medieval civilization found there.

Ian and Mary reached Cape Town by a flight from London. At one point during the flight, the captain had announced that they were crossing the Equator. Ian and Mary were eager to see the line that divides the earth into two halves, but could see no line from the window of the aircraft. "But we cant see any line here!" they said with disappointment. "That is because the Equator is an imaginary line drawn on maps and globes and it is not a real line on the

Fig. 1 Ruins of Great Zimbabwe



Figure 2 The Terrain of Zimbabwe



earth!" said their mother. All the same, they were very excited about crossing into the southern half of the world.

On getting off the flight they felt the cold air. They realised what it means to be in the southern hemisphere which experiences winter in the months from May to August and summer from November to February.

Ian and Mary arrive in Zimbabwe

Ian and Mary traveled by train from Cape Town across South Africa and Botswana and reached the city of Bulawayo in Zimbabwe. They took out their atlas to find out where exactly they were.

- **Locate Bulawayo in Map 2.**

High and Low Velds (plateaus)

Now the train left Bulawayo and proceeded towards the Victoria Falls. Ian and Mary took out their book and read more about Zimbabwe. Look carefully at the picture above. The whole of Zimbabwe is a plateau. Some parts of the plateau are high and some are low. The high plateau in Zimbabwe is called the High Veld. The cities of Bulawayo and Harare are situated on the High Veld. The Valley of the Zambezi river is

in the north and the valley of the River Limpopo is in the south. The river valleys and the region surrounding them are called the Low Veld.

- **Look at Map 2 and fill in the blanks:**
- **The height of Hwange is between meters and meters. Hence it is situated in the Veld.**

Map 2. Zimbabwe





Fig. 3 Victoria Falls

- The height of Harare is between meters and meters. Hence it is situated in the Veld.

You know that it is cooler in high places. That is why the climate of the High Veld is cooler than that of the Low Veld. You may remember that Pachmarhi, the famous hill station of Madhya Pradesh is at a height of about 1000 meters and it is cooler than the rest of the state.

The Savanna Region

Ian and Mary saw that there were extensive grasslands in Zimbabwe. There was green and soft grass near Bulawayo. From the train, domesticated animals like cows and sheep could be seen grazing. In between, there were fields. Dotting the grasslands at places were some trees with very large trunks. They remembered that in the Savanna region of Africa there were Baobab trees and the circumference of their trunk could be as much as 30 feet. People even live in the hollow of their trunks. Mandu, near Indore in MP, has a large number of these trees and here they are called 'Vilayati Imli'.

The train then started moving in a north-westerly direction towards Victoria Falls. Here the slope was downward. The forest was becoming denser as they approached the Zambezi river. It was greener here, although the high grass here was coarse. Mary said, "Well, we have now come down to the Low Veld. We had read that this is the region of coarse grasses. But why can't we see any cows or sheep here?"

Ian and Mary's father told them that in the Low Veld, there was a poisonous insect called the tse tse fly, whose bite can cause death to not only human beings but even to animals. Domestic animals are reared only on the High Veld, where the incidence of this pest is lower.

Victoria Falls

Finally, the day dawned when Ian and Mary saw the Victoria Falls. The Zambezi river bubbling and churning, noisily falls from a very high cliff to the bottom of a steep gorge, throwing up fountains of spray. The river is very wide, and falls from a great height. You too can see the picture of the Victoria Falls (Figure 3). The water spray is



Fig. 4 Boabab Tree

so strong that the regions surrounding the Falls become wet. When the sun's rays fall on the spray, rainbows are formed. You must have seen rainbows in the sky, but you may not have seen a rainbow on a river. Ian and Mary watched the falls for a long time, in fascination. Then they went by jeep to see a dam and a large reservoir on the Zambezi river. This is called the Kariba Dam and hydro-electricity is generated here.

WILD LIFE SANCTUARY

Before long they reached the sanctuary reserved for the free movement of wild animals. They had travelled only a short distance when Mary cried, "See! A whole herd of high necked giraffes chewing even the upper leaves of trees. What long necks! And the giraffe is itself 14-18 feet high. See the giraffe kids who stand between the legs of their mothers." Then their jeep reached an open



Fig. 5 Giraffe

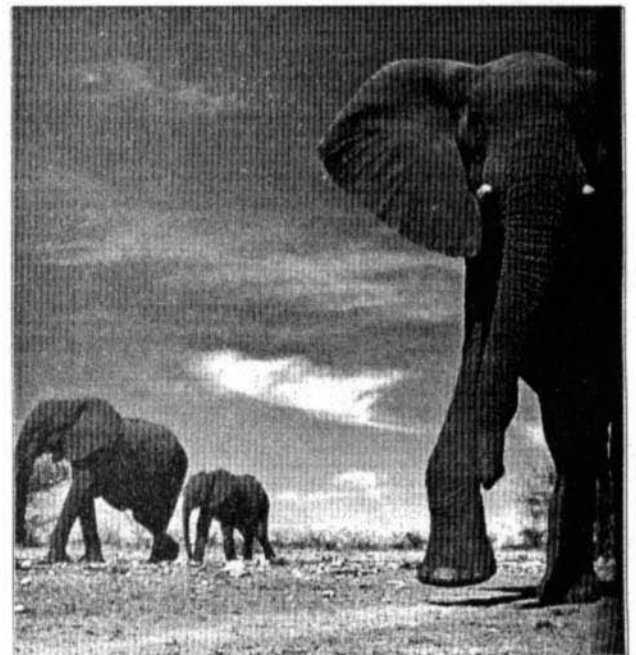
space. There, under a tree, a lion, lioness and their cubs had killed a deer and they were eating it. They immediately became cautious and the driver quickly drove the jeep away. Then they approached a small lake. "Oh, what kind of animals are these black and white striped horses?" Ian said, "Have you forgotten? These are zebras. Look! There are some more zebras grazing under the trees."



Fig. 6 Impala

Just then, a herd of deer ran across in front of their jeep. The driver said, "It seems that a lion is around, that is why the deer are running away." Mary said, "Look how their horns are twisted!" Their father explained that here there were many varieties of deer. The lions chase the deer, catch them and eat them up - this is their food. Mary said, "What do the deer eat?" Their father told them that in the Savanna region, animals like deer, zebras and giraffes survive on grasses, leaves

Fig. 7 A herd of African elephants



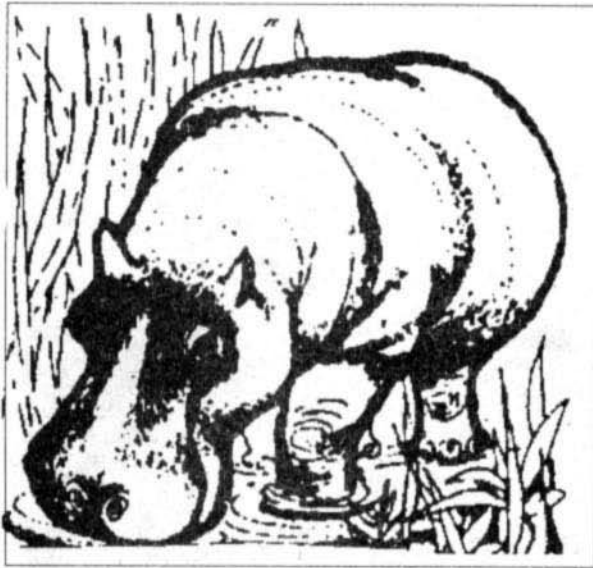


Fig. 8 Hippopotamus

etc. and lions, cheetahs, jackals, fox, etc. in turn make these animals their food."

The jeep reached a nearby hill. Far below, they could see a grassland. In between a herd of animals could be seen. The driver of the jeep said, "These are bisons going towards some other areas." And then a herd of elephants emerged from the high grasses. Oh, so many elephants! They went to the lake and drank water, and sprayed water from their trunks over their bodies, trumpeting loudly all the while.



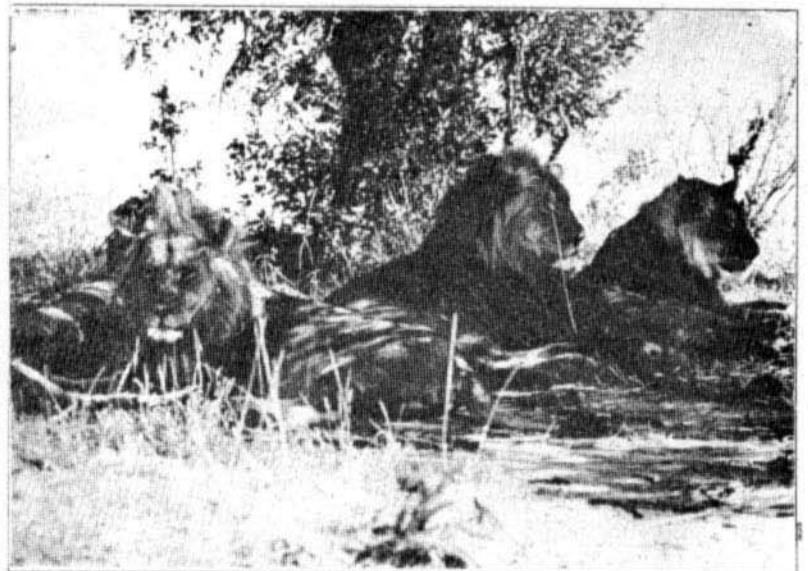
Fig. 10 Rhino

- *Do you see any difference between these elephants and the elephants of our country?*

"It is almost evening now and it is not safe to stay here," said Mary's father and instructed the driver of the jeep to turn back. They began their return after visiting the sanctuary. Now they were to visit Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe. They began to climb onto the High Veld, leaving the Low Veld behind.

Fig. 11 Lions at rest

Fig. 9 A zebra with her newborn foal



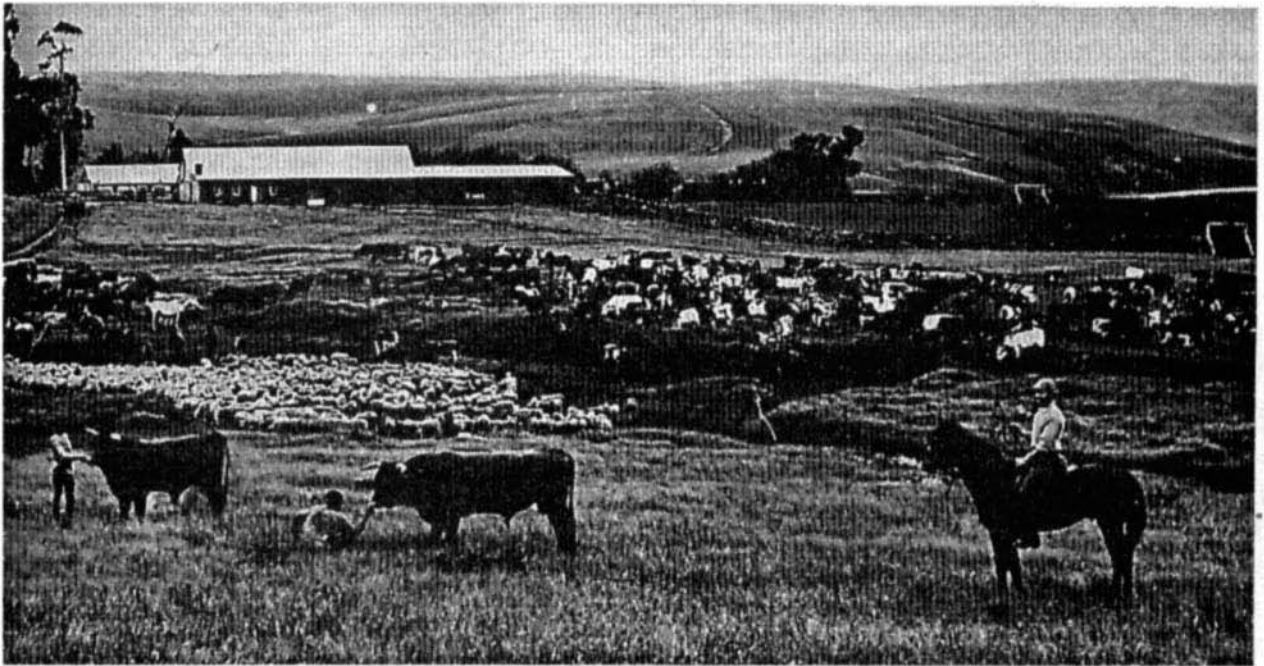


Fig. 12 The farm of an European settler

Animal Husbandry on the High Veld

The High Veld or the high plateau of Zimbabwe is not infested with tse tse flies and due to the cold climate the grass is also good, soft and juicy. Thus animal husbandry has been developed here. Here, a lot of the land is used as pasture.

Before the advent of the British, the inhabitants of Zimbabwe used to rear animals such as goats and sheep. At that time, animal husbandry was not a big business, as developed by the British after they settled down in Zimbabwe. Now, most of the animals are reared for meat e.g. cattle, pig, etc. Cold storage (refrigerated rooms) have been built in cities for preserving meat. Factories have also been set up to process milk into butter and cheese.

- *Discuss the difference between animal husbandry in our country and in Zimbabwe.*
- *Observe figure 12 carefully and describe it in detail.*

Agriculture and Important Crops

The main occupation of the people of Zimbabwe is agriculture. The inhabitants of

Zimbabwe belong to the Zulu and Bantu tribes. They do not use the ox and plough in agriculture. They make a clearing in the forest and burn the rubbish. They then make furrows with their hoes and sow the seeds in them. Not much land can be cultivated by this method. A family produces just enough grain for their use in a few acres of land. They mainly grow maize, millets, groundnut, soyabean and tubers.

When they started settling on the High Veld, the British purchased land and developed it for cultivation with the help of tractors and other means. They ploughed the land and made it fit for agriculture. They also used chemical fertilizers and high yielding seeds. The land

Fig. 13 Bantu women in a corn field



holdings of the English were also very large. They started extensively cultivating wheat and maize. Soyabean and sunflower too began to be cultivated. Vegetables and fruit, especially oranges and lemons were grown.

As the farmers realised that the climate of Zimbabwe is suitable for the cultivation of tobacco, the cultivation of tobacco, too, started on a large scale. Among the goods exported from Zimbabwe, tobacco is an important item.

Local Bantu people work as agricultural labourers on the fields of the British settlers. The Bantu menfolk left their own agricultural land and came to work in these fields in search of livelihood. The Bantu women looked after the small fields along with performing their household tasks.

After independence in 1980, the government provided technical support, loans etc. to small farmers and now production of these farms has improved. Now the government is also providing technical education for agriculture, loans and other facilities to women. Nowadays, the demand for agricultural produce from Zimbabwe is going down in the world market. Therefore, many Europeans are selling their farms.

- *Look carefully at Figure 13. Can you list out the possible problems these women labourers could face.*
- *Why did the Bantu men go to work on the fields of the English?*

MINERAL EXTRACTION INDUSTRY

Transport Routes

Ian and Mary had reached Harare now. They wanted to see some places near Harare. In the meantime, Thomas, a distant relative of theirs, came to meet them in the evening. Many years ago, he had come from Britain to settle down in Zimbabwe. He told them that he worked in a mining company which

was situated a little away from Harare on the rail route. Thomas added that it was the laying down of the rail routes that had made the mining industry possible.

Mary asked, "Why was this so?" Thomas answered, "Mineral ore is very heavy. Usually, mineral ore is processed far away from the place where it is mined. That is why most of the mines in Zimbabwe are near rail routes or roads."

Where are mining industries set up?

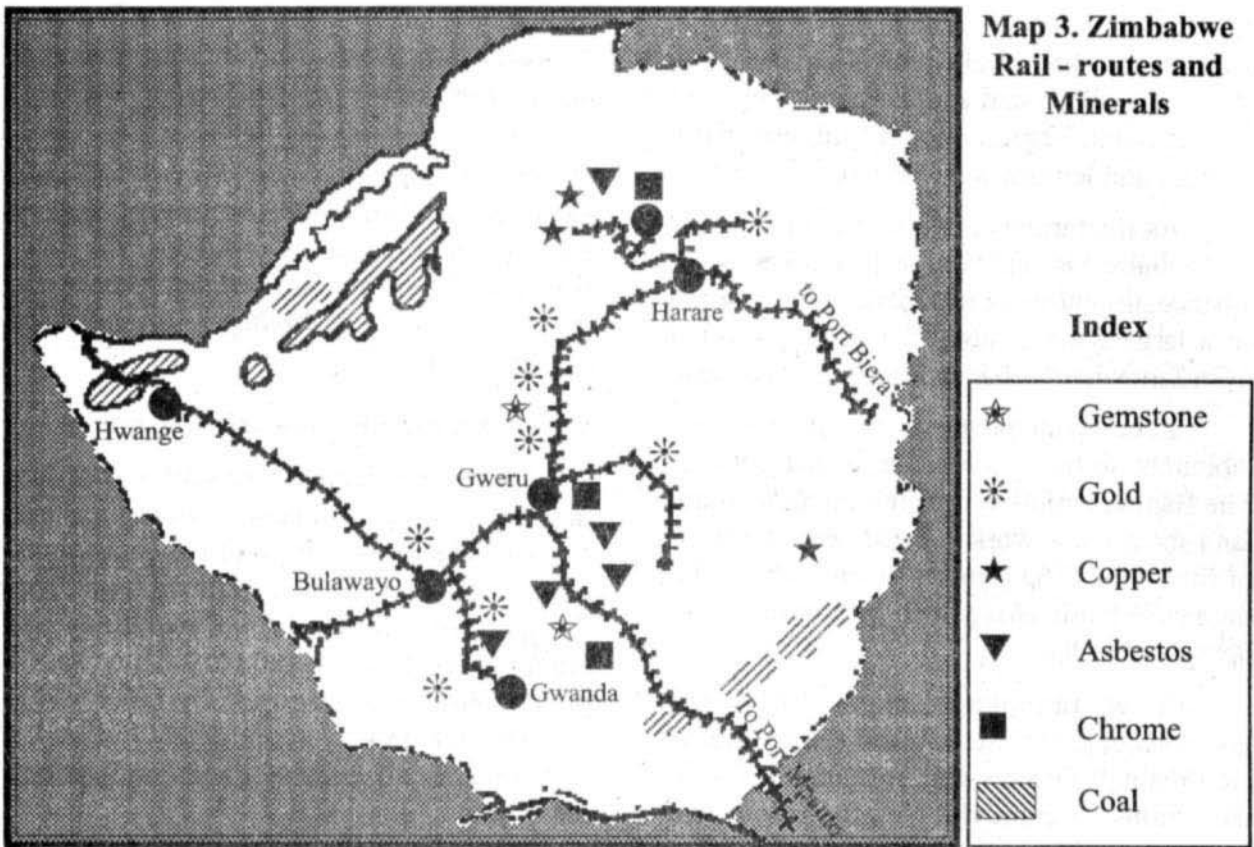
Mining industries are set up after first making a study to discover where mineral deposits are located in high concentrations. A company then takes the site on lease from the government and brings machines and labourers to set up the industry. Minerals are mined and then transported by rail route to the place where they are purified. Following this, several varieties of goods and articles are produced.

This process took place in Zimbabwe too. The companies of Britain, the United States of America and South Africa established mining industries. In these mines, mostly local people work as labourers. These labourers settle around the mines and settlements come up. But if the minerals get exhausted or if the mines are closed due to losses, the labourers have to go to another place to find work.

Most of the minerals of Zimbabwe are exported to foreign countries. The minerals are transported by rail to the ports. However, no part of Zimbabwe touches the sea. Hence the products of Zimbabwe have to pass thorough other countries to reach sea ports.

- *Look at Map 3 on the following page.*
- *Find out which neighbouring countries can give Zimbabwe access to sea ports?*
- *Which ports are connected by railway lines?*

Map 3. Zimbabwe Rail - routes and Minerals



Index

☆	Gemstone
* *	Gold
★	Copper
▼	Asbestos
■	Chrome
▨	Coal

Minerals of Zimbabwe

In Map 3 locate the regions where different minerals are mined in Zimbabwe

Unlike South Africa, Zimbabwe does not have large deposits of diamond and gold, although there are a few gold mines. Gold has been mined there since very ancient times but coal, copper, nickel, iron ore, chrome and asbestos were first mined by the British after they settled there.

Cities of Zimbabwe

After the arrival of the English, many cities slowly came into existence. Some of the important cities are Harare, Umtali and Bulawayo.

See the location of these cities in the map. Are they on rail routes?

Cities like Harare have emerged as major trading and production centres. They cater to the requirements of the nearby regions as they

have important government offices, colleges, hospitals, etc. Agricultural products like tobacco, maize, groundnut and cotton are brought here to be sold. These are processed here and even exported to other countries. The cities have a large number of flour mills, biscuit factories, oil extraction plants, cigarette factories, etc. Similarly dairy products like milk, butter, cheese and meat are processed here and canned for sale in distant countries.

Which raw materials for the following industries come from the agricultural regions surrounding Harare? Complete the table:

Industries	Raw material
a. Packing of meat	
b. Flour mills	
c. Biscuit making	
d. Extraction of oil	
e. Cigarettes making	
f. Leather goods	

One day Ian and Mary were roaming around in Harare when they saw sacks filled with tobacco leaves being auctioned. They asked a person who was standing nearby whether that much tobacco was consumed in Zimbabwe itself. "No, most of it is exported to foreign countries," he replied. "Now my country exports many things to countries of Africa, Europe and America, and in return imports goods that we need," he added proudly.

Gradually, industries are being set up in Zimbabwe to meet the demand for iron, steel, textiles, etc. Soon, this country will no longer be dependent for these products on other countries.

Ian and Mary were enjoying their stay in Zimbabwe, but their holidays were coming to an end, and their parents too had to report back to work. They boarded an airplane and flew back to Britain.

Exports	Obtained From			Imports	Obtained From		
	Agric.	Mines	Industry		Agric.	Mines	Industry
Tobacco				Machines			
Cotton				Railway			
Maize				Trucks, Cars			
Sugar				Mineral Oil			
Meat				Textiles			
Copper				Chemicals			
Gold				Steel			
Chrome				Pesticides			
Garments				Medicines			
Nickel							
Electrical appliances							

- Tick (✓) the correct columns in the above table and find out if Zimbabwe imports more goods obtained from agriculture or industry or mining. Likewise, find out if Zimbabwe exports more goods obtained from agriculture, industry or mining.

USES OF SOME MINERALS

Copper: Copper is used not only for making utensils, but also for electrical goods. Tin is added to copper to make bronze. You might have seen brass utensils in your home. Have you wondered how brass is made? Brass is an alloy of copper, tin, chrome, aluminium, etc.

Chrome: Chrome is a whitish metal like stainless steel. You must have seen stainless steel utensils in your home. Stainless steel is an alloy of chrome and iron. Shining cycle handles are also made with the polish of chrome. Zimbabwe is an important producer of this metal.

Asbestos: It is a grey coloured fibrous mineral. It is mixed with cement to manufacture sheets and pipes. You would have seen roofs being made out of these sheets.

EXERCISE

1. Make a list of the countries that surround Zimbabwe.
2. What was the name given to Zimbabwe by the English? Why did they make it a part of their empire?
3. What are the difficulties in animal husbandry in the Low Veld? What kind of animals are mostly found there?
4. What are the facilities for animal husbandry in the High Veld?
5. Why are wild animals now kept in sanctuaries?
6. What methods did the British use to spread agriculture in Zimbabwe?
7. Which are the important crops in Zimbabwe? Select from the following:
rice, soyabean, wheat, maize, jute, groundnut, tobacco, cotton.
8. Explain in four sentences the differences between the agricultural practices of the Bantus and those of the British settlers in Zimbabwe.
9. Why are transport networks necessary for mining industries?
10. Why do people settle near mining areas? Do they live there permanently?
11. What are the uses of copper and chrome? Why does Zimbabwe export them?
12. Zimbabwe exports mostly agricultural and mining products and imports manufactured goods from foreign countries. What is the reason for this?