

Developing Countries Fact File

Senior:
5th & 6th Class

Malawi

- Malawi is a country in the south-east of Africa.
- The population of Malawi is around 18 million people.
- Malawi borders with the countries of Tanzania, Zambia, and Mozambique.
- Lilongwe is the capital city of Malawi.
- Malawi is 1.5 times the size of Ireland.
- The currency is called Malawian Kwacha

Official Language:

The national language of Malawi is Chichewa. English is the official language and spoken by a quarter of the population.

Religion:

Malawi has a Christian majority within its population and also has a significant Muslim population (approx. 1/5).

The first flag of independent Malawi was adopted on 6 July 1964.

The rising sun represents the dawn of hope and freedom

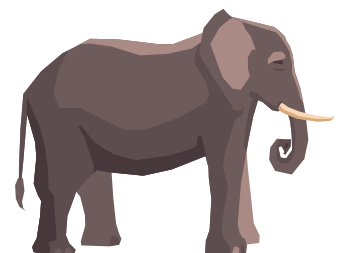
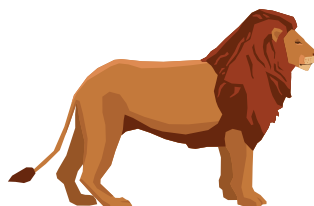
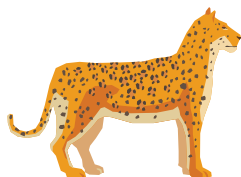


Facts about Malawi, the land.

- Temperatures range from 5-30°
- Lake Malawi covers about one third of Malawi and is the third largest lake in Africa.
- There is plenty of fresh water and nice beaches to be found in Malawi even though it is a landlocked country.
- Like a lot of African countries, there is an abundance of natural resources like coal and limestone to be found in Malawi.
- 2 UNESCO World Heritage sites can be found in Malawi.
These are Lake Malawi National Park and Chongoni Rock Art Area.
- Native animals include lions, leopards, elephants, buffalo, rhino & antelope.

Facts about Malawi, the people:

- Malawi has the nickname, 'The Warm Heart of Africa' due to the friendly people that are found there.
- Around 85% of the population of Malawi live in rural areas. There people grow crops and raise animals to feed their families.
- A large majority of farmers in Malawi are tobacco farmers as Malawi is one of the largest exporters of tobacco in the world.
- Other products that are farmed and exported include sugarcane, cotton, tea, corn, cattle and goats.
- The average life expectancy for people in Malawi is 64 years old.
- The people of Malawi are known for their skills in basketry, mask carving, wood carving and oil paintings.
- Traditional music and dances are seen at many celebrations such as marriages and rituals.
- Football is one of the most popular sports among boys, whereas netball is more common among girls in Malawi.



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Problems experienced:

One of the problems faced by the people of Malawi is that 50% of the population lives below the poverty line.

For example, in Malawi, minimum wage is 551MWK per day (€0.51). 1 Litre of milk costs approx. 700MWK. "Minimum wage" in Ireland is €10.20 per HOUR= €71.40 per day

Malawi is a predominantly agricultural country but because of the small size of farms, the fact that the roads aren't always in great condition and climate change is a growing problem, farming is hard in Malawi.

Team Hope works all year round and sends Christmas Shoeboxes to countries where there is poverty. Poverty is where a person doesn't have and can't get enough money for their basic needs like food, shelter (a home) and education (school). Poverty can be caused by wars, climate change, people not having enough rights and inequality.

Christmas Shoeboxes are gifts that help to bring joy to children and they also give things that they need like copybooks and pencils for school and warm clothes. When Team Hope's partners in each country deliver Christmas Shoeboxes they meet people living in poverty and are able to help them in other ways.

About 60% of the population over the age of 15 are able to read and write.

35% of children in Malawi finish primary school.

8% of children complete secondary school.

Diseases such as HIV, malaria and typhoid are contributing factors to the deaths of many Malawians every year. Malawi faces problems of deforestation, degrading of land, water pollution, lack of access to sanitation and improper sewage and drainage systems. In countries like Malawi where there is a lot of poverty there are often also problems with corruption and having enough resources to run the country well and fairly.

