

The lives of the Bombay Africans

Activity 4

Stories from East Africa
Activities for ages 8 - 12

Resources needed:

Photocopies of images of the Bombay Africans (page 10)

Photocopies of profile sheet (page 15)

Timelines (pages 11-14)



James Chuma

Date: 1870-1882

Photographer: Maull & Co



Sidi Mubarak Bombay

Date: Unknown

Photographer: Unknown



Abdullah Susi

Date: 1874

Photographer: R Allen & Sons



Mathew Wellington

Date: 1909

Photographer: W McGregor Ross

During the 19th century many European explorers ventured into Africa on geographical expeditions. These expeditions were supported by teams of gun bearers, servants, porters, guides, cooks and their women; the majority of whom were ethnic Africans. Amongst them were the 'Bombay Africans' who were originally captured in Africa and liberated by the Royal navy in Bombay during the abolition of slavery. Christian missionary orphanages in Bombay offered shelter and education to liberated Africans, where they learnt English, Hindi and technical skills. Sir Henry Bartle Frere, President of the Royal Geographical Society from 1873-74, suggested explorers recruit staff for African expeditions from these men in Indian orphanages.

The Bombay Africans' role in the anti-slavery campaign in East Africa is their foremost legacy. Despite British treaties, and patrols by the Royal Navy, slavery continued. However, by 1880 there were over 3,000 Bombay Africans in East Africa, with the largest group at Freretown and Rabai. These settlements became refuges for locally enslaved Africans and the Bombay African, Reverend William Jones, played a key role in gaining the freedom of hundreds of Africans. In 1887 the first printing press was established in Kenya by James Jones, the son of Reverend William Jones. Bombay Africans from Freretown and Rabai were editors for the first English and Kiswahili publications. The impact of the Bombay African community can be traced to other parts of Africa. For example, Kinshasha (in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo) was established in 1881 when a Bombay African called Abdullah Susi joined the European explorer Henry Morton Stanley on an expedition and the party established a station they called Leopoldville (which later became Kinshasha). The routes of the expeditions also formed the basis of many of today's East African railways and roads.

Activity

This activity is a literacy based task where students analyse the timelines of one of the Bombay Africans. In pairs, they choose 5 key events in the life of each man and add this profile to the world map that should have their own individual profiles on it (from activity 1).

- **Provide each pair with an image of one of the Bombay Africans. This image should be cut out and placed on the template sheet provided on page 15.**
- **Students complete the sheet called 'My Life' on page 15, with the name of the Bombay African chosen and select 5 important events from the timeline of that person's life.**

Students will need to understand the impact of slavery on East Africa and the names of the European explorers who were important in its exploration such as David Livingstone and John Hanning Speke. Information and teachers notes can be downloaded from <http://www.unlockingthearchives.rgs.org/themes/encounters/>

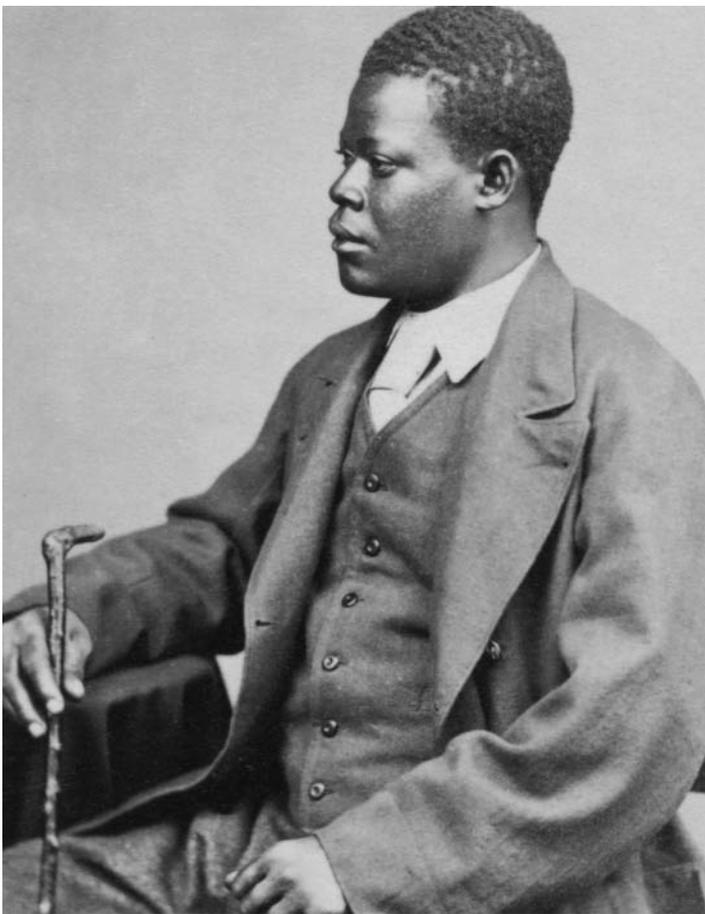
Further discussion can include the reasons why these men are not well known as explorers or travellers in East Africa or in the UK.

Is there some information missing - why?

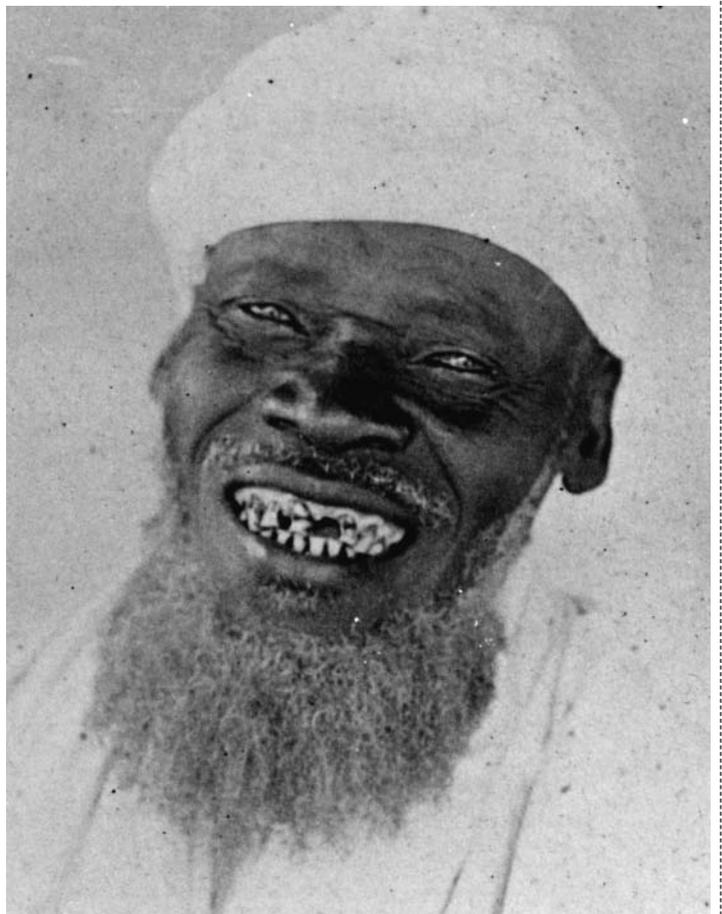
How do the stories of the Bombay Africans make the children feel?

Are there any similarities or differences between the stories of the Bombay Africans?

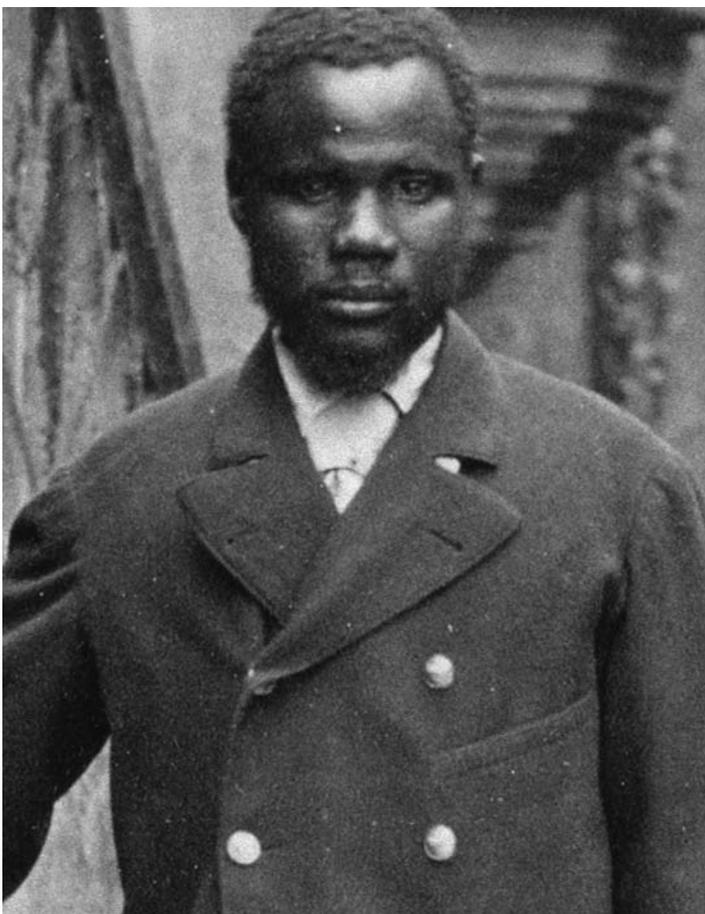
Why are no women mentioned? Although there were Bombay Africans who were women, their stories have been lost to history and no records of their lives remain.



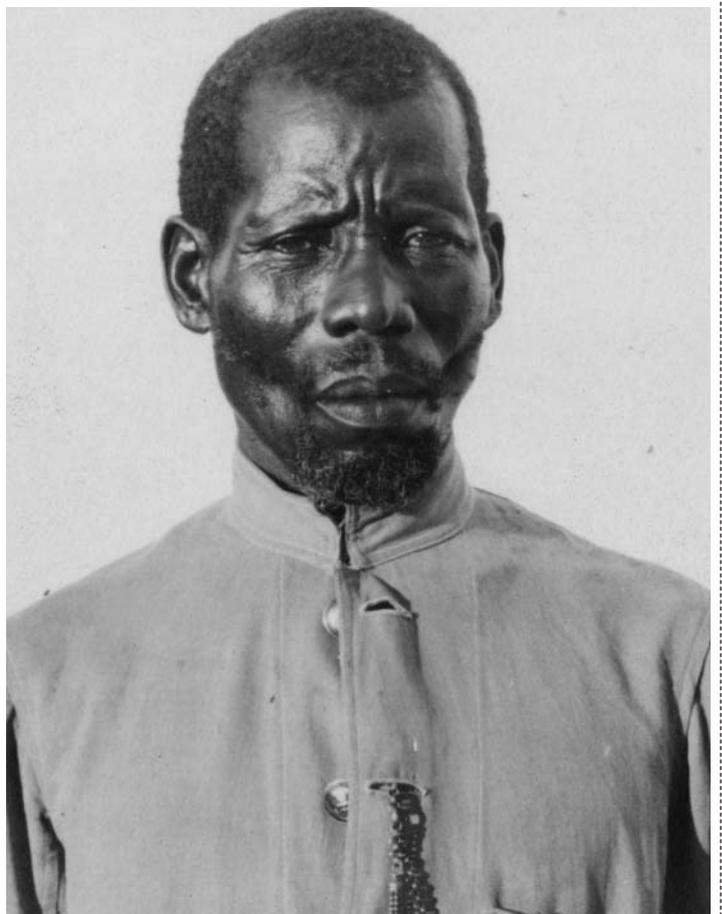
James Chuma



Sidi Mubarak Bombay



Abdullah Susi



Mathew Wellington



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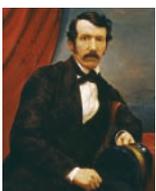
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A group consisting of Agnes Livingstone, Thomas Livingstone (the son and daughter of David Livingstone) Abdullah Susi, James Chuma and Horace Waller.

James Chuma

Date of birth	1850
17 July 1861	Released from slavery by David Livingstone, worked for the Universities Mission to central Africa (UMCA) until 1864. The UMCA was a church society who sent British missionaries (people who spread Christianity) to Africa from 1860 onwards.
1864	He travelled to India with Livingstone and other freed Africans on a ship called the HMS Lady Nyassa.
1864 - 1865	He lived at Dr Wilson's school in Bombay, India. It was here that he met Abdullah Susi.
August 1865	Susi and Chuma accompanied David Livingstone to Zanzibar in Tanzania, Africa.
1866 - 1873	Travelled with Livingstone on his last journeys in East Africa and after his death helped to carry Livingstone's body to the East African coast in 1873.
1874	Chuma arrived in England after David Livingstone's funeral. He visited Livingstone's family and his account of Livingstone's final days were compiled by Horace Waller (as can be seen in the picture above).
June 1874	Present at the Royal Geographical Society in London with Abdullah Susi, to receive his medal and sword for their work on expeditions in Africa.
October 1874	Returned to Africa from England, worked for the Universities' Mission to Central Africa in Zanzibar, Tanzania.
1879	Was selected to be caravan leader from 1879 to 1880 on expeditions. A caravan leader was responsible for organising all of the people who made up the caravan, including cooks, porters, guides, soldiers, interpreters and gun bearers.
1882	Died in Zanzibar of tuberculosis at the age of 32.



David Livingstone was an explorer who went to Africa to learn more about the geography of the continent and to spread Christianity. He was against slavery and helped to free many enslaved people on his travels.

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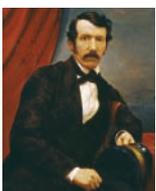
The main stream came up to Susi's mouth.

Year: 1857

Artist: David Livingstone

Abdullah Susi

Date of birth	1856
1861	Released from slavery by David Livingstone.
1863 - 1864	From Shupanga in Mozambique, joined the Zambezi expedition in 1863 as a wood-cutter.
1865	Sailed to India with David Livingstone on a ship called the HMS Lady Nyassa.
1865	Lived at Dr Wilson's school in Bombay, India. It was here that he met James Chuma.
August 1865	Susi and Chuma accompanied David Livingstone to Zanzibar in Tanzania, Africa.
1866 - 1873	Travelled with Livingstone on his last journeys in East Africa and after his death helped to carry Livingstone's body to the East African coast in 1873.
1874	Susi arrived in England after David Livingstone's funeral. He visited Livingstone's family and his account of Livingstone's final days were compiled by Horace Waller (as can be seen in the picture above).
June 1874	Present at the Royal Geographical Society in London to receive his medal with James Chuma for their work on expeditions in Africa.
October 1874	Returned to Africa from England, worked for Universities Mission to Central Africa (UMCA) and the Church Missionary Society (CMS) The UMCA was a church society who sent British missionaries (people who spread Christianity) to Africa from 1860 onwards.
1879 - 1882	Travelled with Henry Morton Stanley in the search for the River Nile and became a key figure in the expedition. He became the founding member of Kinshasha, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Stanley later describing him as the 'chief and confidential servant'.
1883 - 1891	Universities Mission to Central Africa (UMCA) caravan leader. A caravan leader was responsible for organising all of the people who made up the caravan, including cooks, porters, guides, soldiers, interpreters and gun bearers.
23 August 1886	Baptised in Zanzibar, taking the name David.
5 May 1891	Died in Zanzibar, Tanzania.



David Livingstone was an explorer who went to Africa to learn more about the geography of the continent and to spread Christianity. He was against slavery and helped to free many enslaved people on his travels.



Henry Morton Stanley was a journalist who worked for the New York Herald Newspaper. When Livingstone disappeared in Africa, Stanley was sent by the newspaper to find him. Stanley later returned to Africa as an explorer and helped to accurately map Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika with the help of the Bombay Africans.

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Sidi Mubarak Bombay
Year: **1860**
Photographer: **J A Grant**

Sidi Mubarak Bombay

1820	Born on the border of Tanzania and Mozambique.
1850	Captured by Arab slavers as a young boy. After being captured he was made to march to the slave market in Kilwa, Tanzania where he was sold. He would never see his family again. Once the slaves had been sold they were put on Arab ships called 'dhows'. These ships would take them to work on farms in countries around the Indian Ocean. On the farms they were beaten and forced to work. Sidi Mubarak Bombay was put on a dhow and sent to the Gujarat area of India. His owner gave him the slave name of 'Mubarak'. Spent many years in India and learnt to speak Hindi (an Indian language). When his owner died, he became a free man. He returned to Africa on a ship.
1850 - 1871	Met John Hanning Speke who asked him to help him on his expedition to find the source of the River Nile. Became very good friends with Speke. They communicated with each other in Hindi and English, the two languages they could both speak.
1873	He travelled from the East Coast of Africa to the West on foot. During his life he covered approximately 9,600 kilometres (much of this on foot) and became the most widely travelled man in Africa.
1876	Received a medal from the Royal Geographical Society for the help he gave to Speke when they were looking for the source of the River Nile.
1885	Died in Africa at the age of 65.



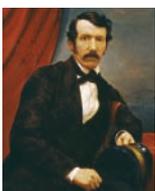
John Hanning Speke was an officer in the Indian army, he was selected to go on an expedition to learn more about the rivers and lakes of Eastern Africa and to try to find the source of the River Nile. He discovered the source of the Nile was Lake Victoria whilst travelling with Sidi Mubarak Bombay.



Mathew Wellington
Date: 1909
Photographer: W McGregor Ross

Mathew Wellington

- 1847 **Born among the Yao tribe in Northern Mozambique and named Chengwimbe. Captured and made a domestic slave among the Yao. Taken to Kilwa (Tanzania) and sold for a "roll of cloth". Taken first to Zanzibar and resold. Placed on an Arab ship called a 'dhow' to Mogadishu (a city in Somalia), then towards Arabia. The dhow holding some 200 enslaved Africans is captured by a British ship called the HMS Thetis. The Africans are freed and are taken to the port of Bombay. From Bombay the Africans are taken to Nasik further North.**
- 1871 **Chengwimbe is baptized as Mathew Wellington.**
- 1872 **Joined explorer Stanley's expedition to look for David Livingstone.**
- 1873 **Mathew Wellington along with Chuma and Susi were the ones who found Livingstone's body.**
- 1874 **Joined the Church Missionary Society at Freretown, and became one of the pioneers in the establishment of Freretown and Rabai as communities for liberated (freed) Africans in Kenya.**
- 1911 **At retirement the governor suggested Mathew Wellington should be given a pension in recognition of his connection with Livingstone. This was refused by the British government.**
- 1935 **Died on 6 June.**



David Livingstone was an explorer who went to Africa to learn more about the geography of the continent and to spread Christianity. He was against slavery and helped to free many enslaved people on his travels.



Henry Morton Stanley was a journalist who worked for the New York Herald Newspaper. When Livingstone disappeared in Africa, Stanley was sent by the newspaper to find him. Stanley later returned to Africa as an explorer and helped to accurately map Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika with the help of the Bombay Africans.

My life



Name:

5 important events in my life:
