



MANZI'S NEWS



A Newsletter for Manzi's Buddies

January 2019

WHY DO PEOPLE LIVE WHERE THEY DO?

Hi Friends

Here's hoping you all had a wonderful school holiday and that you are all well rested and ready to tackle the year ahead of you with a lot of energy and excitement.

During the school holidays, I went on an expedition around our beautiful country, South Africa. I visited different places in all nine provinces and witnessed very interesting things. Some of the places I visited are shown below:

The map illustrates the diverse landscapes of South Africa, from mountainous regions like the Magaliesberg Mountains to coastal areas and inland plains. Key cities like Pretoria and Johannesburg are highlighted, along with numerous smaller towns and villages. The map also shows various water bodies, including rivers like the Orange River and Vaal River, and dams such as the Hartbeespoort Dam and Vaal Dam. Three callout boxes provide visual examples: 'A village' shows a small cluster of houses in a rural setting; 'A city' shows a dense urban area with many buildings; 'A farm' shows a man and a child with a horse in a rural setting. A cartoon bird character is also present in the bottom right corner of the map area.



BUT WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FARM, A VILLAGE, A TOWN AND A CITY?

A **farm** is an area of land and its buildings that are used for growing crops and raising animals. A **village** can be described as a group of houses and buildings covering an area smaller than a town and it is usually situated in a rural area.

A **town** is a built-up area with a name, defined boundaries, and local government, that is larger than a village and generally smaller than a city. Lastly, a **city** is described as an area in which a large number of people live fairly close together in relation to the amount of land. Cities usually have their own separate governments and systems for maintaining and providing services (such as water and energy) and transportation.

(Use the picture on the previous page to help you understand these terms).

Whilst on my travels, a question kept popping up in my mind:
Why do people live where they do?

I decided to investigate a little bit more about what people need to live and why people live where they do and I think it is very important to share my findings with you!

WHAT DO PEOPLE NEED TO BE ABLE TO LIVE FROM DAY TO DAY?

1. People need water every day to be able to survive. Water is life and our bodies rely on drinking a certain amount of water every day to work properly. Water is also needed to wash our bodies and clothes.
2. People need to eat food to get nutrients needed for their bodies. Food (either in the form of plants or animals) needs water to grow.
3. People need shelter, or a place to stay, where they are safe from wind, hail, sun, etc. Shelter in most forms, whether it be the shade from a tree, a mud hut, a brick building or any other structure, somewhere along the line needs water.
4. People need health care to help ensure that they are always healthy. Good health care services need a constant and good quality water source.
5. People need energy in the form of electricity, to be able to have working lights, appliances and machinery to complete day to day tasks. In South Africa, most of the energy in the form of electricity comes from coal powered stations, which need water which is turned into steam and is used to make electricity.

AN INTERESTING STORY:

The Story Behind Tap Water

At the end of the 19th century, many people came to the Witwatersrand in search of gold. As the mining town of Johannesburg grew, there was not enough water in the area to meet everybody's needs and attempts by the Johannesburg Water Works Company to meet the demand were hampered by the great drought of 1895.

In 1895, the Water Works Commission, appointed a geologist by the name of Dr Draper to help find a supply of water. After searching on the farm Zuurbekom, Dr Draper found what he was looking for and in 1896 and 1897 the Commission secured a stable supply of water from the Zuurbekom Water Supply Company's wells.

In 1903 the Water Works Commission established Rand Water in order to ensure that the Witwatersrand received enough clean, safe drinking water. Rand Water initially used the water from the Zuurbekom Wells on the West Rand. But as the number of people in the area started to rise, the water in the wells was not enough. The Vaal River Barrage Reservoir was then built in 1923 by Rand Water and then the Vaal Dam was built in 1938 by the Department of Water Affairs to supply water to the growing number of people.

The Vaal Dam is still used today to supply water to the people of Gauteng and parts of the Free State, North West and Mpumalanga provinces.

ACTIVITY:

Grab a friend, family member or two and fill in the table below. Find out how they use water everyday. What activities use water every day?

Your Name:	Friend/family name 1:	Friend/family name 2:

So people need a few things that help them decide where they will live. What I hope you realise is how WATER comes through strongly in every single one of the day to day needs of people. It is therefore very important that we Respect our Water, because without it, we will not be able to meet our day to day needs.



Till next time. Lots of love

Manzi



For more information on being Water Wise, please contact 0860 10 10 60 or logo onto www.waterwise.co.za

