**CanSerra PenPal Teaching Resources**

**Intermediate**

Suggested videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ff4V8L_VAwQ> - Geography Now! SIERRA LEONE - grade 7/8 – some casual swearing at beginning, however if you start watching at 1:12 you can avoid it. - 24 minutes long

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=miSdtsZayIk> - 10 Things You Didn't Know About Sierra Leone – grade 5 to 8 - 9:13 minutes long

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1VT0asH5Ck> - A vision for the future of Sierra Leone | Julius Maada Bio – Ted Talk – with former leader of Sierra Leone -When Julius Maada Bio first seized political power in Sierra Leone in 1996, he did so to improve the lives of its citizens. But he soon realized that for democracy to flourish, its foundation needs to be built on the will of the people. After arranging an election, he voluntarily gave up power and left Africa. Twenty years later, after being democratically elected president of Sierra Leone, he reflects on the slow path to democracy, the importance of education for all and his focus on helping young Sierra Leoneans thrive. 16:15 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZj-K9QjYoI>

-Africa Aweee School: Hastings Community in Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone remains among the world's poorest countries. Decades of economic decline, corruption and years of armed conflict had a devastating impact on its people and the economy. Hastings is a town in the rural district in the Western Area of Sierra Leone. The town has a population of 15,054 and lies approximately 15 miles east of Freetown. In spite of all that has happened, Hastings is a community with faith in its own future. Since education was not viewed as a priority by Sierra Leonean authorities it remains one of the countries with the highest illiteracy rates (69% male and 80% female). Yet, the few existing primary and high schools cannot supply the growing demand. The community needs additional primary and secondary schools, vocational centers and tertiary institutions. 2:46 minutes - grade 7 and up

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRFJR1V5w9Y> - Reviving education in the aftermath of Sierra Leone's civil war – Unicef – grade 7 and up - 5:09 minutes

**Worksheets**

Read the handouts provided below: *A Brief History of Sierra Leone* and *National Anthem of Sierra Leone*, discuss and then provide response handout *National Anthem of Sierra Leone Response*

*Jr and Int lesson All About Sierra Leone* – pair up your students and challenge them to find as many facts about Sierra Leone using this handout. Answer sheet is provided.

**A Brief History of Sierra Leone**

The following excerpts are taken from New World Encyclopedia. You can find the complete text at <https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Sierra_Leone>

**Sierra Leone,** officially the **Republic of Sierra Leone,** is a country in [West Africa](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/West_Africa). The name *Sierra Leone* was adapted from the [Portuguese](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Portugal) name for the country: *Serra Leoa.* The literal meaning is "Lioness Mountains." During the 1700s Sierra Leone was an important center of the transatlantic [slave trade](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Slave_trade). The capital Freetown was founded in 1787 as a home for enslaved Africans who had fought for the [British](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/United_Kingdom) in the [American War of Independence](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/American_War_of_Independence).

From 1991 to 2002, the country suffered greatly under the devastating effects of rebel incursions. To end rebel activities, [UN](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/United_Nations) and British forces disarmed 17,000 militia and rebels in the largest UN peacekeeping act of the decade. While the fighting has ended, Sierra Leone remains impoverished. Though it is rich in [mineral](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Mineral) resources, there are wide disparities in wealth distribution.

An independent nation

On April 27, 1961, Sir Milton Margai led Sierra Leone to independence from the [United Kingdom](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/United_Kingdom) and became the first prime minister. He died three years later and was succeeded by his brother, Sir Albert Margai, who was accused of favoring the Mende tribe. After an election in 1967, Siaka Stevens, candidate of the All People's Congress (APC) and mayor of Freetown, was declared the new prime minister. Coups and counter-coups ensued until Siaka Stevens was reinstated as prime minister. The following years were marked by considerable unrest, caused by ethnic and army disaffection with the central government.

On April 19, 1971, Parliament declared Sierra Leone to be a republic. Siaka Stevens, then prime minister, became the nation's first president. [Guinean](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Guinea) troops requested by Stevens to support his government were in the country from 1971 to 1973. Parliamentary elections were held in 1973; Stevens' APC party won 74 seats and the opposition SLPP party won 15 seats in parliament. An alleged plot to overthrow Stevens failed in July 1974. The leaders of the unsuccessful coup were tried and executed, and in March 1976, he was elected without opposition for a second five-year term as president. In 1978, a new constitution was adopted, creating a one-party state; the 1978 constitution made the APC the only legal political party in Sierra Leone.

Civil War

Corruption within the government and mismanagement of [diamond](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Diamond) and [mineral](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Mineral) resources were the main reasons [civil war](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Civil_war) broke out in Sierra Leone. With the breakdown of all state structures, complemented by the effective suppression of all civilian opposition, wide corridors of Sierra Leonean society were opened up to the trafficking of arms and ammunitions. [Drugs](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Drug) also eroded national and regional security as well as facilitated [crime](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Crime).

**National Anthem of Sierra Leone**

**High we exalt thee, realm of the free;  
Great is the love we have for thee;  
Firmly united ever we stand,  
Singing thy praise, O native land.  
We raise up our hearts and our voices on high,  
The hills and the valleys re-echo our cry;  
Blessing and peace be ever thine own,  
Land that we love, our Sierra Leone.**

**One with a faith that wisdom inspires,  
One with a zeal that never tires;  
Ever we seek to honour thy name  
Ours is the labour, thine the fame.  
We pray that no harm on thy children may fall,  
That blessing and peace may descend on us all;  
So may we serve thee ever alone,  
Land that we love our Sierra Leone.**

**Knowledge and truth our forefathers spread,  
Mighty the nations whom they led;  
Mighty they made thee, so too may we  
Show forth the good that is ever in thee.  
We pledge our devotion, our strength and our might,  
Thy cause to defend and to stand for thy right;  
All that we have be ever thine own,  
Land that we love our Sierra Leone.**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**National Anthem of Sierra Leone**

**After reading the history of Sierra Leone handout and the national anthem of Sierra Leone handout, share your thoughts on this country’s anthem:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**All About Sierra Leone**

**Using the internet, find out these interesting facts about Sierra Leone!**

**Challenge: Set a time limit and with a partner see how many you can answer before the buzzer goes!**

**The flag of Sierra Leone looks like this:**

**Sierra Leone is in the continent of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Sierra Leone was founded in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**The capital of Sierra Leone is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**The population of Sierra Leone is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**The national animal of Sierra Leone is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**The national bird of Sierra Leone is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**The national tree of Sierra Leone is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**A favourite food in Sierra Leone is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Three languages spoken in Sierra Leone are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**According to Macrotrends (**[**https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/SLE/sierra-leone/literacy-rate**](https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/SLE/sierra-leone/literacy-rate)**) what is the literacy rate of Sierra Leone in 2018? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**When was the civil war in Sierra Leone? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Number of schools destroyed during the war: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Percentage of school age children not able to go to school after war \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**All About Sierra Leone - ANSWERS**

**Using the internet, find out these interesting facts about Sierra Leone!**

**Challenge: Set a time limit and with a partner see how many you can answer before the buzzer goes!**

**The flag of Sierra Leone looks like this:**

**(horizontal lines of blue, white and green)**

**Sierra Leone is in the continent of \_Africa\_\_**

**Sierra Leone was founded in \_April 27, 1961\_**

**The capital of Sierra Leone is \_Freetown\_**

**The population of Sierra Leone is \_8.4 million\_**

**The national animal of Sierra Leone is \_Chimpanzee\_**

**The national bird of Sierra Leone is \_White-throated Bee-eater\_**

**The national tree of Sierra Leone is \_Cotton Free\_**

**A favourite food in Sierra Leone is \_stew, groundnut soup, pemahun, fufu\_**

**Three languages spoken in Sierra Leone are Mende, Temne, and Krio.**

**According to Macrotrends (**[**https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/SLE/sierra-leone/literacy-rate**](https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/SLE/sierra-leone/literacy-rate)**) what is the literacy rate of Sierra Leone in 2018? \_43.21%\_**

**When was the civil war in Sierra Leone? \_1991 to 2002\_**

**Number of schools destroyed during the war: \_1,270\_**

**Percentage of school age children not able to go to school after war \_67%\_**