

INDEPENDENT STUDY COMPANION

KING SOLOMON'S MINES



A LIVING BOOK STUDY - LEARNING BOOKLET

Name: _____

TASKS: DAY 1

Week 1 - Chapter 1: I Meet Sir Henry Curtis

READ:

Chapter 1: aboard a ship to Natal, the hunter Allan Quatermain meets Sir Henry Curtis and Captain Good, who are searching for Sir Henry's lost brother.

NARRATION:

Introduce the three main men. What is each one like, and how do they come to travel together?

EXTENSION:

Discuss: why is Sir Henry so determined to find his brother, whatever the danger?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 2

Week 1 - Chapter 2: The Legend of Solomon's Mines

READ:

Chapter 2: Quatermain tells the legend of the mines and shows the map drawn in blood, 300 years earlier, by the dying Portuguese, da Silvestra.

HISTORY:

Research the real legends of King Solomon's wealth, and why Europeans dreamed of finding lost African riches.

EXTENSION:

Art: draw da Silvestra's map, aged and stained, with its route and its warning.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 3

Week 1 - Chapter 3: Umbopa Enters Our Service

READ:

Chapter 3: a tall, dignified Zulu named Umbopa asks to join the expedition, hinting that he has his own reasons for going.

DISCUSS:

What makes Umbopa stand out from the other servants and guides?

EXTENSION:

Predict: the book hints Umbopa is more than he seems. Who do you think he might really be?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 4

Week 1 - Chapter 4: An Elephant Hunt

READ:

Chapter 4: a dangerous elephant hunt, in which one of the party is killed.

SCIENCE:

Research African elephants, and how big-game hunting was viewed in Victorian times.

EXTENSION:

Discuss: how have attitudes to hunting wild animals changed between 1885 and today?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 5

Week 1 - Chapter 5: Our March into the Desert

READ:

Chapter 5: the expedition leaves the last outpost and sets out across the waterless desert, following the map.

GEOGRAPHY:

Begin mapping the journey, from the coast out into the desert.

EXTENSION:

Science: what happens to the body without water, and how do people survive in deserts?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 6

Week 2 - Chapter 6: Water! Water!

READ:

Chapter 6: almost dying of thirst, the adventurers reach the water marked on the old map.

NARRATION:

Retell the search for water, and the moment they finally find it.

EXTENSION:

Science: research practical desert survival - shade, water, and travelling in the cool of night.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 7

Week 2 - Chapter 7: Solomon's Road

READ:

Chapter 7: the party discovers a great ancient road, built like a Roman road, leading toward the mountains.

HISTORY:

Research ancient roads, such as Roman roads. Who has the power and skill to build a great road across wild country?

EXTENSION:

Discuss: why is finding a huge, ancient road in the wilderness so strange and exciting?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 8

Week 2 - Chapter 8: We Enter Kukuanaaland

READ:

Chapter 8: the adventurers cross the freezing mountains called Sheba's Breasts and come down into the land of the Kukuana people.

GEOGRAPHY:

Map the crossing of the mountains and the fertile land beyond.

EXTENSION:

Discuss: the Kukuanas take the adventurers for 'men from the stars'. How do the adventurers use this belief?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 9

Week 2 - Chapter 9: Twala the King

READ:

Chapter 9: the adventurers are brought before the cruel, one-eyed King Twala at his town of Loo.

NARRATION:

Describe King Twala and his court.

EXTENSION:

Discuss: what makes Twala a tyrant, and how do the people around him behave?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 10

Week 3 - Chapter 10: The Witch-Hunt

READ:

Chapter 10: the ancient witch-finder Gagool leads a terrifying night of 'smelling out' witches, in which many are condemned.

DISCUSS:

How does Gagool use the witch-hunt to control people through fear?

EXTENSION:

History/PSHE: research real witch-hunts in history. Why do frightened communities turn on their own people?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 11

Week 3 - Chapter 11: We Give a Sign

READ:

Chapter 11: to prove their power, the adventurers use an almanac to predict an eclipse - and Umbopa reveals who he really is.

SCIENCE:

Find out how an eclipse can be predicted in advance from tables. How do the adventurers use this to seem all-powerful?

EXTENSION:

Discuss: Umbopa reveals himself as Ignosi, the rightful king. How does this change everything?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 12

Week 3 - Chapter 12: Before the Battle

READ:

Chapter 12: loyal regiments rally to Ignosi, and both sides prepare for civil war.

HISTORY:

Research the Zulu impis (regiments). Notice how closely the Kukuana army is modelled on them.

EXTENSION:

Narration: describe how the two sides prepare, and who chooses to support Ignosi.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 13

Week 3 - Chapter 13: The Attack

READ:

Chapter 13: the battle for the throne begins.

DRAMA:

Act out a moment from the battle as the fighting starts.

EXTENSION:

Discuss: how does Haggard make the battle exciting? How does he picture war?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 14

Week 3 - Chapter 14: The Last Stand of the Greys

READ:

Chapter 14: a single regiment, the Greys, holds off a whole army in a heroic, doomed last stand.

NARRATION:

Retell the last stand of the Greys.

EXTENSION:

Discuss: the theme of courage and sacrifice - why does this scene stay with readers?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 15

Week 3 - Chapter 15: Good Falls Sick

READ:

Chapter 15: after Sir Henry meets Twala in single combat, Good falls ill and is nursed by Foulata, a young Kukuana woman the adventurers had saved.

DISCUSS:

Sir Henry faces Twala in single combat. What does this add to the story?

EXTENSION:

PSHE: notice the bond that forms between Foulata and Good. Keep it in mind for later chapters.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 16

Week 4 - Chapter 16: The Place of Death

READ:

Chapter 16: Gagool leads the adventurers to the Place of Death, a cave where the dead kings of Kukuanaaland sit turned to stone.

ART:

Illustrate the Place of Death, with its seated stone kings around the table.

EXTENSION:

Discuss: how does Haggard build a feeling of dread in this chapter?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 17

Week 4 - Chapter 17: Solomon's Treasure Chamber

READ:

Chapter 17: Gagool opens the secret stone door to a chamber piled with diamonds, gold and ivory.

SCIENCE:

Research how diamonds form deep underground, and how they are mined and valued.

EXTENSION:

Narration: describe the treasure chamber as the adventurers first see it.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 18

Week 4 - Chapter 18: We Abandon Hope

READ:

Chapter 18: Gagool betrays the adventurers and seals them in the treasure chamber. Foulata is killed, and the men are trapped in the dark.

DISCUSS:

Greed drives the danger in this chapter. Who pays the price, and why?

EXTENSION:

Writing: write a diary entry as one of the trapped adventurers, surrounded by a fortune you cannot use.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 19

Week 4 - Chapter 19: Ignosi's Farewell

READ:

Chapter 19: having escaped, the adventurers say goodbye to Ignosi, now king, who promises just rule and an end to the witch-hunts.

DISCUSS:

Ignosi makes new laws as king. What kind of ruler do you think he will be?

EXTENSION:

PSHE: what qualities make a good and fair leader? Compare Ignosi with Twala.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 20

Week 4 - Chapter 20: Found

READ:

Chapter 20: on the journey home the adventurers make one last, unexpected discovery before returning to England.

WRAP-UP:

Discuss the whole book - what has the journey really been about, beyond the treasure?

EXTENSION:

Look back at how the book pictures Africa and its peoples. What would you praise, and what would you question?

Your response:

MY EXPLORER'S JOURNAL

Keep your own journal as you read, in Quatermain's plain, honest style - note the day, what happened, and what you made of it.

Chapter	What happened	What I thought

JOURNEY MAP NOTES

Use this page to note the places the adventurers pass through: the coast, the desert, Sheba's Breasts, Kukuanaland, the mines, and home again.

Place	Chapter	What happens there