

Shajara

3RD EDITION

Magazine

**IS THERE SOMETHING
WRONG WITH AFRICA??**





Table of Content

01 WHAT SHAPE IS AFRICA

04 MOVIE REVIEW

05 CULTURE AND PRIDE

09 AFRICAN FUTURE

15 DID YOU KNOW

17 ARYEN





Shajarians Assemble

Welcome to this month's Journey as always We are your guides Me Una and Jabari the Kasuku

Thankyou So much Una and to give you guys some context "Kasuku" is the swahili word for Parrot and "Ndovu" Is the Swahili word for Elephant

Swahili is an African Language commonly spoken in East African Countries and it is the National Language for Kenya and Tanzania.

Well guys with that we start our Journey into Shajara Land with Our first stop at Chief Editor Lady K

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Have you ever looked at Africa and wondered, Is there something wrong with us? It's a big question, and one that makes us pause. Africa is a continent filled with breathtaking landscapes, vibrant cultures, and resilient people. But it's also a place facing real challenges—poverty, corruption, climate change, and sometimes, even bad press.

This issue is about exploring that question. It's not just about the problems we face but also about the solutions we can create. As children, you are the heartbeat of Africa's future. The change we need might just start with you. We'll take you on a journey through Africa's successes, struggles and stories of hope. You'll meet young people doing amazing things, learn about our rich traditions, and discover ways to make a difference in your own community.

Africa isn't just a place, Africa is a story and you're part of it. So, let's dig deep, think hard, and dream big together. Because if there's something wrong with Africa, then we can be the ones to make it right.

Enjoy the read, and let us know what you think...
We love hearing from you!

A proud African,
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SPOTLIGHT STORIES:



**WHAT
SHAPES AFRICA
TODAY?**



Here's what makes Africa special:

Rich Cultures: Africa has over 2,000 languages and countless traditions. Imagine how much history we carry!

Natural Wonders: From the Serengeti to the Nile River, Africa is full of breathtaking landscapes.

Creativity: Afrobeat, Amapiano and African fashion trends are taking over the world!

But let's be honest. We face challenges too. Poverty, lack of education, climate change, and corruption are issues we need to tackle. And guess what? The solutions might just come from YOU.

TEEN VOICES:

WHAT AFRICA MEANS TO ME



(Asha)

"Africa is where my roots are. I love our music, our dances, and our food. But I wish there were more opportunities for education."

(shalom phinley)

"Africa is like a big, colorful puzzle full of amazing stories and dreams. It's where we can make sure every kid has a chance to learn, grow, and be happy. To me, Africa means standing up for kids, keeping them safe, and helping them shine like the stars they are!"





(Juma):

"Sometimes I feel like Africa is misunderstood. People focus on the bad things, but they don't see the beauty of our culture and people."

NOW
IT'S YOUR
TURN

What does Africa mean to you? Write a short paragraph and send it to us. We might feature it in the next issue!

What does Africa Mean:

THE BOY WHO HARNESSSED THE WIND



THE BOY WHO HARNESSSED THE WIND

This film tells the true story of William Kamkwamba, a young boy from Malawi, who uses his creativity and determination to help his village during a terrible drought. With no money and limited resources, William builds a windmill to bring water to his village, saving his family and neighbors from hunger.

The movie is full of powerful lessons about never giving up, using your imagination, and working hard to solve problems. It shows us that even kids can do amazing things to help their communities.

The acting is brilliant, especially Maxwell Simba, who plays William. The story is emotional and inspiring, and the beautiful scenery of Malawi adds even more magic to the film.

This is the perfect movie for families to watch together. It will make you laugh, cry, and feel ready to tackle your own dreams.

So, grab some snacks and enjoy this incredible story of hope, courage, and determination. After you watch, think about this: What problems in your community could you help solve? Enjoy the movie!

CULTURE & PRIDE:

CELEBRATING AFRICA



Africa is a continent of diverse cultures and traditions, with each community celebrating unique festivals that honor their heritage, history, and way of life. Let's explore some traditional festive celebrations across Africa, focusing on their vibrant Customs.





DURBAR

FESTIVAL

NIGERIA

The Durbar Festival is a colorful celebration held in Northern Nigeria, particularly in cities like Kano and Katsina. This festival marks the end of the farming season and features grand processions of horsemen adorned in richly embroidered garments.

UMHLANGA

(REED DANCE)

ESWATINI



The Umhlanga Reed Dance, celebrated in Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), is a vibrant tradition where thousands of young women gather to honor the Queen Mother. Dressed in colorful attire, the women perform intricate dances and present freshly cut reeds as a symbol of respect. The event is an important cultural ritual, showcasing dance, music, and unity, while promoting the values of chastity and community pride.





TIMKAT ETHIOPIA

Timkat, meaning “baptism,” is Ethiopia’s version of the Epiphany celebration. It is deeply rooted in Ethiopian culture, featuring processions where replicas of the Ark of the Covenant are paraded and blessed in rivers or pools. Although rooted in religious practices, it is also a time for traditional feasting, community dances, and the celebration of Ethiopian heritage.

OUIDAH VOODOO FESTIVAL BENIN

In Benin, the Ouidah Voodoo Festival celebrates the nation’s rich Voodoo heritage. This annual event features traditional dances, music and rituals to honor the spirits and ancestors. Participants wear brightly colored garments, and the festival is a vibrant display of the community’s spiritual and cultural roots.



GARBA FESTIVAL NIGER

In Niger, the Garba Festival celebrates the Wodaabe people’s traditions, particularly their beauty contest for men. Participants dress in elaborate costumes, adorn themselves with face paint and perform dances to showcase their charm and grace. The festival has themes of beauty, courtship and cultural pride, offering a fascinating glimpse into Wodaabe traditions.



FESPACO

BURKINA FASO

The Pan-African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (Fespaco) in Burkina Faso is a celebration of African storytelling through cinema. While it is a modern festival, it incorporates traditional dance, music, and art exhibitions that honor Africa's cultural richness. Filmmakers and artists from across the continent gather to share stories rooted in their communities.



LAMU

CULTURAL FESTIVAL

KENYA

The Lamu Cultural Festival in Kenya is a vibrant celebration of the Swahili culture. Held in the historic Lamu Town, the event features dhow races, traditional Swahili poetry, dances and even a donkey race! It is a showcase of coastal traditions.



NZULEZO

FESTIVAL

GHANA

In Nzulezo, Ghana, the Water Village Festival honors the community's ancestors and their connection to water. The celebration includes traditional boat races, drumming, and rituals performed on stilts. It is a fascinating blend of reverence and entertainment, symbolizing the bond between people and nature.

AFRICA'S FUTURE:

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE

In some parts of Africa, going to school is still a dream. Millions of kids don't have access to classrooms, books, or even proper meals.



But here's the good news:

In Mombasa, Kenya a start-up named Twende Green Ecocycle is tackling plastic pollution by transforming waste collected from beaches into school desks and chairs. This initiative not only addresses marine plastic waste but also provides sustainable and durable furniture for schools. The desks allow students to study more comfortably and are part of a larger mission to promote environmental conservation and education. Co-founder Lawrence Kosgei was inspired by his personal experience with inadequate school furniture, leading to this impactful project

RECYCLING PLASTIC WASTE FOR SCHOOL FURNITURE

USING TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE EDUCATION EASY TO GET.

In Nigeria, youth are using technology to improve education accessibility. For example, apps like uLesson provide video lessons and quizzes tailored to students, helping bridge gaps in rural areas. Similarly, Pass.ng offers exam prep tools, and ScholarX connects students to scholarship opportunities.

Imagine what YOU could do for education in Africa!

THE OPPORTUNITY:

Young Africans are using tech to solve real problems:

TECHNOLOGY TO THE RESCUE

FarmCrowdy (Nigeria)

This app helps farmers sell their crops directly to buyers.

M-Pesa (Kenya):

A mobile money service that has transformed banking in rural areas.

Africa is full of opportunities, you just need to spot them!

OPINION SECTION:

IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH AFRICA?

Here's the big question: Is something wrong with Africa? Some people say yes because of poverty, wars, or corruption. Others say no because Africa is full of hope and potential.

What do YOU think?

The Challenges:



CHALLENGE

We face problems like poor leadership, lack of education, and Climate change.

The Strengths:



STRENGTH

We have creative, hardworking people, incredible natural resources, and strong cultures.

We want to hear your thoughts! Write an essay or poem about what you think Africa's biggest problem is and how we can fix it, then send it to

+254 790 5682 90, or email it to

khadija@mtotonews.com

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW AFRICA?

1

What's the longest river in Africa?

2

Which African country has the most pyramids?

3

What's the most spoken language in Africa?

DO IT YOURSELF SECTION

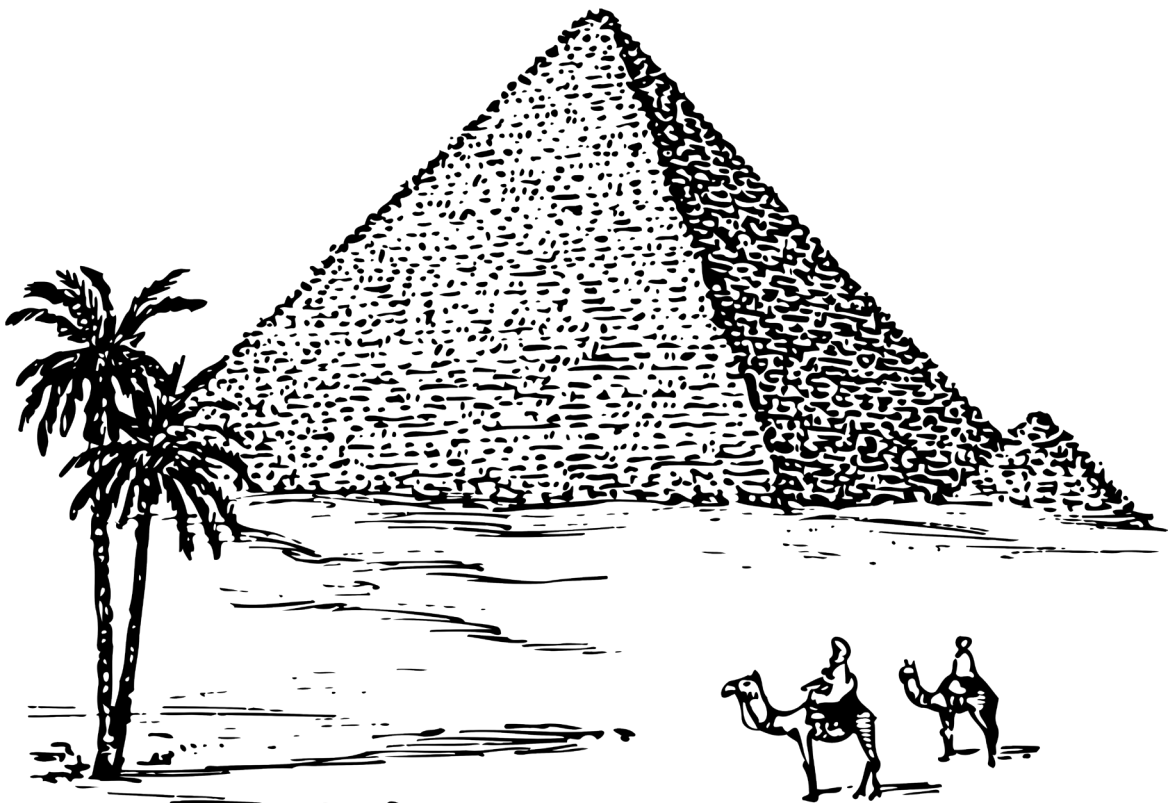
Think about what you want Africa to look like in the future.

① More schools?

② Better roads?

③ Cleaner cities?

Use old magazines, newspapers, or drawings to create a vision board. Hang it in your room as a reminder of what you want to achieve for Africa!



INSPIRATION:

AFRICAN PROVERBS

“WISDOM IS WEALTH.”

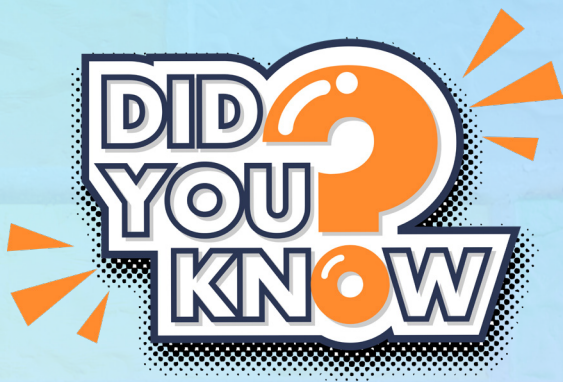
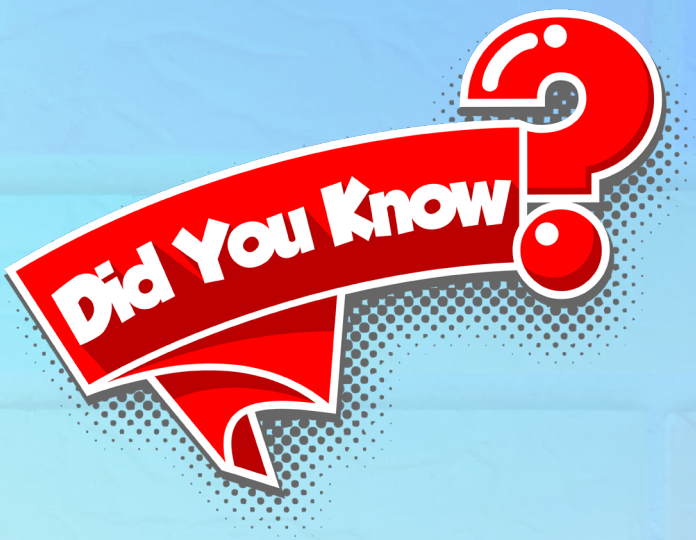
(Learn as much as you can—it's the key to success.)

“HE WHO LEARNS, TEACHES.”

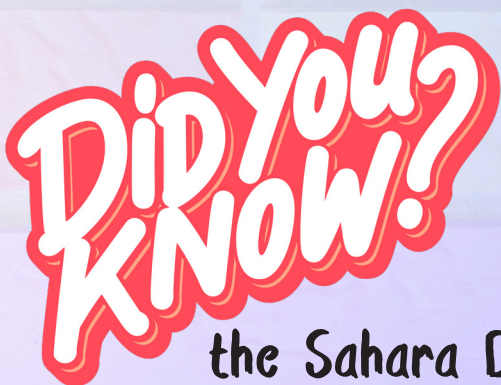
(Share what you know to help others grow.)

“IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD.”

(We all need each other to thrive.)



Africa is the Cradle of Humanity? The oldest human fossils, dating back millions of years, were discovered here. That means our first ancestors took their very first steps on African soil!

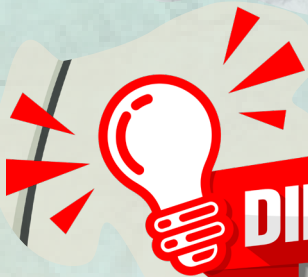


the Sahara Desert is massive? It spans over 9 million square kilometers, making it the largest hot desert in the world, which is about the size of the U.S.! That's a whole lot of sun and sand.



DID YOU KNOW?

Africa is home to some of the world's coolest wildlife? From cheetahs to elephants, the continent is filled with amazing animals. Fun fact: an African elephant's heart can weigh as much as a small car!



DID YOU KNOW?

Africa is a mix of over 3,000 cultures? Each ethnic group has its own traditions, languages, and celebrations. It's like living in a world where every day is a vibrant festival!



Did you know?

the Nile River is the world's longest river? Stretching 6,650 kilometers, it's been a lifeline for millions, from ancient Egypt to today.

GRAB YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK!

Hello there!

The holiday season is here, and we have some wonderful Christmas products for children that are sure to bring smiles and joy!

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HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW AFRICA? ANSWERS

The Nile

Sudan

Swahili

