



ACTIVITY 3

MANENKO

I can share my developing views about values such as fairness and equality and love, caring, sharing and human rights. RME 2–02b

I can discuss why people and events from a particular time in the past were important, placing them within a historical sequence. SOC 2–06a

I can gather and use information about forms of discrimination against people in societies and consider the impact this has on people's lives. SOC 2–16b

In 1853 David wrote the following extract when he was in modern-day Western Zambia in Africa:

'The arrival of Manenko herself on the scene threw so much weight into the scale on their side that I was forced to yield the point. Manenko was a tall, strapping woman about twenty, distinguished by a profusion of ornaments and medicines hung round her person; the latter are supposed to act as charms. Her body was smeared all over with a mixture of fat and red ochre, as a protection against the weather; a necessary precaution, for, like most of the Balonda ladies, she was otherwise in a state of frightful nudity. This was not from want of clothing, for, being a chief, she might have been as well clad as any of her subjects, but from her peculiar ideas of elegance in dress'

He writes about Manenko in 1854:

'Manenko was accompanied by her husband and her drummer; the latter continued to thump most vigorously until a heavy, drizzling mist set in and compelled him to desist.... Being on ox-back, I kept pretty close to our leader, and asked her why she did not clothe herself during the rain, and learned that it is not considered proper for a chief to appear effeminate. He or she must always wear the appearance of robust youth, and bear vicissitudes without wincing. My men, in admiration of her pedestrian powers, every now and then remarked, "Manenko is a soldier".

CRITICAL THINKING ACTIVITY

1. **Imagine you are David. What might you think about Manenko?**
2. **Imagine you are Manenko. What might you think about David?**
3. **Chat with your friends and reflect on gender in Zambia (at the time David was there) compared to gender in Victorian Britain**

To this day, Scotland has strong links with other African countries David visited, like Zambia and Malawi through the Scotland Zambia Partnership and the Scotland Malawi Partnership. You could research gender in Zambia or Malawi today to see what has changed over time!

<https://www.scotland-malawipartnership.org/areas-of-partnership/gender/>

<https://www.scozap.org.uk/>