

HORRIBLE HISTORIES

THE

COLLECTION

AMAZING
AFRICANS

JUNGLE RUMBLE:
SEE SCARY SLAVERS
'MEAT' A CANNIBAL CLAN

'OBA' THE TOP: VISIT
A PALACE PARTY!

Witch-doctor
is right for
YOU?

Shaka Attack:
meet the meanest
of the Zulu crew!



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From Glory to Gory

AFRICA IS A MASSIVE CONTINENT AND ITS HISTORY IS AMAZING – BUT IT'S A TALE THAT'S RARELY TOLD. HERE'S JUST ONE SAVAGE STORY OF OLD AFRICA. IT'S ALL ABOUT TOWERS AND TRADERS, POWERS AND RAIDERS – AND WE WON'T 'SPEAR' YOU THE GORY DETAILS...

THE MOST FAMOUS AFRICANS IN HISTORY ARE THE EGYPTIANS WHO LIVED IN THE NORTH. MOST PEOPLE HAVE HEARD ABOUT THEIR PETRIFYING PYRAMIDS, MOULDY MUMMIES AND SUPER CITIES ON THE RIVER NILE. BUT IN VARIOUS CORNERS OF THIS HUGE, WILD CONTINENT, OTHER PEOPLES WERE BUSY CREATING THEIR OWN CIVILISATIONS...



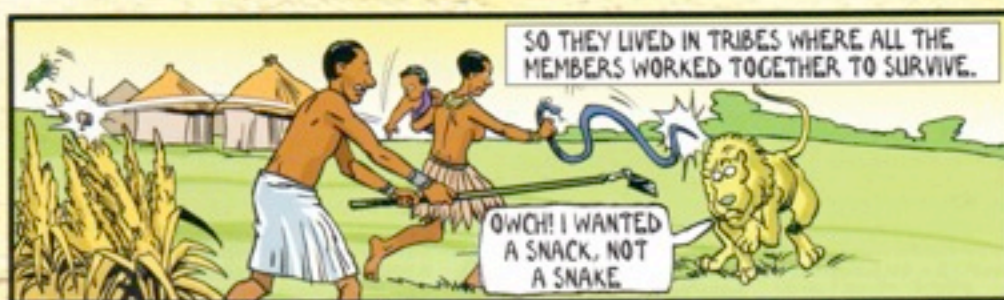
THE KINGDOMS SOUTH OF EGYPT BORROWED SOME OF THEIR IDEAS (SUCH AS WRITING AND PYRAMIDS) BUT THEY ALSO CAME UP WITH THEIR OWN WONDERS, SUCH AS THE HUGE STONE TOWERS AT A PLACE CALLED AXUM.

WOW, HOW DID THEY BUILD THAT?

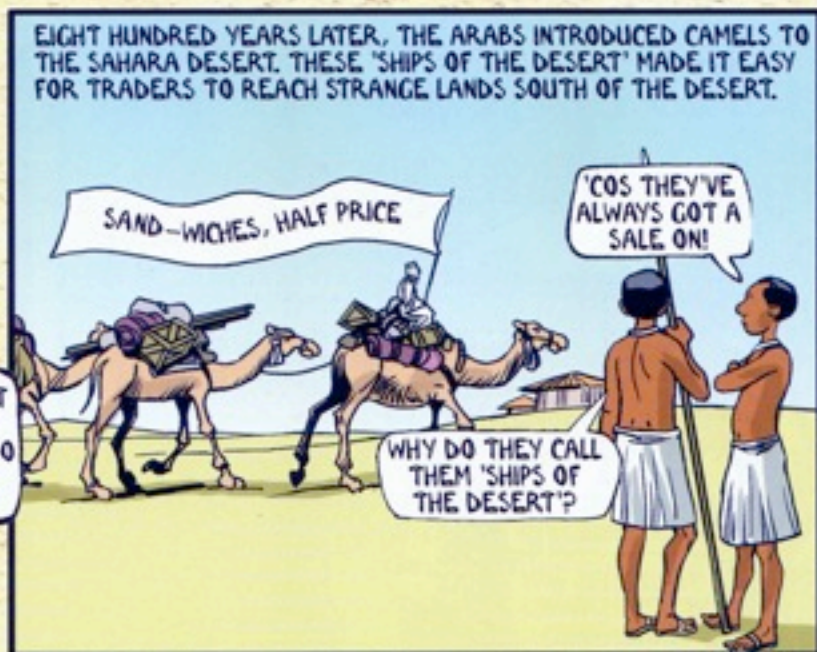
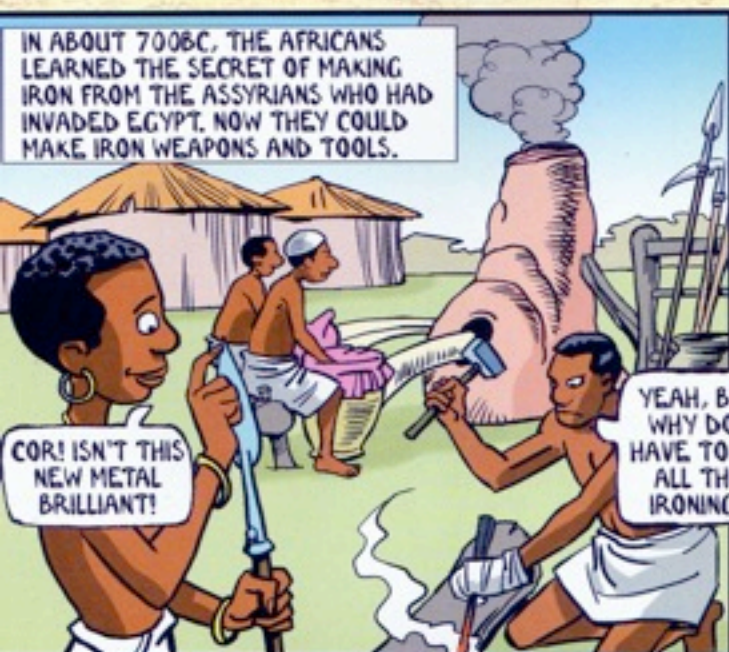
DUNNO. LET'S AXUM



BUT AFRICA WAS (AND STILL IS!) A TOUGH PLACE. THE PEOPLE HAD TO DEAL WITH A CRUEL CLIMATE, CROP-EATING LOCUSTS, DISEASE-CARRYING FLIES – AND HUNGRY WILD ANIMALS!



SO THEY LIVED IN TRIBES WHERE ALL THE MEMBERS WORKED TOGETHER TO SURVIVE.



THE ARABS WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN SLAVES. SOMETIMES THEY BOUGHT THEM FROM AFRICAN DEALERS – AND SOMETIMES THEY JUST GRABBED PEOPLE FROM UNDEFENDED VILLAGES.



EUROPEANS STARTED VISITING AFRICA IN THE 16TH CENTURY. THEY WERE AMAZED TO FIND MAGNIFICENT KINGDOMS IN THE HEART OF AFRICA, SUCH AS BENIN. BENIN WAS RULED BY A PRIEST-KING OR 'OBA'.



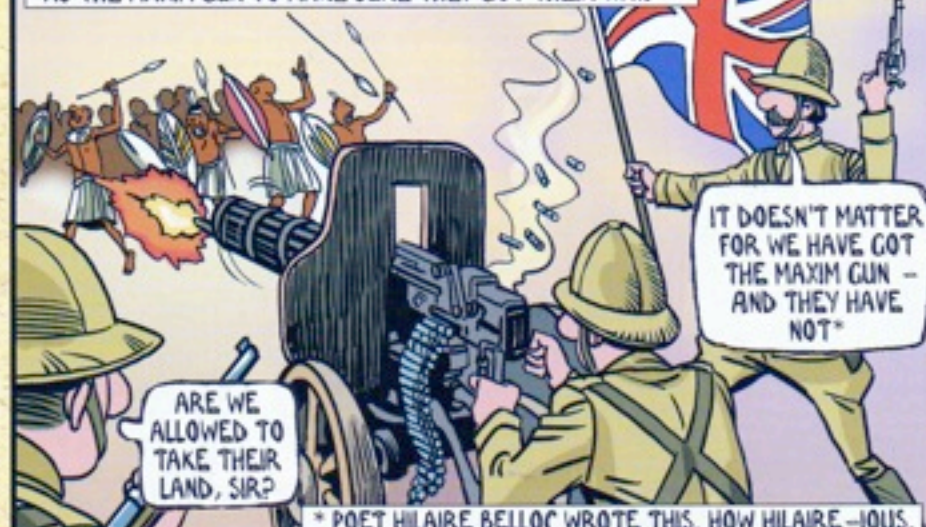
BUT WORSE WAS TO COME. IN THE 1500s, THE EUROPEANS NEEDED SLAVES TO WORK IN THEIR NEW AMERICAN COLONIES. A FEW FIERCE AFRICAN KINGDOMS, SUCH AS THE SONGHAI, MADE THEIR FORTUNES BY NICKING PEOPLE FROM OTHER TRIBES AND SELLING THEM TO THE EUROPEANS – IN RETURN FOR MUSKETS.



IN ALL, PERHAPS 10 MILLION AFRICANS WERE TAKEN AS SLAVES. OLD TRADE ROUTES AND TRIBES WERE DESTROYED.



BY THE 19TH CENTURY, EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ALL TRIED TO GRAB BITS OF AFRICA. THEY HAD NASTY NEW WEAPONS SUCH AS THE MAXIM GUN TO MAKE SURE THEY GOT THEIR WAY.



BY 1900 THE EUROPEANS HAD DESTROYED ALL THE OLD KINGDOMS (EXCEPT ETHIOPIA) AND DIVIDED AFRICA BETWEEN THEMSELVES.



Africa's A-list

Meet Africa's rich, fierce and famous – and a pair of deadly queens.

Oba Ewuare RULED: 1440–73

Oba Ewuare was a great king of Benin in West Africa. He was so famous that all later kings were called 'Oba' after him. (They couldn't get Oba him.) Here's how he became great...

Spots of bother

During a journey in the forest, Ewuare fell asleep. He woke up to find he was covered in blood. He looked up and saw a leopard in the tree above him eating an antelope. Ewuare jumped up and killed the leopard. (He liked antelopes but was anti-leopard.) Because of his bravery Ewuare became known as a magical leopard-king. So after Ewuare died, each new Oba was ordered to sacrifice a leopard to honour his ancestors and help protect his kingdom.

In another tale, Ewuare discovered he'd been sleeping on a giant serpent, too. Now that's just careless!

Suspicious moat-ives

Oba Ewuare built big walls and deep moats around Benin city to keep it safe. From here he sent his



armies into the forests around the city and conquered a huge empire. But there may have been a creepier reason for building the high walls...

Forest grump

They might have been made not to keep his enemies out – but to keep his people in! A story says that Ewuare went into mourning after his two favourite sons were killed. He forced his people to go into mourning too, but they got fed up with moping around and started to get restless. Ewuare got worried that his people might run away so he had the massive moat and high walls built. The walls were so high they couldn't get 'oba' the top. (Groan! No more oba jokes please!)

Making his mark

Just to make sure, Ewuare had his people tattooed with a special mark so they could always be recognised. Ever since, the tribe have tattooed themselves the same way – or so the story goes.



The Uzama, Benin's council of chiefs, had a custom that would make your skin crawl.

The top Uzama is called 'Ogele mun iru' which means 'he indeed preserved the lice'. This is because the original holder of the title, Oliha, was given a very strange job by his king... preserving seven lice for three years! How would you keep a louse alive? Oliha 'preserved' them by

dropping them on to the heads of his slaves. Talk about having a lousy job!



The Gold Guys

The empire of Mali had some magical masters...

SUNDJATA LIVED: c.1210-60

This warrior wizard didn't show much promise as a kid. He was greedy and dim, so his dad said, "See you later Sun!" and chucked him out of his rich kingdom, Mande. Had the sun set on Sun? Not really. While he was away, another tribe led by King Sumanguru invaded Mande and killed all of Sunny's 40 brothers.

Sunny delight

A prophet said that Sundjata would become a great leader. So Sun spent years learning magic before returning home to get revenge on Sumanguru. The mean king was a sorcerer too, but Sundjata's magic was mightier. First he scared off the enemy army, then he shot Sumanguru with a magic arrow that drained the king's power. The king fled, so Sundjata nabbed his lands – and so created the super-rich empire of Mali.



SUNDJATA



MANSA MUSA



SONNI ALI BER

MANSA MUSA

RULED: 1307-37

Mansa (king) Musa made Mali one of the greatest empires in the world. He boasted that his lands were so large it took a year to cross them. It wasn't that much of a fib – it actually took about four months.

Musa was a Muslim and to show how good a Muslim he was, he made a pilgrimage to Mecca in Arabia (the birthplace of the Prophet

Muhammad, which every Muslim is supposed to visit at least once). A caravan train with hundreds of camels and 60,000 people travelled the 3,500 miles to Egypt and then Arabia.

Filthy rich

Musa rode on horseback behind 500 of his men. He had a train of 80 camels, each carrying 300 pounds of gold, which he gave to the poor. He gave so much gold away in Cairo that Egyptian coins (dinars) became worthless. Just imagine that – having to use gold coins for your dinar money!



A strange story tells of when Sundjata was travelling with his dad's griot (say gree-oh. A griot is an African minstrel who sings stories

of the past – a sort of singing historian. But don't ask your history teacher to sing – the results could be terrible.) Sun was too poor to pay or feed the griot... so he cut off his own leg and fed it to the griot instead!

I'D GIVE AN ARM AND A LEG TO HEAR THAT SONG AGAIN

JUST A LEG WILL DO SUNNY BOY!



SONNI ALI BER RULED: 1464-93

This strongman put his people, the Songhai, on top. The Mali empire had got a bit weedy, so Sonni stepped in and conquered the lands of Ghana, Mali and Timbuktu to make the most massive kingdom in African history.

Sonni is another king who is supposed to have been a mean magician. He used magic to terrify

his enemies. Stories say that he could transform himself and his horse into vultures. He even gave his warriors lucky charms to make them invisible.

Write off

Sonni got into rows with Muslim leaders and scholars who were powerful among the Songhai. They thought using magic was cheating. These same scholars later wrote books about Sonni – and they're not very nice about him. This *might* have been because Sonni had many of the Muslim scholars in Timbuktu massacred for criticising him. (Just a guess!)

Crafty Queens

When the men made a mess, these two wild women took over.

NZINGA LIVED: 1583–1663

Nzinga was a ruthless warrior queen – and a devilishly clever diplomat. She became Ngola (leader) of the Ndongo people after her weedy brother died. At that time, the Portuguese were trying to take over her country. So she went to meet their governor in his posh palace.

Cheeky chair-man

When she entered the court, she noticed there was just one seat – and the governor was sitting on it. This was considered very rude because it showed that the governor didn't have any respect for her. So Nzinga summoned one of her servants who fell on his hands and knees and became Nzinga's throne. (He was a couch that said "ouch!") The governor was so gobsmacked that from now on he had to treat her as an equal.



Double Dutch

Cunning Nzinga then noticed that the Dutch were trying to nab her land, too. So she made an agreement with them against the Portuguese. Bet she laughed

Water way to go

Sunni is said to have died in a flood. His horse slipped, fell into the Koni river, and they were both swept over a waterfall to their deaths. (They must have forgotten to turn into vultures.)

Some believe that Sunni's head is buried in Wanzerbe, the centre of Songhai magical power. Well, he was head of state!



when the Europeans began fighting each other! Sadly, the Portuguese got the upper hand and Nzinga had to run to the hills. But she carried on leading her armies until she was in her sixties, and never gave in. (Even when she needed an 'Nzimmer' frame.)

AMINA

LIVED: 1533–1610

You won't find a meaner queen than Amina. She started fighting at the age of 16. Every time Amina captured a town she selected one of its men to be her new boyfriend. Lucky men? Not really. She would have each 'boyfriend' beheaded the next day.

Amina became ruler of a vast area of land in the middle of Africa. This meant she controlled lots of trade... which made her VERY rich. Her idea of fun was building huge mud walls around her cities so no one could nick her money.

Benin Boogie

It's party-time in the court of the Oba, the priest-king of Benin. That means dancing, drinking – and human sacrifice!

The Oba's mum was meant to live in a palace miles away from the capital so that she couldn't interfere in the king's business. She's turned up to the party, but it looks like she might get kicked out...

The Oba was the priest-king and the coolest member of the court. (He had lots of fan-bearers to keep him that way). If the party really got jumping he might even boogie down himself.

WOW, HE'S GOT A LOT OF FANS!

WOW, THIS PLACE IS GOING NUTS!

The bands really got into a groove. They played gourd rattles, log drums, and even elephant-tusk trumpets. (Blowing one was a mammoth task!)

The 'highlight' of the party was the acrobats, who dangled from ropes in the trees. Talk about getting into the swing of things!

These women aren't the Oba's fan club – they're his wives! He had dozens of 'em.

At the festivals some people might be sacrificed to please the gods. Being sacrificed was a great honour – so some 'victims' even volunteered!

AND I'M TOTALLY BAMBOO-ZLED!

The Royal Greeter was given the job of giving foreign traders a warm welcome – and the master merchant got the job of getting the best deal for the Oba!

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT ME TO DO THIS?

YES, CHOP AWAY!

HA! THESE 'EUROPEANS' ARE SO EASILY IMPRESSED!

GOSH! WHAT A PARTY!

Fave Benin party treats included bamboo wine and kola nuts. Kola nuts pep you up if you chew them – so you can party late into the night.

Artists carved pictures of the scene in wax. These were then cast in brass to make a wall panel for the Oba's posh palace.

Gold 'n' Goodies

Here's how shopping, swapping and swotting put the cities of West Africa on top...

The Middle Ages was a golden time for the super cities of West Africa, especially Timbuktu. Traders came here from all over Africa, Arabia and beyond. Some of the things they traded might surprise you...

Salt sellers

The top stuff to buy and sell was salt. Salt had many uses – such as keeping meat from going bad. Some parts of Africa didn't have any and were desperate for it – while other places had loads. (Taghaza in the Sahara desert had more salt than they knew what to do with – their houses were made of salt with camel skin roofs!) So of course they sold it.



Beastly bestsellers

Timbuktu wasn't just big for business – it was also famous for its Muslim universities and schools. They were even stricter than your school is today. Muslim Arab visitors were very impressed by the fact that kids who didn't memorise the Koran (the Muslim holy book) fast enough were chained up until they did!



The white stuff

Different West African cities got rich from different goods. The city of Benin made a fortune from ivory – the white stuff that elephants' tusks are made of. In Benin, the elephant hunters got a lot of respect. After all, you have to be tough, crazy – and terribly

BIZARRE BAZAAR

Fancy saving on salt, picking up a leopard skin or bagging a book? Here are some tips for a Timbuktu shopping trip.



1. Traders from across Africa used all sorts of things as money – even spears! Just make sure you've got some change.

2. Salt was sold in big slabs. 3. Going for gold? Timbuktu's the place to make it! 4. Arabs and Europeans thought animal

fur was fab, while southern Africans were keen to buy cloth from the north. 5. Timbuktu was the place to pick up

Splash and Carry

All those goods didn't just grow in Timbuktu (well, most of them didn't!). They had to be carried there.

Some of it arrived by ship on the north coast. Here the goods were loaded on to donkeys. The donkeys carried the stuff until they came to the

Sahara desert. Donkeys don't like crossing deserts (can you blame them?) so the goods were hauled on to camels (who got the hump) for the final trek to Timbuktu.



cruel – to kill an elephant and rip out its tusks. The king of Benin, the Oba, took his share. When an elephant was killed, the Oba was given one tusk, but the hunter got to keep the other. He was also given the head, the heart – and the lungs for good luck. Or a good yuck.



Silly money

All this trading meant that the rulers of West Africa became very rich indeed. They ended up with a lot of gold. In fact so much gold was going around that their nations became known as the Gold Kingdoms.

Now, have you ever noticed how people with fortunes don't spend it properly? (Imagine you had piles of gold. You'd spend it on something sensible, wouldn't you? Like a ton of chocolate or a thousand computer games.)

Well, some of the African guys with the gold spent their riches on very strange things. The king of Ghana splashed his cash on his 1000 horses... by giving each one its own mattress, three servants – and a copper toilet! They had everything a pampered pony could wish for – except a hairdryer, perhaps.



some spooky statues as souvenirs 6. Kola's always a top flavour. You'd be nuts

not to buy it in bulk. 7. Books are in demand so they're 'bound' to be pricey!

Foul Facts

Kola nuts were top-selling stuff. You could say kola was the real thing! The nuts were chewed or ground up and rubbed into wounds. Some people thought that chewing a kola nut made it okay to drink putrid water.



Terrifying Tribes

Not all the African peoples were city slickers. The Zulu and Masai were fierce warriors who fought on the plains.



The Zulus used to be just another southern African tribe. But then a warrior named Shaka came along. Shaka would really shake things up – and they would never be the same again.



Before Shaka was born his mother said, "This swelling in my stomach is just *ishaki*!" (*Ishaki* means 'a bad gut'.) So when the baby was born he was named Shaki

(or Shaka). It was just about right that his name meant bad gut – because he caused a lot of belly-aches for the people around him...

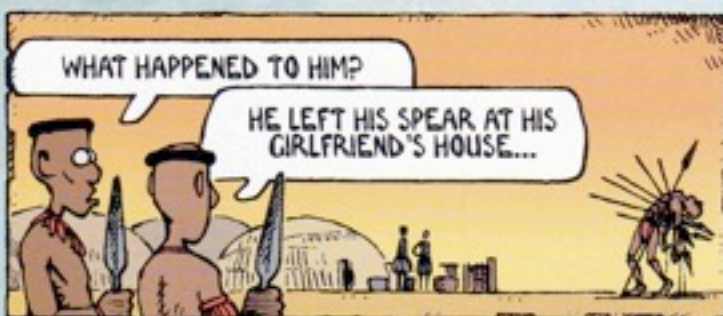
When he grew up Shaka became chief of the Zulu. All he had to do was kill the chief – his own dad! Would you kill your dad just to be chief? (Better not answer that!)

Then Shaka set about making the Zulu into a lean mean fighting machine...

Rotten Rules

Shaka organised the Zulu into a mighty fighting force by using some harsh rules...

- Here are some examples...
- NO cowards! Run from battle – and get executed.
- NO shoes! To keep his men tough and in tip-top condition, Shaka made them do cross-country runs in their bare feet – up to 50 miles a day. Owch.
- NO girlfriends! The punishment for breaking this rule? Death, of course.
- NEVER forget your gear! A soldier would be executed if he forgot to bring his spear to practice.



Shaka's extra-fierce forces then destroyed all the tribes in southern Africa that got in their way.

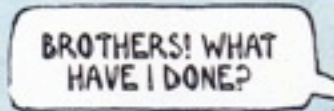


This jolly time became known as the *Mfecane*... or 'Terror'. He probably caused the deaths of a MILLION people – that is totally terrible terror.

Shaka seemed to enjoy being cruel. After he killed someone he had a little catchphrase that you might like to copy. He shouted: "Ngdala!" It means, "I have eaten!"

Fearful family

Shaka may have been a meanie, but his family were just as bad. In the end his brothers Dingan and Mhlagane met him for a chat – then attacked him and murdered him! As he fell he said some great last words...

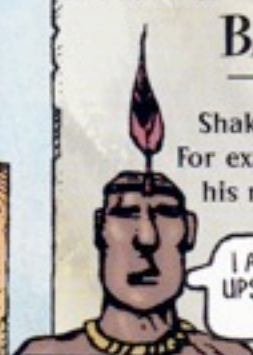


Shaka's dead body was thrown in an empty grain pot. Corny, but true.



BAD MOURNING

Shaka also had a sensitive side. For example, he was very sad when his mummy died. Isn't that sweet?



I AM UPSET. I WANT EVERY FAMILY TO KNOW HOW UPSET I AM SO I AM GOING TO KILL SOMEONE FROM EVERY FAMILY! DOESN'T THAT SOUND FAIR?

It's reckoned that 7000 people were killed – all because Shaka missed his mum.



Amazing Masai Facts

The Masai were a tribe who were only interested in two things: cattle and battle!

The Masai believed that the god Ngai created cattle for them alone – and any other tribe who had cattle must have nicked them! So the Masai were always raiding other tribes to get back their cattle. It was lucky, then, that the Masai were really tough warriors.

Here are seven foul facts about the Masai. Can you guess which one is false? (The answer's upside down at the bottom of the page.)

DIDN'T CALL YOU A COWHERD – I DID!



1 The Masai liked to dress up for battle. They wore red body paint, head-dresses made of lion manes or ostrich or vulture feathers, and even tied bells to their knees. Ding dong!

LOOK, I'M A VULTURE

PULL THE OTHER ONE, IT'S GOT BELLS ON



2 Before a young Masai could get married he had to prove he was a man – by killing a lion!

I'VE KILLED A LION

THAT'S A CHEETAH, YOU CHEATER



IF WE'RE THE LAST ONES TO DIE, WHO'S GOING TO TELL PEOPLE WHAT HAPPENED?



3 The only African tribe that managed to stand up to the Masai were called the Hehe. The name may be funny, but the fights between them and the Masai were no laughing matter. A story says that in one battle between them, ALL the warriors on BOTH sides were killed!

4 The Masai were totally wiped out by the beastly British, who invaded Kenya in the 19th century. Masai spears were no match for machine-guns.

5 Masai houses were made out of cow dung. It's not as bad as it sounds – dried cow poo isn't very smelly. So here's a tip – if you want to do some Masai DIY, don't poo it yourself.

OUCH!

I'D HAVE TO REALLY BRANCH OUT TO DATE HIM



6 Teenage Masai boys had to impress the girls. And what the Masai misses really liked was a man who could jump! So the boys would dress up in their best gear, go stand on a carpet and jump up and down while the girls checked out who they fancied. Boing!

7 Young Masai warriors had to go off and live in a small village at the edge of their tribe's territory. They spent all their time attacking the neighbours and nicking their cows.

These young warriors were only allowed to eat beef, blood and milk. They believed that veggies would turn them into wimps. (Tell your Mum that next time she serves up some Brussel sprouts.)

THE MASAI AND THEIR AMAZING WAY OF LIFE ARE STILL AROUND TODAY.

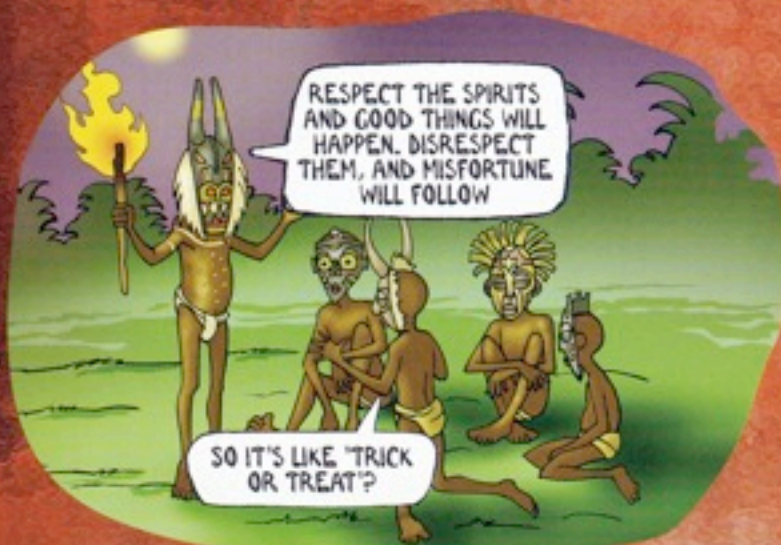
ANSWER: 4. The Masai were wiped out but weren't wiped out.

Scary Superstitions

For many African tribes, magic was a part of daily life. They believed that everything in the world – from rats to rocks – had a spirit, which they had to be careful not to offend.



The Africans were extremely careful to keep in with the spirits of their ancestors – their dead relatives. The ancestors had great wisdom, and had passed down the traditions that helped the tribe to survive. So the moral was: be nice to your great-grandad – even if he's dead! If you didn't follow his ways, you'd be in trouble.



members of the tribe would teach him the secrets of the tribe's religion. Part of this was learning how to contact the spirits of the animals and ancestors. They wore scary masks that represented animals or ancestors, and danced around like mad! Tribesmen believed that when they did this the mask's spirit would take control of them.

You've got nail

It wasn't just masks that got your spirits up. One way to keep the spirits happy was to bang a nail into a special statue. The statues soon looked like pinecushions.



King-size meal

The people of the Oyo tribe had a particularly gruesome way of making sure that the wisdom of their ancient kings got passed down to the next generation. When a king died, the priests would cut out his heart, chop off his head and clean the brains out of the skull.

The new king first had to make sacrifices to the thunder god before sitting down to a nice dinner. The starter was a special dish made out of the old king's heart. Bet that was unbeatable! For afters he got corn porridge. Doesn't seem too bad? Well, it wasn't – except that it was served up in the old king's skull. Talk about a heady concoction.

ERM... I DON'T SUPPOSE THERE'S A VEGETARIAN OPTION?



Foul Facts

The Kuba tribe, from the Congo, believed that in the beginning of the world there was nothing but endless dark waters, which the creator god Mbombo swam in. Then Mbombo got a pain in his belly and vomited up the sun and moon. Some of the water drained away and land appeared. But Mbombo was still sick, so he threw up again on to the land. This time he vomited up trees, animals, and the first man and woman. So the world and everything on it is made up of a god's sick!



Witch worries

What Africans feared most were witches – men and women who had been taken over by evil spirits. Witches spread evil and disease, and wanted to eat your soul. They could be anyone, even your family!

Witches got power over people by getting hold of bits of their clothing, toenails, hair or even poo. (Another good reason to always flush the loo!) Witches' favourite food was

DINNER IS SERVED – DIG IN!



BUT I JUST DUG IT UP

human flesh. They dug up corpses from graveyards – or grabbed kiddies for a midnight snack.

Knock, knock

The Ngbandi tribe of the Congo believed that evil spirits called Li went into people's bellies and turned them into witches. They walked around at night, and anybody whose door they knocked on would die. Luckily, African tribes had someone special they could turn to for help – witch-doctors!

Witch-doctors' Disturbing Deeds

The village witch-doctor was a magician who had spells and potions for all kinds of problems. But he had loads of other tricks up his sleeve. Here are four of the witch-doctor's strangest skills...

Fortune-telling... with mice! The Baule witch-doctors of the Ivory Coast discovered ways of telling the future using mystic mice. They put some sticks and mice into a special pot, and let the rodents scurry around a bit so that they moved the sticks about. The witch doctor could answer your questions by looking at the patterns that the sticks made.



MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE USED CHEESE STRAWS

Fortune-telling... with chickens! Azande witch-doctors of Sudan were much less kind. If you wanted to know the future, you would ask the witch-doctor your question, then give him a live chicken. The witch-doctor would then give the poor chicken poison. If the chicken lived the witch-doctor answered the question. If it died, he said nothing. If you really wanted an answer, it could cost you a lot of chickens.



OH WITCH-DOCTOR, TELL ME THE FUTURE

Telling which is witch A witch-doctor could tell if a person was a witch by giving a medicine that would give them a very upset tummy. If they threw up

they were innocent – if they got diarrhoea they were a witch!



Making zombies Sometimes witch-doctors went bad and used their magic for evil. Some could bring the dead back to life as zombies. The witch-doctor would slit the tongues of their 'un-dead' slaves so they couldn't speak, then set them to work in the garden.



GREAT GARDENING, LOUSY CONVERSATION

Azande Attack!

The Azande were a fierce tribe from the Congo. When Arab slavers came looking for victims, they got more than they bargained for ...

The Azande liked to scare their enemies senseless. Some warriors sharpened their teeth into points, some ate their foes. (Other tribes called the Azande the 'Niam-Niam', which means 'great eaters'.)



The Arab slavers grabbed African tribesmen to sell. The captives had to carry the Arab's loot – then got sold when they got back to the market. Talk about 'cash and carry'! Of course, they were always looking for a chance to break free...



The Azande chief, Gbudwe, was a fierce fighter. He chose the name Gbudwe himself – because it meant 'To rip out a man's intestines'. You hoped Gbudwe was your buddy!

The Azande's favourite weapon was the 'kpinga', a throwing knife with razor-sharp blades sticking out in all directions. Very handy for the Azande. When a warrior threw one he had to shout 'Kpinga!'

KPINGA!

Most Azande wore loincloths of monkey or jungle cat fur, but posh people like Gbudwe wore leopard skin. It made them easy to 'spot'.

YUM! DINNER!

I DUNNO... I LIKE ARABS BUT I COULDN'T EAT A WHOLE ONE.

Unlike the Zulu and the Masai, the Azande were keen to get their hands on guns – and used them against anyone dumb enough to attack them!

Gbudwe encouraged his men to eat the Arabs they killed. The idea was probably to terrify the Arabs so that they'd never mess with the Azande again.

Warrior Ways

The Azande were masters of terrifying tactics but other tribes had different ways of war. Some speared for fear, some hated hurting so they fought with rules stricter than school, while others 'ash-ly' got to grips with each other. Maybe the worst were those who shot for slaves.

Fearful Gear

The Zulus used to fight with long spears called *assegai*. Their usual trick was to run up to the enemy, throw the spears, then run away. Makes sense. But Zulu chief Shaka thought that was a wimpy way to fight. He made his soldiers use a shorter spear for stabbing. Now the Zulus had to charge the enemy and stab them till they were dead. The new kind of spear was called the *iklwa*...

because that was the sound it made when it was pulled out of your enemy's body. Ikky.

I KILL YA WITH MY IKLWA!

I'M GUTTED...URK!



MAIL MARVELS

The kingdom of Bornu had a mighty army with warriors who fought on horseback in full armour – just like European knights from the Middle Ages. European explorers were stunned to meet African warriors who looked like they might have fought with King Arthur!

I HATE GETTING CHAINMAIL!



When tribes rumbled in the jungle, they didn't beat around the bush!

War Rules OK?

Not all African tribes were fighters. The Tallensi tribe believed that war was a sin. What a smart bunch. They would only fight if there was no other option. And if they did fight, there were strict rules that had to be obeyed....

- DON'T take loot or booty!
- DON'T take captives as slaves.
- DON'T let the war go on for longer than it has to.
- If you take food from the enemy, you have to eat it there and then – or leave it behind.

HEY! I SAID NO TAKEAWAYS!



SUPA NUBA

The Nuba people of Sudan didn't like war either. Instead of killing their neighbours, they preferred to wrestle with their problems... by wrestling! (They still do.)

BAH, YOUR NUBA'S UP!

I'M GONNA KICK YOUR ASH!



Teenage Nuba boys are sent to camps where they're taught to wrestle by their elders. (Imagine being taught how to fight by your headmaster!) Matches between the top wrestlers are big events. The fighters dress up specially –

SLAVES FOR SUPPER?

The old tribes had all sorts of reasons for fighting, but once Europeans came to West Africa in the 16th century with their guns and greed for slaves, the reasons for fighting got a lot grimmer. African kingdoms such as the Dahomey and the Ashanti made a fortune trading slaves for European guns. The guns meant they could fight more wars against their neighbours, so they could capture more prisoners, so they could get more guns!

After European slave-traders bought African slaves they would

THESE GUNS COULD SHOOT US TO THE TOP!



keep them in cages as if they were animals. The traders did give the slaves a little food to eat, but only because dead slaves aren't worth anything.

But some of the terrified slaves thought that the wicked white men must be cannibals who were fattening them up for dinner! In fact quite a few tribes came to believe this. A British ambassador was once given a fat slave as a present by a chief – because the chief thought the ambassador was hungry!

HERE, HAVE THIS SLAVE. HE'S FAT AND JUICY, JUST THE WAY YOU BRITS LIKE 'EM!



?

by smearing their bodies with a mixture of ash and milk! The ashes give a good grip, while the milk is supposed to give the wrestlers strength. (So maybe next time you need to feel strong you could pour your breakfast cereal over yourself instead of eating it.) Then they put on special wrestling belts, decorated with cow and goat tails. Champion wrestlers become village heroes.

MOOS AND MAKE-UP

In the old days, it was a very big deal if a great wrestler died. Fifty cattle would be slaughtered for a funeral feast. Girls of the tribe would smear white paint on their eyelids to help them see the dead wrestler in the spirit world. (Maybe they wanted to 'make-up' with him?)

NOT HALF AS SAD AS WE ARE.

OH MY, I'M SO SORRY HE'S DEAD...



Did you know?

Gbudwe, chief of the Azande, was a tough guy. He had to be – he had beastly Brits and awful Arab armies to fight. In fact he hated Arabs and white men so much that he didn't like to trade with them, so his warriors only had a few guns. Most had to stick to the old ways, using beastly blades and spears.

Gbudwe had a horrid sense of humour. A fellow warrior once gave him a bloody bag full of the dangly bits of his slaughtered enemies. Gbudwe thought it was a bag of laughs!

I WONDER – WILLY LIKE IT?



Puzzles

Zulu – or Zero?

One of the most fearsome of the African tribes were the Zulu. Do you have what it takes to be boss of these brave (and sometimes barmy) warriors? Why not take this terrible test?

1 How would you get to be Zulu chief in the first place?

a) Go down to the local job centre and fill out an application form.



b) Be born a prince and wait patiently for your older brother, the king, to die.

c) Be born a prince and murder your brother to become king!

2 You have 10,000 warriors. You come across a band of 460 white settlers at Blood River. What do you do to this pathetic mob of white men?

a) Spare their lives.

b) Capture them and make them your slaves.

c) Attack and try to kill them all.

3 If you decide that a settler and his followers must die, how would you kill them?

a) Quickly and cleanly with a sharp chop of the axe while they are drunk and asleep.

b) Wait till they are awake and hang them.



c) Tie them up, take them to the Hill of Execution, bash their heads with clubs, then stick sharp wooden poles through their bodies from underneath. Let the leader watch his followers die, then kill him last. Cut out his heart and liver.

4 Even a chief needs some light relief. How would you like to entertain yourself?

a) Play football with your mates.

b) Hunt lions and other dangerous animals.

c) Have a palace glutton eat a whole goat for you.

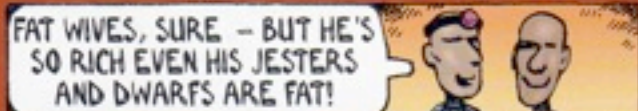


5 For most rulers, it's important to show off. How would you show the world that you are a great Zulu chief?

a) Have dwarfs and jesters to entertain your guests.

b) Have lots of fat women as wives.

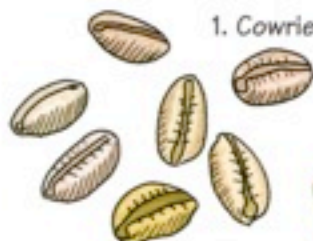
c) Have jesters, dwarfs AND loads of fat wives.



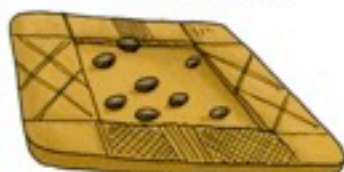
Funny Money

As well as coins and gold, the ancient Africans used lots of other things as money. Can you guess which of these would buy you packet of kola nuts – and which would earn you a slap on the head with a spear?

1. Cowrie shells



2. Kola nuts



6. Spear heads



3. Cylinders of salt



7. Monkeys



Charm Alarm

Africans needed a few magic charms to keep trouble at bay. Can you work out which harm is prevented by each charm?



1. Animal teeth



A. Protects weedy kids



2. Bamboo whistles



B. Scares away wild animals



3. Goatskin pouches



C. Keeps illness away



4. Heavy anklets



D. Protects crops



5. Pieces of straw



E. Keeps witches away

Name: _____

51 Amazing Africans

From glory to glory

- 1.What was the southernmost civilization in Africa (use map)?
- 2.What was built at Axum?
- 3.What were some of the hard things Africans had to deal with?
- 4.When did Africans learn how to make iron?
- 5.Who did they learn it from?
- 6.Who introduced camels to Africa?
- 7.When did many Africans become Muslim?
- 8.Why was Timbuktu a great African city?
- 9.What are the two ways that Arabs acquired African slaves?
- 10.Why did Europeans need slaves?
- 11.What were the slaves traded for?
- 12.How many slaves were taken overall?
- 13.How were the Europeans able to take over Africa?

Africa's A list?

- 14.Why do Oba's sacrifice leopards?
- 15.Why did gold coins become worthless under Mansa Musa?
- 16.What did Nzinga once use for a throne?
- 17.What happened to Amina's boyfriends?

Benin Boogie

- 18.What types of musical instruments did bands in Benin use?
- 19.Why do people chew Kola Nuts?
- 20.Why did some people volunteer to be sacrificed to the gods?

Gold n Goodies

21. Why did people need salt?

22. What happened to students who didn't memorize the Koran?

23. Where does Ivory come from?

24. What did the King of Ghana buy for his horses?

Terrifying Tribes

25. How did Shaka become chief of the Zulu?

26. What were some of Shaka's rules for his warriors?

27. What did Shaka Zulu say after he killed somebody?

28. Why did the Masai steal cattle?

29. How did the Masai impress girls?

30. What are the only things Masai warriors allowed to eat?

Scary Superstitions

31. According to the Kuba what is the world made up of?

32. How did the Oyo make sure that the king's wisdom was passed on after he died?

33. How did the Azande witch doctors tell the future?

Azande Attack

34. What did the Azande warriors do to scare their enemies?

35. What does "Gbudwe" mean?

36. What did Gbudwe encourage his men to do when they killed Arabs?

Warrior Ways

37. What were some of the Taliensi's rules for war?

38. Why was a British ambassador given a fat slave?

Puzzles (bonus):

Zulu or Zero

Charm Alarm

