



Victoria Falls

Victoria Falls are located where the Zambezi River plummets from a basalt plateau into the Kariba Gorge, which was carved by erosion along a fracture in the Earth's surface. The Zambezi River forms the border between Zambia to the north and Zimbabwe to the south. The Zambezi River, rising in Central Africa, flows to the east between Zambia and Zimbabwe and passes through Mozambique before emptying into the Indian Ocean. The first European to see the falls was the explorer David Livingstone in 1855 who named them after Queen Victoria of Great Britain. However, the people who live there, mostly members of the Tonga ethnic group, call it "Mosi-oa-Tunya," which means "the smoke that thunders." Victoria Falls are not the highest waterfall in Africa, but they do have the continent's greatest volume of water flow in cubic feet per second. Victoria Falls drop a maximum of 343 feet, about twice the height of Niagara Falls. They rank sixth in the world in volume of water per second. In comparison, Niagara Falls, with the world's greatest volume of water, has an average flow of 212,300 cubic feet per second, while Victoria Falls has an average flow of 35,400 cubic feet per second. What makes Victoria Falls a dramatic sight, and a major tourist attraction, is that the falls are over a mile wide, whereas the two sections of Niagara Falls total 3,600 feet wide. Victoria Falls are made up of hundreds of falls separated by narrow projections of land at the rim. The mist rising from the plunge of water into the gorge can be seen from many miles away.

ART: Question 1

Victoria Falls are formed when the Zambezi River plunges into what kind of a land formation?

Question 2

Victoria Falls are located in what country or countries of Africa?

Question 3

How do the Victoria Falls compare with Niagara Falls in height, width, and volume of water flow?