

David Livingstone Birthplace

home activities



● Look at this photo of the Livingstone family.

David Livingstone (1813-1873) was born in Scotland. He decided to become a missionary in Southern Africa and is famous for the work he did mapping and writing about his travels across Africa. His wife Mary Moffat was born in what is now South Africa to missionary parents. Also in the photo are four of their children who were all born in southern Africa and accompanied David and Mary on their travels for the first part of their lives. The family travelled mostly on foot, wagons and boats before Mary and the children went to live in Britain while David stayed in Africa with a large crew of men he hired to help.

* What's the furthest you've ever been from home? Can you use the internet to find out how long the journey would take if you had to walk the whole way?

Have you ever wondered why people in old photos look so glum? Portraits in Victorian times were serious business.

It was expensive to hire a photographer or a painter so they wanted to look very sombre and respectable --so no silly smiles!

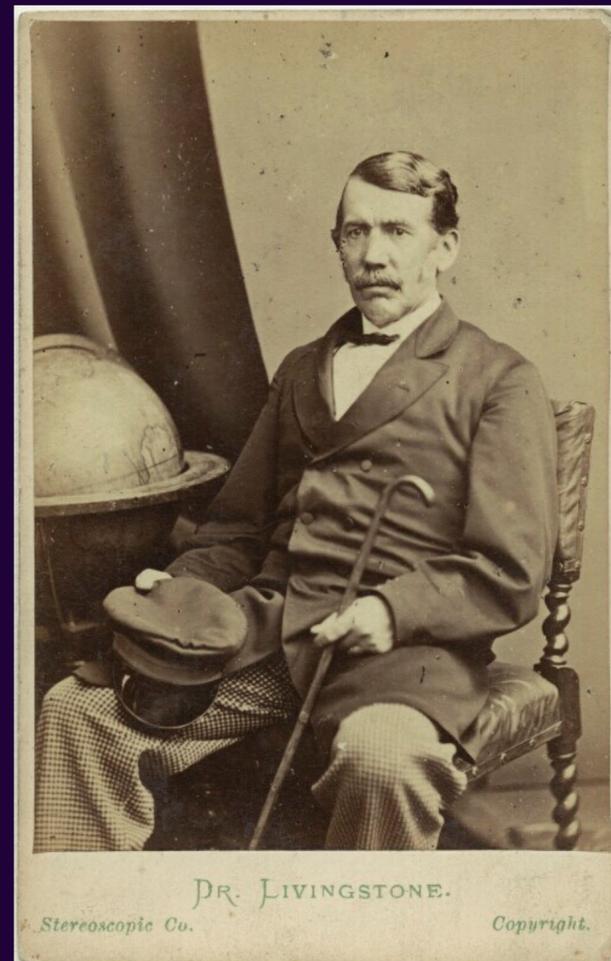
● Look at this photo of David Livingstone

In old portraits, there are often objects beside the person hinting at their job, importance or the reason the photo was taken. This photo of David Livingstone has a globe, a hat and a walking stick in.

* What do you think the globe, hat and walking stick in this picture represent?

In the Victorian times photos were taken rarely - sometimes to mark special occasions. Think about the things you take photos of on phones or cameras.

* What would you choose to take a photo of if you could only take one a year?



David Livingstone by London Stereoscopic & Photographic Company,
© National Portrait Gallery, London

● Look at the photo below

This photo shows Jacob Wainwright, who was part of the group who escorted Livingstone's body from where he died in Zambia back to the UK, with Livingstone's coffin. He was just a teenager at the time.

Jacob kept a diary of the journey which you can read at:
https://livingstoneonline.org/in-his-own-words/catalogue?query=liv_000074+liv_000075

CHALLENGE

Choose someone at home to draw, paint or take a Victorian-style photo portrait of. Think about what symbols represent the person's job, hobbies or personality and add them to the picture.

If you want to send a photo of your portrait to us on Twitter @DLivingstoneBP, Facebook @DavidLivingstoneBirthplace or email learning@dltrust.uk, we'd love to see it!

