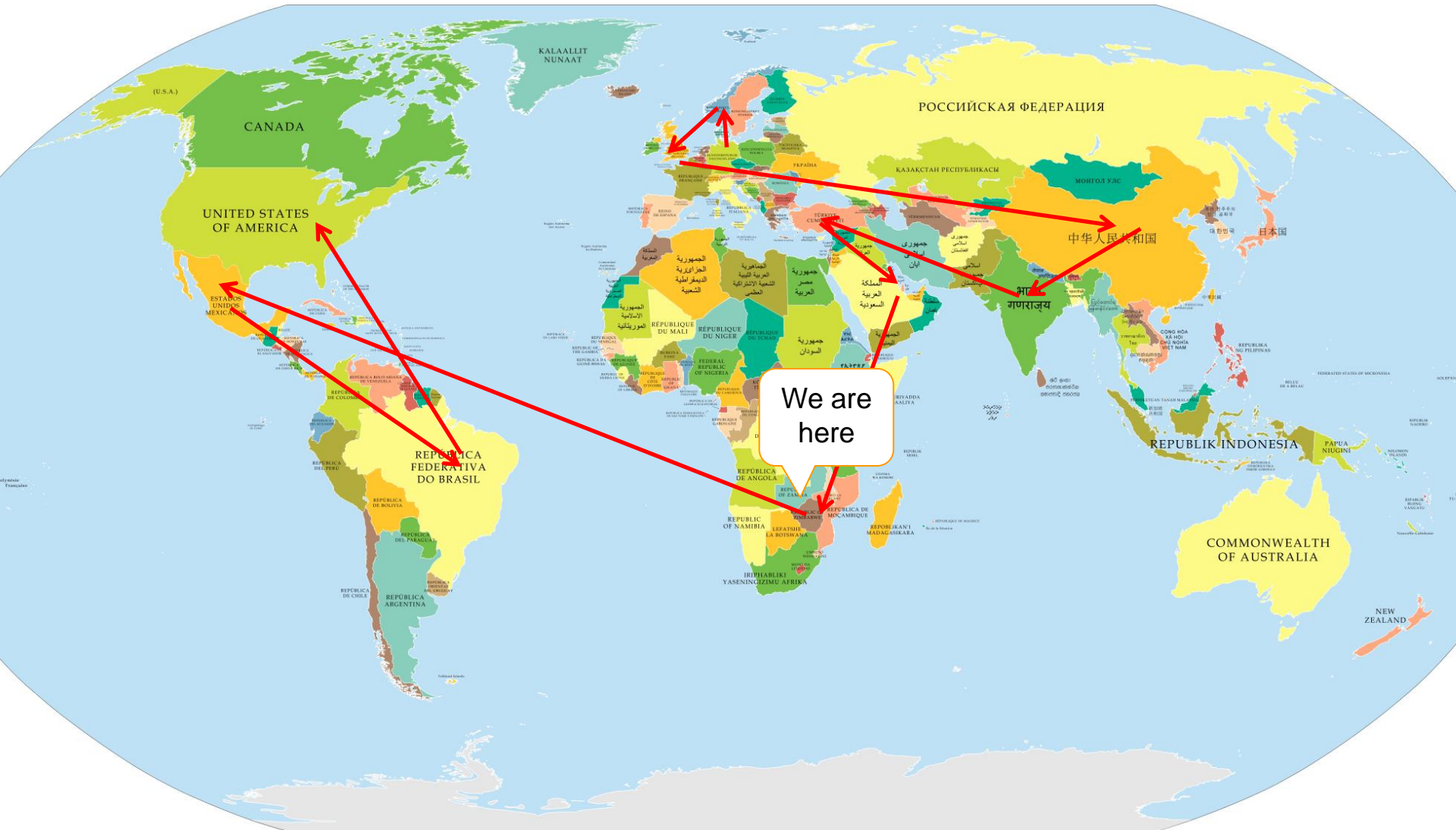


Zimbabwe

Osher class, Feb 2024

J. N. Hooker

Travel Plan



Africa

Africa



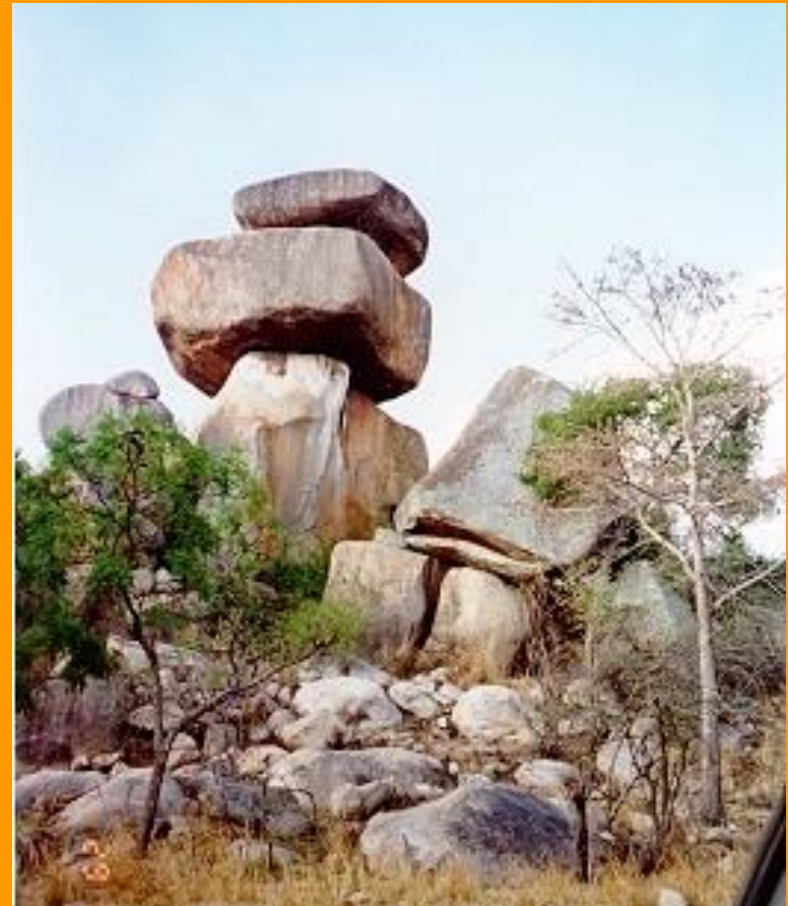
Zimbabwe



Geography

- Relatively dry climate, especially in the south.

Balancing rocks are a common sight



Geography

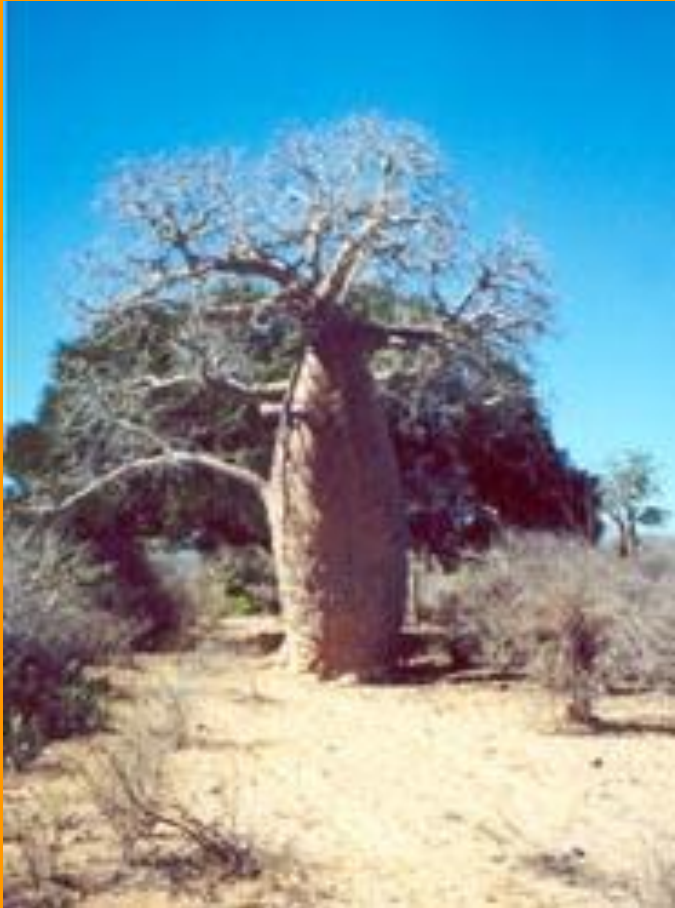


Big event on the
Zambeze River

Large mammals ranged the savanna as recently as 1940s, now thrive only in game parks.



Geography



Baobab trees,
common in
southern
Zimbabwe.

Key to survival
of rural people.



Demographics

- Ethnic makeup
 - Shona - 71%
 - Ndebele - 16%
 - Other African - 11%
 - White - 1%
 - Mixed - 1%

Traditional Ndebele
costume



Demographics

- Shona culture is relatively intact.
 - Less disturbed by colonial boundaries.



Bantu-speaking Peoples

- Focus on Shona culture
 - Other Bantu-speaking peoples (Zulu, Xhosa) are somewhat similar.
- Different from African-American subcultures.

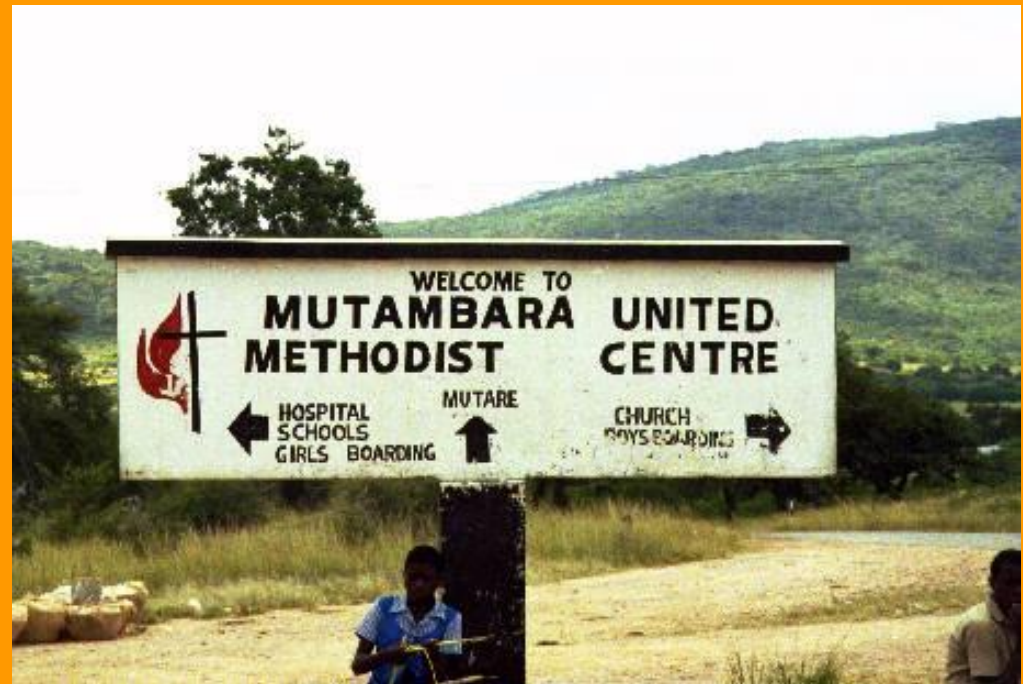
Bantu-speaking regions in orange



Demographics

□ Religious Makeup

- Syncretic (Christian/indigenous) - 50%
- Christian - 25%
- Indigenous - 24%
- Muslim, etc. - 1%



Demographics

Country
village with
mamusha
(singular
kumusha)



Demographics

Harare
(capital city)
with
jacaranda trees



Demographics

- English language literacy - 85%



History

- East Africa is believed to be the birthplace of humanity.
- Cultures are sustainable, or else our species would be extinct.



Rift Valley, Kenya

History

- Shona people entered what is now Zimbabwe about 70 ce.
 - Built the Great Zimbabwe about 1100 ce.

Aerial view of the Enclosure, Great Zimbabwe



History

An entrance to
the Enclosure,
Great Zimbabwe



History

Inside the
Enclosure.



History

□ Colonialism began with Cecil Rhodes.

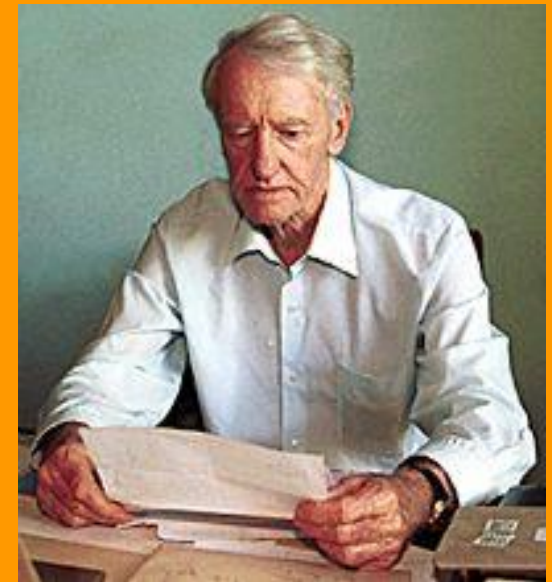
- Rhodes couldn't find gold and so took land
- Founded Rhodesia.

Mutare area



History

- By the 1960s U.K. was considering independence for Southern Rhodesia.
 - To preserve white rule, Ian Smith declared unilateral independence in 1965.
 - Smith wrote a column in Harare newspaper until shortly before his death in 2007.



History

- Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe led a civil war.
 - Independence in 1980.
 - Mugabe took power in 1987.



Robert Mugabe, 1924-2019

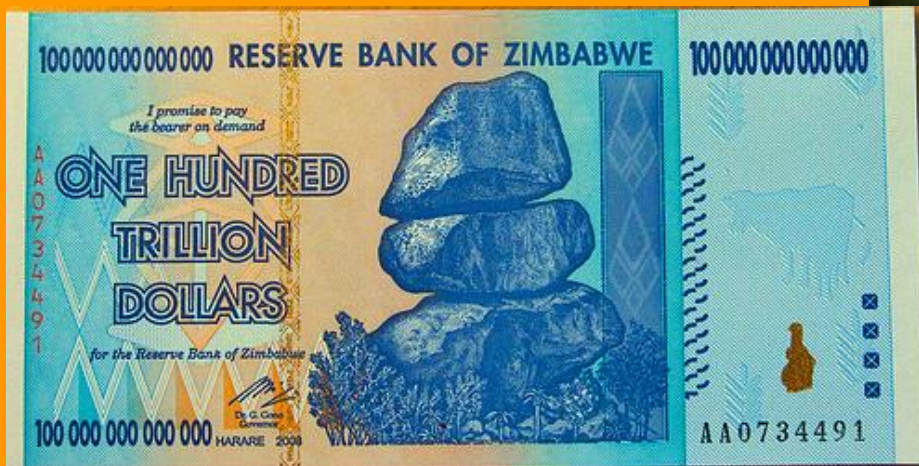
History

- Mugabe encouraged takeover of white-owned farms in late 1990s.
 - Tried to stir up resentment of whites.
 - Destroyed economy.



History

- ❑ February 2009: 12 zeros knocked off currency.
- ❑ More stable today.



History

- 2017: Mnangagwa elected
 - Remains president today.



Economy

□ Today's economy based on:

- Platinum, gold
- **Diamonds** – discovered 2006.
- Tourism – declining.
- Agriculture – slowly recovering.



Cultural Background

- The original human culture
 - Finely-tuned human relationships and coexistence with nature.
- Sustainability
 - Social complexity rather than consumption.
 - Totems.
 - Collectivism increases efficiency.



Cultural Background

□ Relationship-based

- Concern for others is reflected even in the greeting ritual:
 - *Maswera sei? Ndiswera maswerawo.*
 - *Hwakadii hupenyu? Hupenyu hwakanaka.*
 - *Kwakadii kumusha? Kumusha kwakanaka.*
- Group solidarity is paramount.
 - *Munhu munhu nekuda kwevanhu .*



Cultural Background

- Polychronic
 - When activity stops, time stops.
 - No sense of deadline or urgency.
 - Watches may not be set.



Cultural Background

- “Big man” system (anthropological term)
 - Village chief expected to redistribute wealth
 - Employees may ask for a loan, help, etc.
 - Not charity, but social obligation
 - Textbooks, computers.
 - You must oblige, judiciously.

Cultural Background

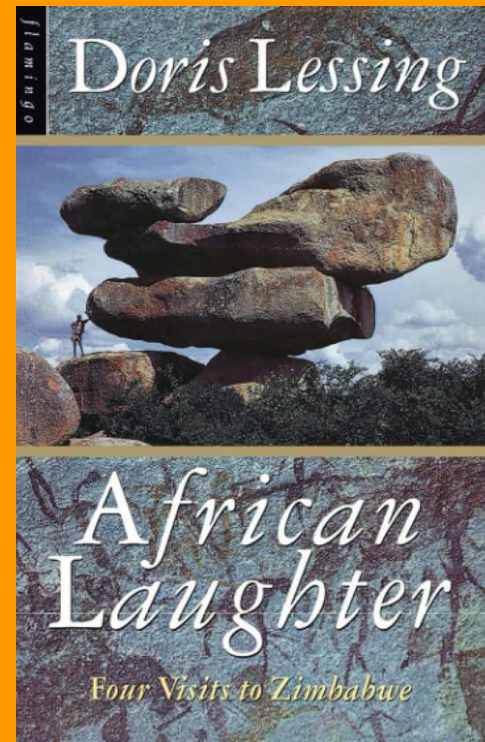
□ Collectivist

- Ethic of sharing.
 - Every employed worker supports extended family.
- Competitiveness frowned upon
 - In school, for example



Cultural Background

- Stress management
 - Group solidarity
 - Religion
 - Music
 - Laughter



She got one thing right

Cultural Background

□ Religious practices

- Ancestors return as *vadzimu*.
- Assistance from *n'anga* possessed by spirits.
- Today, religion often takes Christian form (syncretism).
- Jesus Christ as *n'anga*.



Diet

- The staple is *sadza*, or thick corn mush.
 - British call it mealy meal porridge.
 - Often eaten with gravy or stew (*sadza ne nyama*).
 - Or with hot sauce.



Employees

□ Labor movement is strong.

- Outgrowth of group solidarity, “big man” system.
- Individuals won’t confront the boss, but a group will.
- Frequent strikes.



Striking doctors & nurses in Harare,
with riot police

The Arts

- The arts play an integral part of everyday life.
 - Attractive homemade clothing, sculpture.
 - Music is a key stress control mechanism.
 - Everyone can sing for hours from memory.
 - Discos popular in city. No interest in blues, etc.
 - People are less alienated from the arts than in industrial society.

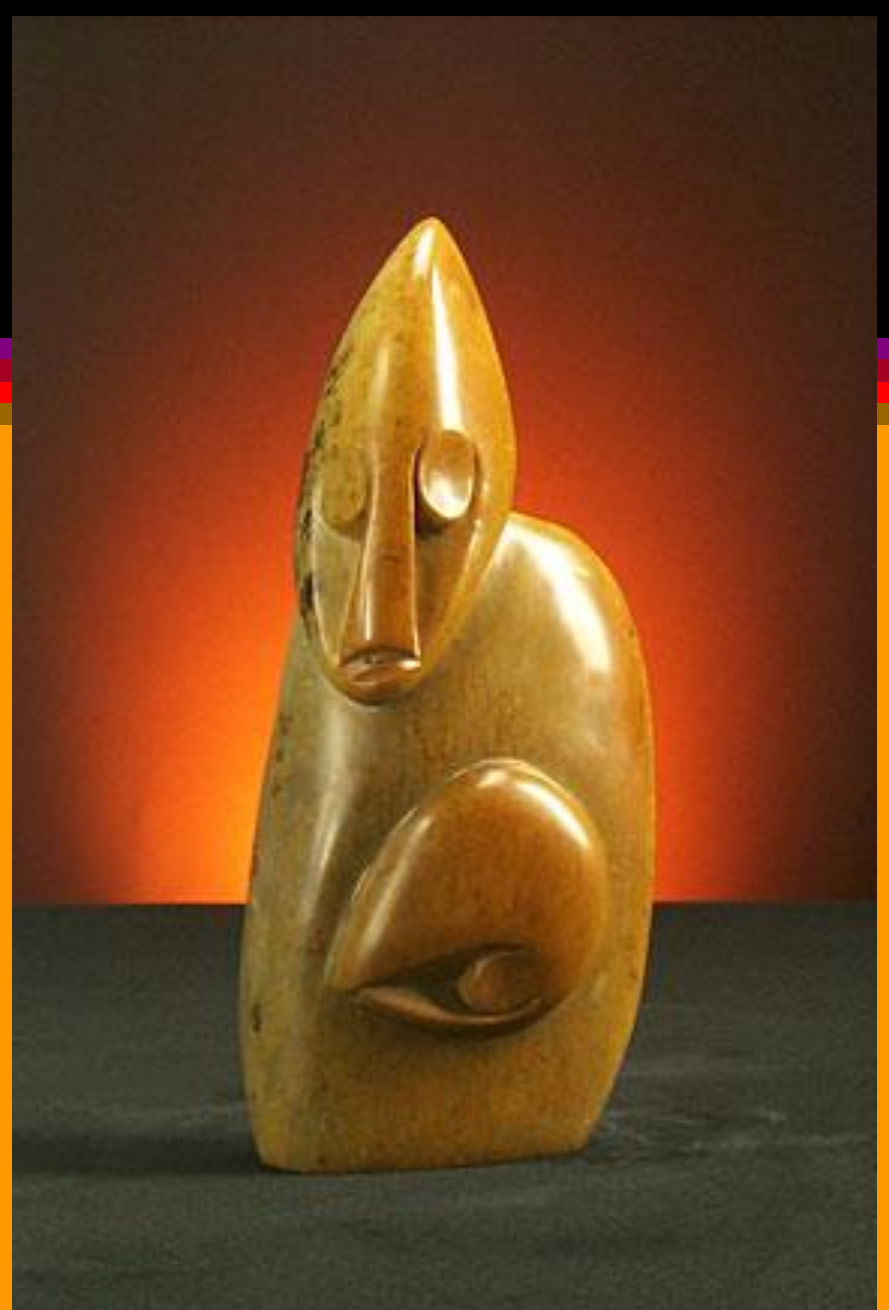
The Arts

Shona sculpture.

Influence on Picasso

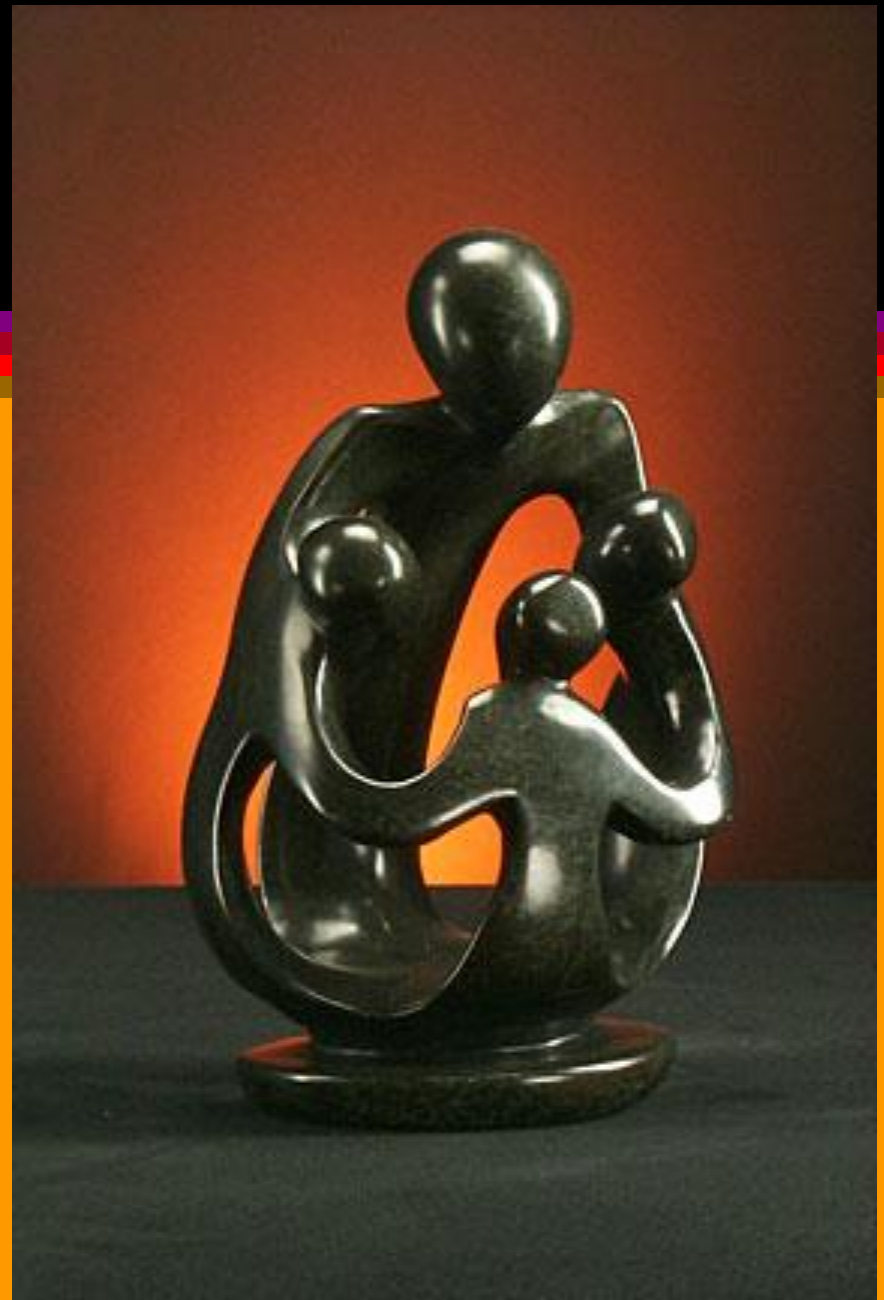
“Good artists borrow,
great artists steal.”

Mother and Child



The Arts

Ukama
(Family)



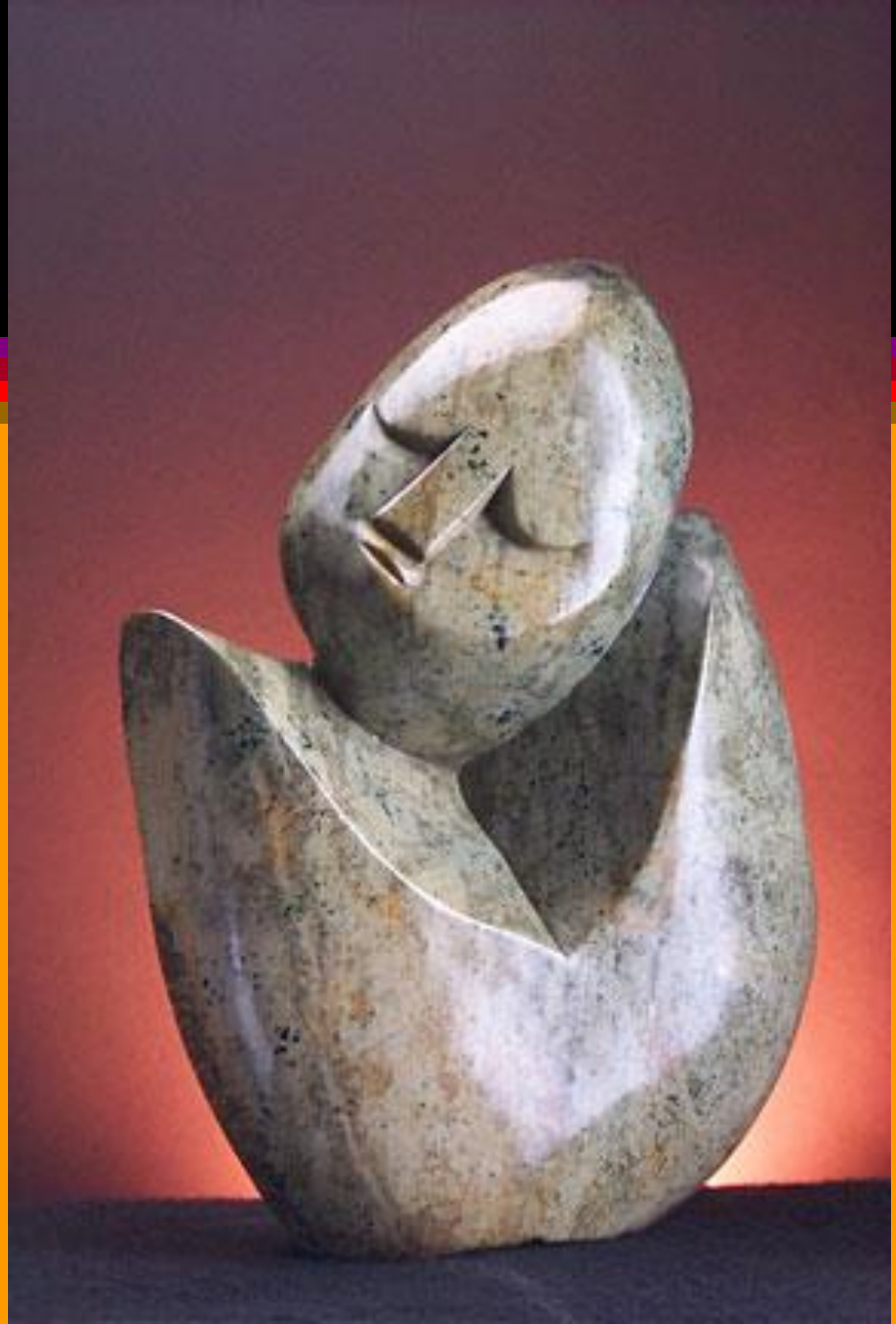
The Arts

Rufaro
(Happiness)



The Arts

Good dreams



The Arts

Rhawavi
(Chameleon)



The Arts

Dancing Family



The Arts

Mbira



The Arts

Marimba



The Language

- 21 noun classes.
 - *Vangani vana vanoenda kuchikoro?*
 - *Vana* is a class 2 noun.
- Complex negative formation
 - *Ndinoda nyama.*
 - *Handidi nyama.*

The Language

- Common expressions.
 - Good morning – *mangwanani*
 - Hi – *kwaziwai, mhoroi*
 - Thanks – *Ndatenda*
 - Mr. – *Va*, as in *VaSvosve*
 - Mrs. – *Amai*, as in *Amai Marufu*
 - Mrs. – *Mai* (mother of) followed by name of firstborn, *Mai Abisai*.