



Please believe me now; can ya?
Cause now we're going off to Kenya
How did Kenya get its name, do ya know?
From a mountain almost as high as Kilimanjaro
Mount Kenya gave the country its name
Its height & beauty brought Kenya fame

The population is growing rapidly
More than 50 million this past century
Now the world's 29th most populous country
Approximately 120 ethnic groups provide diversity

*Clockwise from top: Central business district,
Nairobi National Park, Parliament of Kenya, N
Nairobi City Hall and the Kenyatta International
Convention Centre*

Kenya's capital and largest City

Is a place called Nairobi
The Maasi phrase *Enkare Nairobi*
Means 'cool water' & is referring
to the Nairobi River, naturally



The two official languages are Swahili & English
Usually English in government, education & commerce
People in rural areas are less multilingual
With 69 differing languages Kenya is not monolingual

Naturally, like all countries, Kenya has a rich history
Cushites settled between 3200 & 1300 BC
Joined by other groups who migrated back then too
See the fossil to the right of us?
It's a 1.6 million year-old Homo Erectus
Fossils of primates found here, show
Sapiens were here more than 20 million years ago

Interestingly, modern behaviours were evident
About 320,000 years ago. Maybe you read Harari's *Sapiens*?
They established trade networks and made weapons.
Then about 500 BC, numerous groups were migrating
Bringing skills related to fire control, agriculture, and iron-
working



In 1498, the country was explored
By none other than Vasco De Gama
Opening up the sea route to India & Asia for trade
Historic milestone for global
imperialism was made

Portugal presence lasted through to 1730
Ruled Mombassa, the harbour city,
Located along the Indian Ocean & called the
white and blue city
As we can see, Mombassa is mighty pretty



Guess who arrived next, anybody?
Yes, in 1885, it was Germany
Then in 1888, along came The British Imperial East African Company
Imperial rivalry ruled the roost
Until 1914 when they agreed on a truce
But then, a few years of guerrilla warfare
An Armistice was signed in 1918, not before -
The East African Protectorate was renamed
In 1920. Kenya - that's what the name became
Named after its highest mountain, not its shore
Oh yeah, I said that before

Kenya supported the UK in WWII
With manpower and agriculture too
Then Kenya was the war-ground when
Fighting between Allied forces and Italian troops began

Between 1952 - 1959, the Mau Mau rebellion occurred
Against British rule, backed by Winston Churchill, of
whom you've heard
Mau Mau supporters were moved to detention camps



In 1962 Somalis of Northern
Kenya
Wished to return to Somalia

However, that, the British
would not allow
And they've remained in Kenya
until now.

From 1963 - 1967, Kenya army fought against Somalis
Who wished to return to their homelands, you see.
These were the Shifta Wars. *Shifta* is the Somali word for bandit
Although a cease fire was signed in 1967, peace was not granted
Several decades of episodic agitation & banditry continued
Lives were lost, land destroyed. Prejudice was the attitude

The first election was held and in 1964
Jomo Kenyatta became the first President
Election was controversial for sure.
Becoming the President was not predicted
As, 12 years earlier, he had been charged and convicted
Of masterminding the Mau Mau Uprising
Winning the election was really quite surprising
Many thought him as an anti-colonist
Others regarded him as an agitator & dogmatist



As PM, he suppressed political dissent
Outlawed opposition parties and even the Student
Union

To some no regard for human rights was the conclusion
On the other hand, he promoted reconciliation
Expanded health care and education

Supreme Court of Kenya Bldg.



Another person who will be of interest to ya
Is Thomas Joseph Odhiambo Mboya
Author, unionist and independence activist
Known for his charm, his skills, and intelligence
Worked with JF Kennedy and Martin Luther King

A monument in honour of
Tom Mboya (in Nairobi)

Led to the *Kennedy Airlifts* which brought hundreds of stu-
dents to US colleges.

Including Barak Obama's father! How that for knowledge?
Created pension plans and more through his work and
diplomacy,
BUT, when he was only 38, he was gunned down. Most
tragically.



Who is the present president of Kenya?
None other than Uhuru Kenyatta
Yes, son of the first president, Jomo Kenyatta
Uhuru means *freedom*
Quite a heritage did he come from
Promising economic transformation
And free maternal care for the nation



Maybe one or 2 or even 3 of his four wives
Gave him the idea in order to survive



Uhuru with his father and the President of Germany, Heinrich Lubke



Tea farm

Tea and coffee are the major cash crops
Fresh flowers are a rapidly growing export
So important the Nairobi airport has a terminal
Dedicated to the transport of flowers & vegetables

Cement production industry & oil refineries
Are two more initiatives contributing to the economy
The service industry and tourism are growing
Poor management and corruption still flowing
The World Bank praised Kenya for the ease
Of doing business there; in spite of that, if you please



Kenya has many national parks.
How many?

Not 10, not 20,
not 30, not 40,
not 50 but 60!



Sixty! Yes, you heard me right
Would you like to take a hot air balloon flight?
Over Masaai Mara, the 7th wonder of the world



Or maybe see a game reserve
Don't let those lions lose your nerve



How about these blue wildebeests?
Ever seen one of these?
Type of antelope
Won't harm us, I hope

Climate change increasingly impacts people's lives negatively



Longer droughts, more flooding, plus it's hotter than it used to be
These conditions lead to water and food insecurity
Low levels of water supply and poor sanitation
Particularly in poverty areas plague the nation

Education is essential. Primary schools are free
Those who complete high school may go to university
Or join vocational youth/village polytechnic for 2 years
For apprenticeship programs & meet new peers



Programs include tailoring, carpentry,
Motor vehicle repair, brick laying and masonry
In 2018, 18.5% of adults were illiterate
The highest illiteracy rate in East Africa

No country is not without trials and tribulations
Many Kenyan women have experienced female genital mutilation (FGM)
Such statistics are often quite distorted
27% - 90% is the range I've seen reported

One type of FGM includes additional severe cutting
38 %- 65% is the range for child marriage forcing
People who do not adhere to these practices

Often face severe social consequences.



Maternal mortality is quite high
How come? Partly due to FGM; that's why

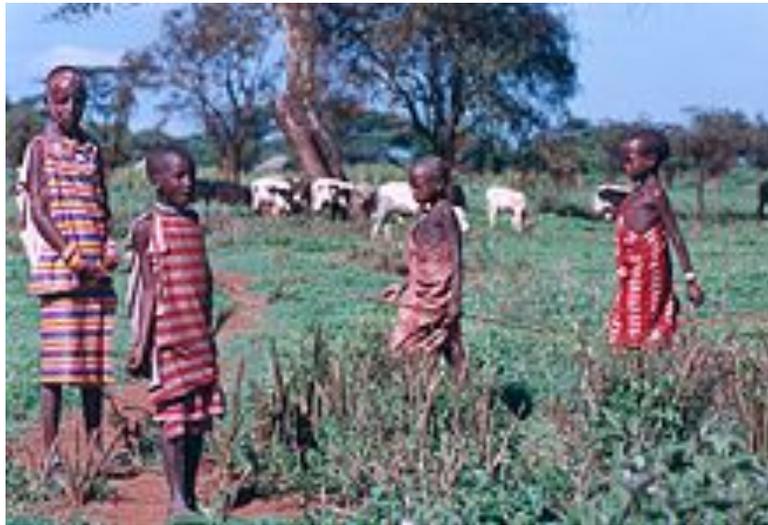
Rape, defilement, and battering are not always seen as serious crimes.
Reports of sexual assault are not taken seriously most of the time

In the lead up to International Woman's Day
Forty Samburu clan elders had quite a bit to say
End Female Genital Mutilation/Cuttings!!
End child marriages! No more forced child weddings!!

President Uhuru Kenyatta presided over this landmark declaration
Known as the *Kisima Declaration*. It was passed in March of 2021

Homosexual acts are not only illegal, they may be a sin
Offenders could spend up to 14 years in prison
Unfortunately, though - the courts often turn a blind eye
Kenyatta told Obama that "... gay rights is really
a non-issue ... But there are some things that we must admit
we don't share. Our culture, our societies don't accept."

Child labour and prostitution are common
Caused by poverty and lack of education
About 30% of the girls resort to prostitution
Most are between 9 and 18 years. Yes! Nine years old
Were the child your own and you needed money, would you scold?



Most children work on farm lands, as you can see
Securing food and necessities for their families

Of course, health is another primary issue
Both private and public health facilities ensue
Traditional healers, herbalists, faith healers, and witch doctors.
They are available, trusted, and consulted. Don't let that shock ya



Outpatient Department of AIC Kapsowar Hospital

Life expectancy has risen since 1950
From 55 back then to 66.9 in 2020.

Like everywhere in the world, poverty is linked with diseases
Half of Kenya's population lives in poverty; hence their vulnerability
To malaria, pneumonia, diarrhoea, and malnutrition
Thanks to weak management and government corruption
Kenya has one of the world's most cases of HIV/AIDS
Situation exacerbated by COVID today

In spite of the sickness and poverty
Kenya is a cultural dynasty

Here are some events we might like to attend:

1. Lamu Cultural Festival *(left)*
2. Safaricom International Jazz Festival
3. Nairobi Restaurant Week
4. StoryMoja Festival *(left)*
5. Cake Festival *(right)*

6. International Camel Derby and Festival *(below right)*

7. Rhino Charge *(car rally)*



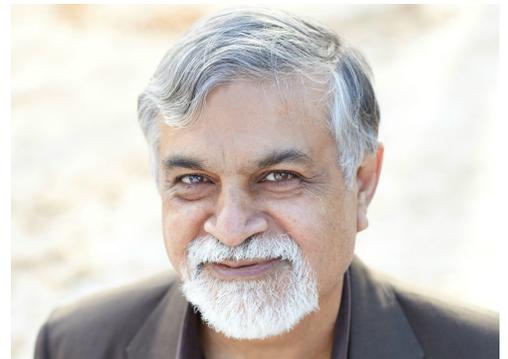
8. Africa Nouveau Festival



9. Lake Turkana Festival (left)
10. Safaricom 7s (rugby game)

Not only festivals, but there's much more
Art, music, sports, & literature
More interesting than the politics for sure

Have you read works by M.G. Vassanji
Well known Canadian novelist is he
Born to Indian immigrants in Kenya;
Brought up in Tanzania
Then studied nuclear physics at MIT
His book, *The In-Between World of Vikram Lall*
About a person of Kenyan & Indian heritage is
fictional
Many awards, including Giller Prize winner
Honorary doctorates, Order of Canada

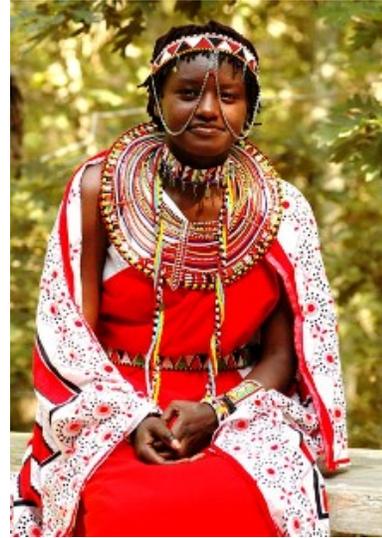


Kenyan author Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o
Wrote *Weep Not My Child*. Did you
know?
Illustrates the impact of Mau-Mau on
people's lives
Colonialism, education and love are the
themes he describes



Kanya's art and culture are the best
Physical adornment & beauty are put to the test

The Dress Art of the Samburu People

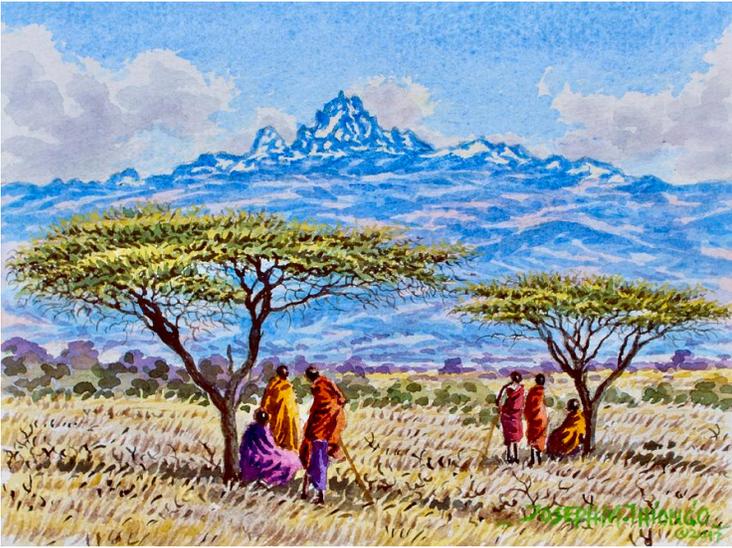


The Turkana people



African art represents African life
Colourful, creative and nice
Decoration, ritual objects and ancestry
Wood and soapstone carving





So much beauty I can't stop
From gallery to gallery I want to hop

Maybe you are getting tired of these.
Rather see some sports if we please.
Recall Kenyan runner, Abel Mutai
Quite an interesting race for this guy
Wasn't able to read the English sign
Thought he had crossed the finish line
Spanish runner, Ivan Fernandez
Pushed Mutai to victory



When he was asked why

This was his reply:

*"My dream is that someday we can have a kind
of community life where we push and help each
other to win."*

I bet you would agree with him.

Take a minute to hear a bit more of what he had
to say

Something we could teach our kids when they play

Other sports include cricket, rugby, football
Field hockey, boxing, running and that's not all
How about steeple chasing
And marathon racing





Are you getting hungry yet?
These pictures may whet your appetite.



Drink some *mursik* (sour milk)? Didn't think so
Maybe some ugali? (*upper right*)
Looks good. Do you agree?

Tomorrow we'll be rested & ready to go
Off to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, you know
So enjoy Kenya while we're here
Maybe a concert we could hear
A little music about happiness
Will give us a good night's rest.

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OR:

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