

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February

LO: Comprehension

## Victoria Falls



The Victoria Falls or Mosi-oa-Tunya are situated on the Zambezi River, on the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe, and are roughly 1.7 km wide and 128 m high. They are considered a remarkable spectacle because of the peculiar narrow slot-like chasm into which the water falls, so one can view the falls face-on. Victoria Falls is the largest single sheet of water in the world.

### History

The earliest known inhabitants of the area around Victoria Falls were Khoisan hunter-gatherers (bushmen). They were followed by Tokaleya people, who called the falls *Shongwe*. Later, the Ndebele named them *aManza Thunqayo*, and the Makololo *Mosi-oa-Tunya*, meaning "The smoke that thunders".

The first European to see the falls was David Livingstone on 17 November 1855, during his 1852-1856 journey from the upper Zambezi to the mouth of the river. Livingstone reached the Falls from upriver and rowed across to a small island that now bears the name Livingstone Island. Livingstone had previously been impressed by the Ngonye Falls further upstream, but found the new falls much more impressive, and named them after Queen Victoria. He wrote of the falls "No one can imagine the beauty of the view from anything witnessed in England. It had never been seen before by European eyes; but scenes so lovely must have been gazed upon by angels in their flight".

### Retrieval

1. Where are the Victoria Falls ?
2. What makes the falls special ?

### Words in context

3. Why is '*the smoke that thunders*' a good description of Victoria Falls ?
4. Find and copy a word which means strange or unusual.

### Inference

5. How do you know that Livingstone thought the falls were very impressive ?