CENTRAL AFRICA
With a Special Focus on
The Democratic Republic of the Congo

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A Resource Packet for Educators
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CENTRAL AFRICA IN CONTEXT

Maps from the University of Texas map library:
and Wikimedia Commons:
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page
**THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

**Government Type:** Republic  
**Capital:** Kinshasa  
**Population:** 66,514,504 (Due to the fact that there has not been census data compiled in many years it should be noted that this number is an estimate.)  
**Area:** 2,345,410 sq km  
**Border Countries:** Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Zambia, Angola  
**Languages:** French (official), Lingala (a lingua franca trade language), Kingwiana (a dialect of Kiswahili or Swahili), Kikongo, Tshiluba  
**Ethnic Groups:** Over 200 African ethnic groups of which the majority are Bantu; the four largest tribes - Mongo, Luba, Kongo (all Bantu), and the Mangbetu-Azande (Hamitic) make up about 45% of the population.

**GDP:** $300  
**Natural Resources:** cobalt, copper, niobium, tantalum, petroleum, industrial and gem diamonds, gold, silver, zinc, manganese, tin, uranium, coal, hydropower, timber  
**Agricultural Products:** coffee, sugar, palm oil, rubber, tea, quinine, cassava (tapioca), bananas, root crops, corn, fruits, wood products  
**Industries:** mining (diamonds, gold, copper, cobalt, coltan zinc), mineral processing, consumer products (including textiles, footwear, cigarettes, processed foods, and beverages), cement, commercial ship repair  
**Current Environmental Issues:** poaching threatens wildlife populations; water pollution; deforestation; refugees responsible for significant deforestation, soil erosion, and wildlife poaching; mining of minerals (coltan - a mineral used in creating capacitors, diamonds and gold) causing environmental damage

THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

and Wikimedia Commons: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page
Government Type: Republic  
Capital: Bujumbura  
Population: 8,691,005  
Area: 27,830 sq km (slightly smaller than Maryland)  
Border Countries: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania  
Languages: Kirundi (official), French (official), Swahili (along Lake Tanganyika and in the Bujumbura area)  
Ethnic Groups: Hutu (Bantu) 85%, Tutsi (Hamitic) 14%, Twa (Pygmy) 1%, Europeans 3,000, South Asians 2,000  

GDP (per capita): $300  
Natural Resources: nickel, uranium, rare earth oxides, peat, cobalt, copper, platinum, vanadium, arable land, hydropower, niobium, tantalum, gold, tin, tungsten, kaolin, limestone  
Agricultural Products: coffee, cotton, tea, corn, sorghum, sweet potatoes, bananas, manioc (aka cassava) (tapioca), beef, milk, hides  
Industries: light consumer goods such as blankets, shoes, soap; assembly of imported components; public works construction; food processing  
Current Environmental Issues: soil erosion as a result of overgrazing and the expansion of agriculture into marginal lands; deforestation (little forested land remains because of uncontrolled cutting of trees for fuel); habitat loss threatens wildlife populations

Information from the CIA World Factbook: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/
BURUNDI

and Wikimedia Commons: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page
**Republic of the Congo**

**Government Type:** Republic  
**Capital:** Brazzaville  
**Population:** 3,903,318  
**Area:** 342,000 sq km (slightly smaller than Montana)  
**Border Countries:** Angola, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon  
**Languages:** French (official), Lingala and Monokutuba (lingua franca trade languages), many local languages and dialects (of which Kikongo is the most widespread)  
**Ethnic Groups:** Kongo 48%, Sangha 20%, M’Bochi 12%, Teke 17%, Europeans and other 3%  

**GDP (per capita):** $3,400  
**Natural Resources:** petroleum, timber, potash, lead, zinc, uranium, copper, phosphates, gold, magnesium, natural gas, hydropower  
**Agricultural Products:** cassava (aka manioc) (tapioca), sugar, rice, corn, peanuts, vegetables, coffee, cocoa; forest products  
**Industries:** petroleum extraction, cement, lumber, brewing, sugar, palm oil, soap, flour, cigarettes  
**Current Environmental Issues:** air pollution from vehicle emissions; water pollution from the dumping of raw sewage; tap water is not potable; deforestation

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

and Wikimedia Commons: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page
**Government Type:** Republic; presidential, multi-party system  
**Capital:** Kigali  
**Population:** 10,186,063  
**Area:** 26,338 sq km (slightly smaller than Maryland)  
**Border Countries:** Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Uganda  
**Languages:** Kinyarwanda (official) universal Bantu vernacular, French (official), English (official), Kiswahili (Swahili) used in commercial centers  
**Ethnic Groups:** Hutu (Bantu) 84%, Tutsi (Hamitic) 15%, Twa (Pygmy) 1%  

**GDP (per capita):** $800  
**Natural Resources:** gold, cassiterite (tin ore), wolframite (tungsten ore), methane, hydropower, arable land  
**Agricultural Products:** coffee, tea, pyrethrum (insecticide made from chrysanthemums), bananas, beans, sorghum, potatoes, livestock  
**Industries:** cement, agricultural products, small-scale beverages, soap, furniture, shoes, plastic goods, textiles, cigarettes  
**Current Environmental Issues:** deforestation results from uncontrolled cutting of trees for fuel; overgrazing; soil exhaustion; soil erosion; widespread poaching

RWANDA

Government Type: Republic
Capital: Kampala
Population: 31,367,972
Area: 236,040 sq km (slightly smaller than Oregon)
Border Countries: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania
Languages: English (official national language, taught in grade schools, used in courts of law and by most newspapers and some radio broadcasts), Ganda or Luganda (most widely used of the Niger-Congo languages, preferred for native language publications in the capital and may be taught in school), other Niger-Congo languages, Nilo-Saharan languages, Swahili, Arabic
Ethnic Groups: Baganda 16.9%, Banyakole 9.5%, Basoga 8.4%, Bakiga 6.9%, Iteso 6.4%, Langi 6.1%, Acholi 4.7%, Bagisu 4.6%, Lugbara 4.2%, Bunyoro 2.7%, other 29.6% (2002 census)

GDP (per capita): $1,000
Natural Resources: copper, cobalt, hydropower, limestone, salt, arable land
Agricultural Products: coffee, tea, cotton, tobacco, cassava (tapioca), potatoes, corn, millet, pulses, cut flowers; beef, goat meat, milk, poultry
Industries: sugar, brewing, tobacco, cotton textiles, cement, steel production
Current Environmental Issues: draining of wetlands for agricultural use; deforestation; overgrazing; soil erosion; water hyacinth infestation in Lake Victoria; widespread poaching

Information from the CIA World Factbook: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/
UGANDA

GENERAL RESOURCES ON THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE: DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
http://www.state.gov/p/af/ci/cg/index.htm

CIA WORLD FACTBOOK: DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

BBC COUNTRY PROFILE: DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1076399.stm

NEW YORK TIMES COUNTRY PROFILE: CONGO
This country profile includes reference material, web resources, multimedia, and recent and archival news about the Democratic Republic of the Congo from The New York Times.

THE GUARDIAN: DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/congo
London newspaper, The Guardian, offers up-to-the-minute articles, features, analyses, video, and links on current events related to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES – KINSHASA, CONGO
http://kinshasa.usembassy.gov/index.html
The American Embassy is composed of various sections that work to improve political, economic, and cultural relations between the Democratic Republic of Congo and the United States. On each
office's web page you will find a more detailed description of their contribution to the mission's work, along with related information, links, and relevant resources.

**NEWS SOURCES IN ENGLISH**

**WORLD NEWS NETWORK: CONGO DAILY**
http://www.congodaily.com/
The World News (WN) Network was founded in 1995 and launched online in 1998, with the primary objective of being the most comprehensive, one-stop news resource on the Internet. Today, World News has over 20,000 global thematic and regional news sites - enhanced by the web’s most comprehensive multilingual search engine.
Also published by the World News Network:
**THE KINSHASA TIMES**
http://www.kinshasatimes.com/

**IRIN (INTEGRATED REGIONAL INFORMATION NETWORKS): CONGO**
IRIN's principal role is to provide news and analysis about sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and parts of Asia for the humanitarian community. The networks target decision-makers in relief agencies, host and donor governments, human-rights organizations, humanitarian advocacy groups, academic institutions, and the media. At the same time, IRIN strives to ensure that affected communities can also access reliable information, so they can make informed decisions about their future. IRIN is part of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, but its services are editorially independent. Its reports do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations and its agencies, nor its member states.

**CONGO PLANET**
http://www.congoplanet.com/
CongoPlanet.com is an independent site aiming to make available to its users the latest news, multimedia content, and online resources about the Congo. CongoPlanet.com features the latest multimedia technologies, from live audio streaming to searchable archives of news features and background information. The site is updated continuously throughout the day.

**PANAPRESS: DR CONGO**
http://www.panapress.com/paysindexlat.asp?code=eng014
Panapress is an international news and information service providing high-quality, up-to-the-minute news coverage of the African continent. With correspondents and news stringers in 51 countries, the company's coverage of the African landscape is unrivaled.

**ALLAFRICA: CONGO-KINSHASA**
http://allafrica.com/congo_kinshasa/
AllAfrica Global Media is a multi-media content service provider, systems technology developer and the largest electronic distributor of African news and information worldwide. Registered in Mauritius, with offices in Johannesburg, Dakar, Lagos, and Washington, D.C., AllAfrica is one of a family of companies that aggregate, produce, and distribute news from across Africa to tens of millions of end users.

**HISTORY**

**HISTORY OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**
http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?historyid=ad34
This history of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is broken into seven time periods, each one characterized by the state of rule in the Congo at that time.

**CHOICES CURRICULUM - COLONIALISM IN THE CONGO: CONQUEST, CONFLICT, AND COMMERCE**  
The Choices for the 21st Century Education Program is a national education initiative based at Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies. The Choices Program develops teaching resources on historical and current international issues, provides professional development for classroom teachers, and sponsors programs that engage students beyond the classroom. This unit is available for ordering at $20 for the print teacher’s set, and $16 for the downloadable teacher’s set.

**THE HISTORIOGRAPHY OF BELGIAN COLONIALISM IN THE CONGO**  
[http://www.cliohres.net/books/6/Vanthemsche.pdf](http://www.cliohres.net/books/6/Vanthemsche.pdf)  
This article, by Guv Vanthemsche of the University of Brussels, explores the dark history of Belgian colonialism in the Congo by analyzing the political, institutional, and post colonial factors that shaped the global perception of this period in the Congo’s history.

**BBC – TIMELINE: DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**  
An excellent and extensive timeline of events beginning in the 1200s and continuing up through November of 2008. Key time periods are also labeled according to their political significance.

**TIMELINE OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: HISTORY AND KEY FACTS**  
A timeline of key events throughout the history of the Democratic Republic of the Congo beginning in 1885 and continuing through 2006.

**BELGIAN CONGO**  
[http://www.zum.de/whkmla/region/centrafrica/belgecongo190818.html](http://www.zum.de/whkmla/region/centrafrica/belgecongo190818.html)  
This website is short on written information, but provides several maps illustrating both the spread of colonial powers throughout Central Africa and the administrative break-up of the Belgian Congo.

**CULTURE**

**EVERY CULTURE: CULTURE OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**  
This website provides an extensive background on the culture of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, spanning topics such as history, economy, social stratification, family life, and the arts.

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC: CONGOLESE RUMBA**  
[http://worldmusic.nationalgeographic.com/worldmusic/view/page.basic/genre/content.genre/rumba_congolesen780](http://worldmusic.nationalgeographic.com/worldmusic/view/page.basic/genre/content.genre/rumba_congolesen780)  
Although many think of it as a distinctly Cuban form of dance, the Rumba traces its origins back to the Congo. This site explores the history of this dance tradition and provides sound bites of Congolese Rumba music.

**PEACE CORPS: WHAT SHARING REALLY MEANS – SHARING IN AFRICA**  
Students will examine closely the meaning of generosity and how sharing can be a cultural trait. For use in grades 6 through 12. This lesson builds on the experiences of a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

**PEACE CORPS: I HAD A HERO LESSON**  
http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws/educators/lessonplans/lesson.cfm?lid=423  
Students examine what it take to be a hero, based on the experiences of a Peace Corps volunteer’s experience in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Zaire at the time of the Peace Corps volunteer’s service).

**GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**MONUC: UN MISSION IN DR CONGO**  
MONUC is the French acronym for United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The United Nations Security Council established MONUC to facilitate the implementation of the Lusaka Accord signed in 1999. With a budget exceeding one billion dollars, it is the largest and most expensive mission in the Department of Peace Keeping Operations (DPKO).

**THE WASHINGTON POST: IN CONGO, A TEST FOR ‘OBAMA COUNTRY’** (December 12, 2008)  
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/12/11/AR2008121102949.html  
This op-ed piece explores the role President-elect Obama will play regarding the conflict in the Congo.

**HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH - DR CONGO: PRESIDENT BRUTALLY REPRESSES OPPOSITION** (November 25, 2008)  
While everyone focuses on the violence in eastern Congo, government abuses against political opponents attract little attention. Efforts to build a democratic Congo are being stifled not just by rebellion but also by the Kabila government’s repression.

**CNN: UN ENVOY IN CONGO FOR PEACE TALKS** (November 15, 2008)  
The one million displaced persons in the Democratic Republic of the Congo face many challenges, including the threat of diseases such as cholera and malnutrition – an affliction particularly prevalent in children. Recently the UN sent an envoy into the country in order to seek peace between the government and rebels, as well as to send food to those affected by the conflict.

**EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS: THE EU CANNOT ACCEPT DEFEAT IN CONGO** (November 4, 2008)  
http://ecfr.eu/content/entry/commentary_europe_cannot_accept_defeat_in_congo/  
Congo has been the second most important testing ground for the European Security and Defense Policy; like the Congolese, the EU needs a long-lasting peacekeeping presence in the country.

**WORLD FOCUS: UN COMMANDER RESIGNS AS THOUSANDS FLEE CONGO** (October 27, 2008)  
http://pulitzercenter.org/openitem.cfm?id=1187  
The commander of the UN peacekeeping force resigned after violence escalated in eastern Congo. After rebel forces captured the Congolese army’s main base, civilians fled to the United Nations’ compound to protest inadequate protection against the rebels.
PRI'S THE WORLD: CONGO'S REBEL LEADER
http://pulitzercenter.org/openitem.cfm?id=1226
The Democratic Republic of Congo is a country again in turmoil. The latest violence involves a rebel general named Laurent Nkunda. Nkunda's managed to take over large swathes of eastern Congo with a small band of well-trained soldiers. Reporter Michael Kavanagh takes a look at the renegade general.

THE WORLD BANK: DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
The World Bank is helping to fight poverty and improve living standards for the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo. As of October 2007, the World Bank had approved a total of 82 loans and credits for the Democratic Republic of Congo for a total amount of approximately US$3.6 billion.

CONFLICT

GLOBAL SECURITY: CONGO CIVIL WAR
http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/congo.htm
The war that has played out in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and has claimed an estimated 3.8 million lives during the bulk of the conflict is the largest that the African continent has seen. This site provides an overview of the conflict and all the players involved.

THE EAST AFRICAN: LET'S END CONGO CONFLICT NOW (December 13, 2008)
http://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/opOrEd/comment/-/434750/501618/-/a2vy7i/-/
Author Oscar Kimanuka, a commentator on social and economic issues based in Kigali, Rwanda, offers this op-ed piece calling for an end to the conflict in the Congo.

FORBES: CONGO'S CONFLICT (December 22, 2008)
A very informative article detailing the background of the Congo conflict, including the role Rwanda plays in the conflict, as well as the author’s opinion as to what role, if any, the U.S. should play.

NEW YORK TIMES: A MASSACRE IN CONGO, DESPITE NEARBY SUPPORT (December 11, 2008)
Despite the presence of UN peace keeping troops less than a mile away, another massacre was recently carried out in eastern Congo. Rebel armed groups have taken over the area and continue to terrorize its citizens with random and continuous killings.

CNN - OXFAM: NATIONS FAILING ON CONGO CRISIS (November 14, 2008)
Fewer and fewer countries are committing military aid to the UN peacekeeping mission in Congo. This is an especially urgent matter as the number of displaced persons rises to the one million mark and disease continues to spread throughout refugee camps.

CNN EXPLAINER: BEHIND CONGOLESE CONFLICT (November 1, 2008)
This article provides a nice breakdown of some of the major periods in the Congolese conflict dating back to the post-independence years, beginning in 1960.
WORLD FOCUS: QUESTIONS ON THE CRISIS IN CONGO (October 31, 2008)
http://pulitzercenter.org/openitem.cfm?id=1194
Michael Kavanagh of the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting just returned from the battlegrounds of eastern Congo. He speaks with Martin Savidge about the roots of the ongoing conflict, the rebel demands, and the worsening humanitarian crisis.

CNN: 1 MILLION FLEE CONGO FIGHTING, UN SAYS (October 31, 2008)
Despite a temporary ceasefire to allow aid to refugees, many aid organizations find the situation in Congo too dangerous to enter for the time being. Aid is reaching the people slowly, but fighting between rebel forces and the Congolese government makes the situation tenuous for both civilians and aid workers.

ABC NEWS: KEY PLAYERS IN THE CONGO CRISIS (October 30, 2008)
http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=6147467
An article describing four of the major players in the conflict that persists in the Congo.

THE IMPACT OF THE RWANDAN GENOCIDE ON CONGO (March 6, 2008)
In this interview with Alison des Forges, senior advisor to the Africa Division of Human Rights Watch, des Forges discusses how and why the Rwandan genocide had an impact on the Congo.

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE – SPECIAL REPORT: CONGO
On this page from the International Rescue Committee, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is featured in a special report. Included on the page are the latest headlines, recent articles, photo essays, and video features. Most of the content deals with the crisis in the Congo or with health/mortality related issues.

INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP: DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=1174&l=1
Crisis Group’s reporting on the DRC has focused on the steps needed to consolidate peace in the post-election period and halt continued insecurity in the east, examining the critical issues of army demobilisation and integration, police reform, economic governance, and transitional justice. The Central Africa team will also work to highlight the root causes of current and potential instability, pressing for concerted international pressure and adoption of a clear, regional strategy to end the violence.

UNICEF: NEWS LISTING FOR CONFLICT IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
This page provides links to recent news articles having to do with conflicts coming out of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

GLOBAL ISSUES: THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
http://www.globalissues.org/article/87/the-democratic-republic-of-congo
This web site looks into global issues that affect everyone and aims to show how most issues are inter-related.

NEW YORK TIMES: CALLING ON CONGO
In this lesson, students learn about the post-election violence in Congo, and the increasing division between the eastern and western regions of the country. They then research, write, and produce a radio news feature on these elections.

**NATURAL RESOURCES IN CONFLICT**

**THE GUARDIAN: THE CONGO'S BLOOD METALS**  (December 25, 2008)
http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/dec/25/congo-coltan
As militias control lucrative natural resources, western consumers can help the increasingly war-torn nation.

**PBS NEWS HOUR: CIVIL WAR IN CONGO TIED TO NATURAL RESOURCES AND ETHNIC RIVALRIES**  (November 11, 2008)
In the Central African nation of Democratic Republic of Congo, a conflict largely financed by mining the metals that make video games and cell phones has driven hundreds of thousands from their homes and spread death and destruction in what the United Nations is calling one of the most dangerous crises on Earth.

**UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE: DEVELOPING AND MANAGING CONGO'S NATURAL RESOURCES** (July 2007)
This USIPeace Briefing was written by Dorina Bekoe, a senior program officer in the Center for Conflict Analysis and Prevention, and Christina Parajon, a program assistant in the Center for Post-Conflict Peace and Stability Operations, at the United States Institute of Peace. The views expressed here are not necessarily those of the Institute, which does not advocate specific policies. The United States Institute of Peace is an independent, nonpartisan institution established and funded by Congress. Its goals are to help prevent and resolve violent international conflicts, promote post-conflict stability and development, and increase conflict management capacity, tools, and intellectual capital worldwide. The Institute does this by empowering others with knowledge, skills, and resources, as well as by directly engaging in peacebuilding efforts around the globe.

**UN SECURITY COUNCIL GLOBAL POLICY FORUM: DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**
http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/kongidx.htm
This article describes how the Democratic Republic of the Congo’s abundance of natural resources has fueled the conflicts that have ravaged the country for decades.

**PULITZER CENTER ON CRISIS REPORTING - IN FOCUS: CONGO'S BLOODY COLTAN**
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3OWi1ZGn4uM
Produced by the Pulitzer Center, "Congo's Bloody Coltan" is a quick glimpse at coltan's role in Congo's civil war. It was featured on "Foreign Exchange with Fareed Zakaria" in the Fall of 2006.

- Diamonds -

**CONFLICT DIAMONDS**
http://www.diamondfacts.org/index-2.html
Most people are unaware of the role diamonds play in bringing real benefits to people in the countries around the world where diamonds are sourced. Nowhere is this more evident than in Africa. It is also in Africa that this same resource has been used to fund conflict. In 2000, a coalition of governments, non-governmental organizations and the diamond industry worked together to
address this issue. In 2002, they established the Kimberley Process Certification System, a UN-backed process that has virtually eliminated the trade in conflict diamonds. Today, over 99% of the world's supply of diamonds is from sources free of conflict. Diamondfacts.org is dedicated to presenting the facts about conflict diamonds, along with how diamonds are driving economic growth and prosperity in countries around the world.

WORLD VISION: CONFLICT DIAMONDS AND THE CONGO
http://www.worldvision.org/content.nsf/about/Congo
Starting in the late 1980’s, diamonds have funded human rights abuses and fueled brutal civil wars in several African countries, including Sierra Leone, Liberia, Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Today, diamonds no longer fund conflict in these countries. Except one. In the DRC, diamonds are among several natural resources that continue to fund and fuel conflict, particularly in the country’s eastern region. In 2000, World Vision helped found the U.S. Campaign for the Elimination of Conflict Diamonds.

NEW YORK TIMES: AFRICA'S DIAMOND WARS
Across vast stretches of Africa, diamonds fuel war. Diamonds are so lucrative for predatory governments and marauding rebels that war has become a useful cover for hugely profitable smuggling enterprises. But for millions of Africans who happen to get in the way, diamonds are agents of terror.

YOUTH

UNICEF: DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/drcongo_636.html
A peace accord in 2003 ended a vicious civil war that claimed the lives of more than three million people. However, armed conflict has continued in pockets of the country, especially in the east. Severe poverty, insecurity, lack of basic social services, and sexual violence all continue to take a heavy toll on children.

THE CONGO CHILDREN TRUST
http://www.congochildrentrust.org/
Congo Children Trust is a UK based charity set up in 2007 to support children living in poverty in the streets in DR Congo.

BBC: CONGOLESE CHILDREN LIVING ROUGH
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/spl/hi/pop_ups/06/africa_congolesse_children_living_rough/html/1.stm
This photo essay documents the day-to-day struggles faced by children living in the Congo.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR: IN CONGO, SUPERSTITIONS BREED HOMELESS CHILDREN
http://www.csmonitor.com/2006/1130/p12s01-woaf.html
The number of street children in Congo's capital has swelled to around 20,000. Many have been shunned as 'witches.'

CNN - FACES OF WAR: CHILDREN IN CONGO HOSPITAL (November 3, 2008)
Rebel violence has been the cause of both an increase in child injuries and a decrease in available food and general aid to refugees in the Congo.
Child Soldiers

CONGO'S LOST CHILDREN (February 14, 2008)
http://dailynightly.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/02/14/664582.aspx
NBC’s Ann Curry writes about her experience interviewing children recruited as soldiers during the conflict in the Congo. Included on the page are links to a photo slideshow and video presentation.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR: RANKS OF CHILD SOLDIERS SWELL AGAIN IN CONGO (September 19, 2007)
Fresh fighting in the east has ended a three-year lull in using child fighters. Reporter Scott Baldauf shares his experience of seeing child soldiers in Congo.

BBC: BLEAK FUTURE FOR CONGO'S CHILD SOLDIERS (July 25, 2006)
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/5213996.stm
The use of child soldiers is one of the darkest legacies of the conflicts that have ravaged the Congo. This report discusses the practice and links to video and audio clips as well as other stories on child soldiers in the DR Congo.

FORMER CHILD SOLDIERS RECLAIM THEIR LOST CHILDHOOD (March 30, 2005)
http://www.unicef.org/emerg/index_25818.html
Many former child soldiers from the DR Congo have had the opportunity to attend UNICEF supported reintegration centers as they begin their paths to recovery. Included on this website is a link to a video report from one such center by UNICEF’s Sarah Crowe.

CHILD SOLDIER RELIEF
http://childsoldierrelief.com/about/
Child Soldier Relief operates as an information clearinghouse for the dissemination of news, publications, legislation, treaties, events, and media, including feature films, books, documentaries, television shows - all relating to the topic of child soldiers. Our open forum format encourages public dialogue on any relevant topic.

A LONG WAY GONE BY ISHMAEL BEAH (Former child soldier) (Book)
From the Minneapolis Star Tribune: In place of a text that has every right to be a diatribe against Sierra Leone, globalization or even himself, Beah has produced a book of such self-effacing humanity that refugees, political fronts and even death squads resolve themselves back into the faces of mothers, fathers and siblings. "A Long Way Gone" transports us into the lives of thousands of children whose lives have been altered by war, and it does so with a genuine and disarmingly emotional force.
*It should be noted that this book does not take place in Central Africa, but rather serves as an example of the life of a child soldier.

HUMANITARIAN AID

U.S. AID: SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
http://www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-saharan_africa/countries/drcongo/
The installation of an elected government in 2007 presents the greatest opportunity since independence for a stable, representative democracy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. However, life expectancy in DRC is only 46 years, and nearly 83 percent of all Congolese have had either only primary schooling or no schooling at all. The new government is now working to build institutions that can meet citizens' needs, while dealing with the interrelated structural problems of rampant corruption, inadequate infrastructure and human resources, and a limited ability to raise and
manage revenues. USAID programs seek to end the ongoing conflict in the east and promote the country’s emergence as a coherent entity that serves all Congolese.

FRIENDS OF THE CONGO
http://www.friendsofthecongo.org/index.php
The Friends of the Congo (FOTC) is a 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt advocacy organization based in Washington, DC. The FOTC was established at the behest of Congolese human rights and grassroots institutions in 2004, to work together to bring about peaceful and lasting change in the Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly Zaire. The Friends of the Congo is led by people of African ancestry and others of goodwill. With strong support from Friends of the Congo throughout the globe, the vast human and natural resource potential of the Democratic Republic of Congo can serve as an instrument to meet the great needs of the people of Congo and Africa.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL: FIGHTING IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO CAUSES HUMANITARIAN TRAGEDY (November 11, 2008)
In response to the humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Amnesty International is urging the international community to: make no more excuses, reinforce MONUC now, create safe corridors for humanitarian aid throughout North Kivu, and put concerted international pressure on the fighting forces to halt all human rights abuses.

ENOUGH PROJECT: CONGO
http://www.enoughproject.org/conflict_areas/eastern_congo
The Enough Project is helping to build a permanent constituency to prevent genocide and crimes against humanity. Too often, the United States and the larger international community have taken a wait-and-see approach to crimes against humanity. This is unconscionable. In framing its policy prescriptions, Enough utilizes a “3P” approach: promoting peace, protecting civilians, and punishing perpetrators. Enough also focuses on a fourth and all-encompassing “P,” prevention, and is working to develop the policies, tools, and investments that can best be brought to bear to prevent crimes against humanity and genocide now and in the future.

RAISE HOPE FOR CONGO
http://www.raisemycare.org/
To protect and empower Congolese women and girls, the RAISE Hope for Congo campaign works to: Raise awareness about the crisis, the resulting widespread sexual violence against women and girls, and the solutions that are necessary to end the conflict, increase news coverage of the conflict in eastern Congo, build a movement of activists who can advocate effectively for change, influence and change policy on the Congo through promotion of the 4Ps – Peace, Protection, Punishment, and Prevention – the four ingredients necessary to END the mass violence against women in Congo.

CONGO GLOBAL ACTION COALITION
http://www.congoglobalaction.org/
Congo Global Action is a global network of concerned organizations and individuals who care about the Democratic Republic of the Congo and are committed to working to help the Congolese. The Congo Global Action Coalition works together to plan grassroots events, run advocacy campaigns, and educate the public about the dire crisis in the DR Congo.

ENVIRONMENT
THE JANE GOODALL INSTITUTE: COMMUNITY-CENTERED CONSERVATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
http://www.janegoodall.org/africa-programs/programs/CCCDRC.asp
The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) launched a community-centered conservation program in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 2004. This was the result of a historic partnership between the organizations founded by two of the world's leading primatologists — Jane Goodall and late Diane Fossey.

GREENPEACE: CARVING UP THE CONGO
http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/international/press/reports/carving-up-the-congo-exec.pdf
This is a report prepared by Greenpeace detailing the destruction of Congolese rainforest. The World Bank has a taxation program in place that takes revenue gained from taxes on logged land to reinvest in development projects. This report examines to what extent, if at all, this is happening, and the repercussions it holds for the health of the rainforests.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: ENVIRONMENTAL PROFILE
http://rainforests.mongabay.com/20zaire.htm
This report offers an overview of the state of the environment in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Included are statistics and links to recent environmental articles, most of which cover wildlife and rainforest related issues.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS SERVICE: ILLEGAL LOGGERS MUTILATING CONGOLESE FORESTS (February 28, 2007)
Delegates from the Congolese government, donor community and civil society [met in March 2007] in Brussels to discuss the sustainable management of the forests of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Millions of acres of the second largest rainforest in the world after the Amazon are being illegally logged, non-governmental organizations report.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS NETWORK: TWO-THIRDS OF CONGO FOREST BASIN COULD DISAPPEAR (December 15, 2006)
http://www.enn.com/top_stories/article/5658
Two-thirds of the forests in the Congo River Basin could disappear within 50 years if logging and mineral exploitation continues at current rates, environmental group WWF said in a report.

GENERAL RESOURCES ON CENTRAL AFRICA/GREAT LAKES REGION

ALLAFRICA: CENTRAL AFRICA NEWS
http://allafrica.com/centralafrica/
This site provides links to the latest news stories coming out of the countries that make up Central Africa.

PBS: GREAT LAKES
http://www.pbs.org/wnet/africa/explore/greatlakes/greatlakes_overview_lo.html
This website allows for exploration of the regions and countries that make up Central Africa.

INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP: CENTRAL AFRICA
The scene of numerous violent wars causing massive human suffering in the mid to late 1990's, the region of Central Africa has been mired in armed conflicts that have defied the international community’s capacity for crisis response and management. Our most recent reports and briefings are listed below. Articles, op-eds, speeches, and media releases can be found under the media section.

IRIN: GREAT LAKES AND CENTRAL AFRICA
IRIN (Integrated Regional Information Networks) provides humanitarian news and analysis and is part of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, but its services are editorially independent. Its reports do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations and its agencies, nor its member states. This page provides news focused on the Great Lakes Region and Central Africa.

HOUSE OF COMMONS LIBRARY - THE AFRICA GREAT LAKES REGION: AN END TO CONFLICT?
http://www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/rp2006/rp06-051.pdf
Since the early 1990s the African Great Lakes region --defined here as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania -- has been convulsed by genocide, civil wars, inter-state conflict, and flawed democratic transitions. With UN-sponsored peace processes underway in DRC and Burundi and projects of state and societal reconstruction apparently advancing in Rwanda and Uganda, there are hopes that the epoch of violence and exploitation in the African Great Lakes region is finally drawing to an end.

IN AND OUT OF FOCUS: IMAGES FROM CENTRAL AFRICA (1885-1960)
http://www.nmafa.si.edu/exhibits/focus/intro.html
This exhibition put on by the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art is comprised of images taken throughout the period of colonization in Central Africa. The exhibition explores how photography was used as a means to create racial stereotypes of Africans and how it acted as an important medium in recording colonial events.

BURUNDI

NEW YORK TIMES: BURUNDI
This country profile includes reference material, web resources, multimedia, and recent and archival news about Burundi from The New York Times.

CIA WORLD FACTBOOK: BURUNDI

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL: HUMAN RIGHTS IN REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI
http://www.amnesty.org/en/region/burundi
Listed on this Amnesty International site are links to several articles on the state of human rights in Burundi.

IRIN (INTEGRATED REGIONAL INFORMATION NETWORKS): BURUNDI
IRIN provides humanitarian news and analysis and is part of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, but its services are editorially independent. Its reports do not necessarily reflect
the views of the United Nations and its agencies, nor its member states. This page provides news focused on Burundi.

INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP: BURUNDI
http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=1172&l=1
After a decade of civil war and a three-year transition, Burundi held its first successful post-war democratic elections in August of 2005. The elections are just one, albeit important step, toward lasting peace. For the first time since independence, a violent dispute over power among Hutu parties has eclipsed the traditional Hutu-Tutsi interethnic conflict as the elections left some key political figures with uncertain futures. To ensure the continuation of the peace process the Burundian government must reach out to both the Hutu and Tutsi parties that lost in the elections while simultaneously continuing the peace building process by establishing mechanisms for justice and reconciliation, bringing the last remaining rebel group - the FNL - into the fold, and building institutions of good governance. This site features the ICG’s latest reports on Burundi.

ONUB: UN MISSION IN BURUNDI
Having determined that the situation in Burundi continued to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region and acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, the Security Council, by its resolution 1545 of 21 May 2004, decided to establish the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) in order to support and help to implement the efforts undertaken by Burundians to restore lasting peace and bring about national reconciliation, as provided under the Arusha Agreement.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE: THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO
http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2825.htm

CIA WORLD FACTBOOK: REPUBLIC OF CONGO

NEW YORK TIMES: REPUBLIC OF CONGO
This country profile includes reference material, web resources, multimedia, and recent and archival news about the Republic of Congo from The New York Times.

WORLD BANK: REPUBLIC OF CONGO
The Republic of Congo joined the World Bank in 1963. Since then, World Bank assistance through 34 projects has focused on a forward agenda aimed at reviving economic growth (with adequate attention to both the sequencing of reforms and social policies) and tackling governance issues (both to improve service delivery and to diminish opportunities for rent-seeking behaviors).

CULTURE OF REPUBLIC OF CONGO
http://www.everyculture.com/Bo-Co/Republic-of-Congo.html
This website provides an extensive background on the culture of the Republic of Congo, spanning topics such as history, economy, social stratification, family life, and the arts.
HISTORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO
http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?historyid=ad35
A brief history of the Republic of Congo, beginning during the era of colonial rule in 1891.

RWANDA

NEW YORK TIMES: RWANDA
This country profile includes reference material, web resources, multimedia, and recent and archival news about Rwanda from The New York Times.

BBC – RWANDA: HOW THE GENOCIDE HAPPENED
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/1288230.stm
This article discusses what lead up to the devastating violence between the Tutsi and Hutu people of Rwanda, which resulted in the death of 800,000 Tutsis over the course of 100 days.

CIA WORLD FACTBOOK: RWANDA

PBS WIDE ANGLE - RWANDA: A NATION RECOVERING AND REBUILDING
Rwanda has a tragic history and continues to struggle to rebuild its economy to secure a prosperous future for its people. In this lesson students will learn about the history of Rwanda and the genocide that killed 800,000 men, women, and children. Students will also analyze information from various Internet resources, including Web-based video and audio resources. Finally, students will use Rwanda as a case study to explore the six primary economic functions of a market government. Students will develop an understanding of the steps Rwanda’s government is taking to secure a stronger economic future through increased educational opportunity, adapting to the changing role of women, and taking advantage of new possibilities for exporting products. This lesson has components that cover Economics, English, and History.

FRONTLINE: GHOSTS OF RWANDA
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/ghosts/
How could it happen that America and the West stood aside and did nothing to stop the slaughter of 800,000 human beings over 100 days? On the 10th anniversary of the 1994 Rwandan genocide, this is the story of those who participated in the world’s failure to act, those few who stood up and tried to save lives and all who are still deeply haunted by what they did.

INTERVIEW WITH ALISON DES FORGES
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/ghosts/interviews/desforges.html
She is a historian of African history, specializing in Rwanda, and a board member of Human Rights Watch. Less than two weeks into the killing, she met with officials in the U.S. State Department and National Security Council (NSC) and lobbied for their help. "We were not asking for U.S. troops. … It was clear to us that there was no way that the U.S. was going to commit troops to Rwanda. We were looking instead for a strengthened U.N. presence and U.S. support for that." In this interview, she discusses the atmosphere of those Washington meetings, and their sole outcome -- a White House press release condemning the genocide leaders: "[The release] had relatively little effect, because it was followed by nothing any more substantial. I believe it was one of several things which influenced [the killers] to begin controlling the killing [so] that it would be less visible to the outside world. So we might not
have actually done anything except drive it underground." This interview was conducted on Oct. 1, 2003.

THE IMPACT OF THE RWANDAN GENOCIDE ON CONGO (March 6, 2008)
In this interview with Alison des Forges, senior advisor to the Africa Division of Human Rights Watch, des Forges discusses how and why the Rwandan genocide had an impact on the Congo.

COUNCIL ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS – SHAME: RATIONALIZING WESTERN APATHY ON RWANDA
Alan J. Kuperman plays word games when he asserts that President Clinton could not have known of the "attempted genocide" of Tutsi in Rwanda until April 20, 1994 -- two weeks into the slaughter -- because the press, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and the U.N. did not call it a genocide ("Rwanda in Retrospect," January/February 2000).

THE RWANDA COMMEMORATION PROJECT: GENOCIDE IN OUR TIME
http://www.wel.american.edu/humright/center/rwanda/lessonplan.pdf?rd=1
This lesson plan for a 1.5 to 2 hour lesson to teach high school students about the genocide in Rwanda was created to be taught in conjunction with the UN day of reflection by American University Washington College of Law Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

UGANDA

NEW YORK TIMES: UGANDA
This country profile includes reference material, web resources, multimedia, and recent and archival news about Uganda from The New York Times.

CIA WORLD FACTBOOK: UGANDA

UGANDA: BASIC INFORMATION
http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0108066.html
Included on this website is basic information regarding history and geography as well as a variety of statistics covering a multitude of subjects.

CULTURE OF UGANDA
http://www.everyculture.com/To-Z/Uganda.html
This website provides an extensive background on the culture of Uganda spanning topics such as history, economy, social stratification, family life, and the arts.

THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE: UGANDA
http://www.theirc.org/where/the_irc_in_uganda.html
This site details the International Rescue Committee’s (IRC) mission in Uganda and offers links to current news and multimedia concerning Uganda.

WOMEN OF UGANDA NETWORK
http://www.wougnet.org/cms/index.php
Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET) is a non-governmental organization initiated in May 2000 by several women's organizations in Uganda to develop the use of information and
communication technologies (ICTs) among women as tools to share information and address issues collectively.

LITERATURE

CONGOLESE LITERATURE AT A GLANCE

LITERARY LESSON PLANS
Curriculum guide to *Heart of Darkness*
Five activities and handouts. This 16-page printable document requires Adobe Reader or compatible application for access.

Vocabulary guide and writing assignment from *Heart of Darkness*

Discussion questions for *The Poisonwood Bible*
http://www.kingsolver.com/guides/poisonwood_bible.asp

NON FICTION

- Congo-

*King Leopold's Ghost* (Adam Hochschild, 1999)
From *Literary Review Magazine* - Robin Blackburn: This book provides a wonderfully vivid account of an episode in the modern history of Africa that was tragic and terrible.... *King Leopold's Ghost* is an exemplary piece of history-writing: urgent, vivid and compelling.

*The Congo Cables* (Madeleine G. Kalb, 1982)
From *Foreign Affairs*: For the Congo buff and even the general reader, a fascinating return to the scene, via a multitude of sources and particularly a batch of State Department cables newly unearthed through the Freedom of Information Act. The moral: despite the enormous alterations in the nature of international relations since 1960 (especially the political predominance of the Third World in the United Nations), cold-war emotions and reactions in the early 1960s have a contemporary ring.

*The Assassination of Lubumba* (Ludo De Witte, 2003)
From the *Los Angeles Times* - Ronan Bennett. . . a vivid and utterly compelling account of a nation strangled at birth by the West. It would be satisfying to report, 40 years after Lumumba's murder, that the Congolese are now at last being allowed to develop their country in a way that suited their needs. But the truth is that "after" still equals "before": Big business, foreign armies and an array of stooges are still trampling over the unfortunate population to be first in line to plunder and enrich themselves. If you want to know who to thank for this, look no further than De Witte's *The Assassination of Lumumba*.

*In the Footsteps of Mr. Kurtz: Living on the Brink of Disaster in Mobutu's Congo* (Michela Wrong, 2002)
From the publisher: In a country rich with diamonds, gold, copper, uranium, oil, and timber, the average worker was reduced to a living income of $120 a year under the rule of Mobutu. From 1965 to 1997, his regime bled the country of some $4 billion. This is both a brilliant journalistic account and a grimly humorous story set amid the heart of the apocalypse—a nation plunged back to the Iron Age, whose citizens miraculously continue to survive.
The African Stakes of the Congo War (edited by Dr. John Clark, 2004)
From Amazon.com: The African Stakes in the Congo War analyzes the Congo conflict by looking at the roles played by various states and factors in the conflict. Part I introduces the conflict by showing the historical and regional context of the war. Part II examines those states and groups that worked to support the Kaliba regime; Part III examines the rebel groups working to overthrow Kabila and those intervening on their behalf. Part IV looks at the role of supposedly neutral states such as South Africa and looks at the social and economic effects of the war by examining trans-state factors such as rebel groups, arms trading, and economic consequences. The collection includes both African and US/UK scholars, and covers the recent transfer of power from Laurent to Joseph Kabila.

All Things Must Fight to Live: Stories of War and Deliverance in Congo (Bryan Mealer, 2008)
From Amazon.com: A foreign correspondent’s gripping account of his experiences in Congo, told through the long scope of the country’s dark and brutal history. After covering a brutal war that claimed four million lives, journalist Bryan Mealer takes readers on a harrowing two-thousand-mile journey through Congo, where gun-toting militia still rape and kill with impunity. Amid burned-out battlefields, the dark corners of the forests, and the high savanna, where thousands have been massacred and quickly forgotten, Mealer searches for signs that Africa’s most troubled nation will soon rise from ruin. At once illuminating and startling, All Things Must Fight to Live is a searing portrait of an emerging country devastated by a decade of war and horror and now facing almost impossible odds at recovery, as well as an unflinching look at the darkness and greed that exists in the hearts of men. It is nonfiction at its finest - powerful, moving, necessary.

The History of Congo (Ch. Didier Gondola, 2002)
From Google Book Search: This book begins with a survey of Congo’s early history, when diverse peoples such as the Luba, the Kuba, and the Nilotic inhabited the area, and continues by tracing the country’s history through the Belgian period of colonization and the dictatorships of Mobutu and Kabila.

-Rwanda-

We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will be Killed With Our Families: Stories from Rwanda (Philip Gourevitch, 1998)
From the publisher (Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction.): In April 1994, the Rwandan government called upon everyone in the Hutu majority to kill each member of the Tutsi minority, and over the next three months 800,000 Tutsis perished in the most unambiguous case of genocide since Hitler’s war against the Jews. Philip Gourevitch’s haunting work is an anatomy of the war in Rwanda, a vivid history of the tragedy’s background, and an unforgettable account of its aftermath. One of the most acclaimed books of the year, this account will endure as a chilling document of our time.

Leave None to Tell the Story (Alison des Forges)
A study written by Alison des Forges and produced by the Human Rights Watch detailing the atrocities committed during the genocide in Rwanda.

Machete Season: The Killers in Rwanda Speak (Jean Hatzfeld)
From Powells.com: A veteran foreign correspondent reports on the results of his interviews with nine Hutus who helped to kill 50,000 out of their 59,000 Tutsi neighbors. This testimony of the Rwanda horror reconsiders the foundation of human morality and ethics.
**An Ordinary Man: An Autobiography** (Paul Rusesabagina, inspiration for 2004’s *Hotel Rwanda*)

From Barnes & Noble: Paul Rusesabagina is a most extraordinary "ordinary man." During the 1994 Rwandan massacres, this humble hotel manager maneuvered successfully to save the lives of his 1,268 countrymen. Others were not so lucky: Beyond the Kigali hotel walls, approximately 800,000 were slaughtered, most of them hacked to death by machete. As the son of a Hutu father and Tutsi mother, Rusesabagina grew up keenly aware of relations, hostile and otherwise, between these two groups. His recollections show how this seemingly spontaneous genocide reflected growing conflicts in Rwandan politics and society. It should be no surprise that his heroic personal story became the inspiration for the film *Hotel Rwanda*. A powerful story of bravery in the midst of madness.

**FICTION**

**The Poisonwood Bible** (Barbara Kingsolver)

From *Book: The Magazine for the Reading Life* - Emily Burns

This story of Nathan Price, a Baptist missionary to the Belgian Congo in 1959, on the eve of Congolese independence, is a deep, multifaceted narrative. Told in alternating chapters by Nathan's wife and four daughters, it's the compelling story of a wife stretched beyond her limits, of daughters struggling to grow up in an alien environment, and of the Congo's development. Reminiscent of Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, it is a story of the insanity that can befall a white man set on bending Africa's landscape and people to his own will. Kingsolver is a great talent, ably using African languages in her prose while developing a story with all the elements of a true classic.

**Heart of Darkness** (Joseph Conrad)

From the publisher: A masterpiece of twentieth-century writing, *Heart of Darkness* (1902) exposes the tenuous fabric that holds "civilization" together and the brutal horror at the center of European colonialism. Conrad's crowning achievement recounts Marlow's physical and psychological journey deep into the heart of the Belgian Congo in search of the mysterious trader Kurtz.

**A Bend in the River** (V. S. Naipul)

From the inside flap: In the "brilliant novel" (*The New York Times*) V.S. Naipaul takes us deeply into the life of one man—an Indian who, uprooted by the bloody tides of Third World history, has come to live in an isolated town at the bend of a great river in a newly independent African nation. Naipaul gives us the most convincing and disturbing vision yet of what happens in a place caught between the dangerously alluring modern world and its own tenacious past and traditions.

**The Catastrophist** (Ronan Bennett)

From Amazon.com: Short-listed for the Whitbread Novel Award, "The Catastrophist" is a haunting novel set in the politically charged landscape of the Belgian Congo just before independence. At its heart is the passion between novelist James Gillespie and the fiery idealistic journalist Ines, whom he follows to Africa as their affair begins to fray. They are as unlike as lovers can be; he is willfully apolitical and desperate for her love, while she is obsessed with the unfolding drama, caught up in history, hero-worship, and soon, a new passion. In a country that will self-destruct upon giving birth to itself, Gillespie is plunged into violence and betrayal, and moved by love to a final act of nobility. In his ravishing U.S. debut, Ronan Bennett delivers heart-stopping suspense, profound moral questioning, and a searing depiction of a doomed love.
Facing the Congo: A Modern Day Journey into the Heart of Darkness (Jeffery Tayler)
From the inside flap: Faced with an identity crisis in his work and his life, seasoned traveler and journalist Jeffrey Tayler made a bold decision. He would leave behind his mundane existence in Moscow to re-create the legendary British explorer Henry Stanley’s trip down the Congo in a dugout canoe, stocked with food, medicine, and even a gun-toting guide. But once his tiny boat pushed off the banks of this mysterious river, Tayler realized he was in a place where maps and supplies would have no bearing on his survival. As Tayler navigates this immense waterway, he encounters a land of smothering heat and intense rains, wary villagers, corrupt officials and dead-eyed soldiers demanding bribes, jungle animals, mosquitoes, and, surprisingly, breathtaking natural beauty.

FILM

My Congo (2004, documentary)
Congo only hits the news when war or rebellion strike once again. Yet the inhabitants have their own stories and these are no happy tales. In this documentary, a freelance camera crew stays with several groups over the span of a month. The result is a Congo diary, a black story without white people or voice-over. Commentary comes from Tati en André, jobless, but trying to make a living with their music. They wrote some songs describing the surrealist fate of their fellow countrymen: “Our head in the ground, our feet in the air, that’s how we march through life…” “Fellow countrymen have houses abroad, money in foreign banks. Here our schools are empty, hospitals have no medicine…It’s the people who want to buy heaven who have lost their mind to their money…” And it’s true: for the Congolese people the world has turned upside down. Everyday the inhabitants of one of the (potentially) richest countries in the world face a heroic battle to survive. This film about education, health care and transportation portrays the lifestyle that many Congolese endure everyday.
Teachers can order this film for approximately 40 euros (which includes postage to the US)
e-mail : bevrijdingsfilms@telenet.be www.bevrijdingsfilms.be

The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo (2007, documentary)
From the official movie site: Since 1998 a brutal war has been raging in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Over 4 million people have died. And there are the uncountable casualties: the many tens of thousands of women and girls who have been systematically kidnapped, raped, mutilated and tortured by soldiers from both foreign militias and the Congolese army. The world knows nothing of these women. Their stories have never been told. They suffer and die in silence. In The Greatest Silence these brave women finally speak.

The Last King of Scotland (2006)
From All Movie Guide, by Jason Buchanan: Director Kevin MacDonald teams with screenwriter Jeremy Brock to adapt Giles Foden's novel detailing the brutal reign of Ugandan dictator Idi Amin as seen through the eyes of his personal physician. James McAvoy stars as the doctor who slowly realizes that he is trapped in an inescapable nightmare, and Forest Whitaker assumes the role of the notorious despot.

King Leopold's Ghost (2006, documentary)
From the official movie site: Starring Don Cheadle, Alfre Woodard, and James Cromwell, King Leopold's Ghost is a shocking tale of the richest country in Africa, claimed by the rapacious King Leopold II of Belgium. Under his greedy reign, the Congo suffered unimaginable horrors. The epic is filled with fascinating adventurers, European, American, and Congolese: a story brought to life with a
treasure trove of archival materials – letters, secret reports, and photographs. Filmed in the Congo, Belgium, and the UK, in the U.S. and Canada, and researched over four years, it is a production of international significance and vital relevance to today. Ten million people died under Leopold’s reign, four million more in the last five years. Why? The film, brought up to present day, demonstrates that “past” is present.

*Congo River, Beyond Darkness* (2005, documentary)
From wikipedia.org: The film takes us from the mouth to the source of the largest river bassin in the world, that of the Congo River. All along its 4371 km, we discover places that have seen the turbulent history of this country, while archives remind us of the mythological figures that created its destiny: explorers such as Livingstone and Stanley, the colonial kings Léopold II and Baudouin I and leaders such as Lumumba, Mobutu and Kabila.

*Swellmes in April* (2005)
From reelzchannel.com: A Hutu soldier (Idris Elba) tries to get his family to safety during the Rwandan genocide, while years later his brother stands trial for his actions.

*Hotel Rwanda* (2004)
From the official movie site (http://www.unitedartists.com/hotelrwanda/main.html): As his country descends into madness, five-star hotel manager Paul Rusesabagina sets out to save his family. But when he sees the world will not intervene in the massacre of minority Tutsis, he finds the courage to open his hotel to over 1,200 refugees. Now, with a rabid militia at the gates, he has only his wits and words to keep them alive another hour, another day.

*Congo: White King, Red Rubber, Black Death* (2003, documentary)
From IMDb (www.imdb.com): A documentary about how King Leopold II of Belgium acquired Congo as a colony and exploited it by reign of terror.

*Lumumba* (2000)
From IMDb (www.imdb.com): The true story of the rise to power and brutal assassination of the formerly vilified and later redeemed leader of the independent Congo, Patrice Lumumba. Using newly discovered historical evidence, Haitian-born and later Congo-raised writer and director Raoul Peck renders an emotional and tautly woven account of the mail clerk and beer salesman with a flair for oratory and an uncompromising belief in the capacity of his homeland to build a prosperous nation independent of its former Belgium overlords. Lumumba emerges here as the heroic sacrificial lamb dubiously portrayed by the international media and led to slaughter by commercial and political interests in Belgium, the United States, the international community, and Lumumba's own administration; a true story of political intrigue and murder where political entities, captains of commerce, and the military dovetail in their quest for economic and political hegemony.

*Mobutu: King of Zaire* (1999, documentary)
From the Sundance Channel website (http://www.sundancechannel.com/films/500010283): From the 1960s to the 1990s, the Congo was ruled ruthlessly by Mobutu Sese Seko, one of modern Africa’s most colorful and homicidal despots. Famed for his signature leopard-skin cap, lavish lifestyle and political savvy, Mobutu, a former journalist and aide to African nationalist leader Patrice Lumumba, rose to power after Belgium granted the Congo independence in 1960. Thierry Michel’s engrossing documentary chronicles Mobutu’s brutal reign with a wealth of archive film clips, while also revealing the Western powers that enabled him.
MULTIMEDIA

WORLD FOCUS: RAPE AS WEAPON OF WAR IN D.R. CONGO (December 16, 2008)  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkaChX3PEHA  
War has raged through the Democratic Republic of Congo for more than a decade - it has been called the deadliest conflict since World War II. The United Nations estimates that 200,000 women and girls have been raped in that time, some victims as young as three years old. This video clip from World Focus takes a look at the use of rape as a weapon of war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

PULITZER CENTER ON CRISIS REPORTING – CONGO: THE FORGOTTEN WAR (November 19, 2008)  
http://pulitzercenter.org/openitem.cfm?id=1219  
The conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo is threatening to become a full scale war. Last week, rebel commanders seized an army base and the headquarters of Congo's famous Virunga National Park. The latest round of fighting has seen a dramatic rise in the number of rapes. Some 200,000 people have been displaced since August, according to the World Food Program. That's in addition to the nearly 1.5 million people already displaced since 2007. The so-called "forgotten war" isn't over. We'll look into the history of the crisis in the Congo today.

NPR: REBEL GENERAL DEFENDS ASSAULTS IN EASTERN CONGO (November 3, 2008)  
General Laurent Nkunda feels optimistic about the chances of success for his cause, although the Congolese people who must live with the results of his actions continue to suffer.

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES: WAR RESUMES IN NORTH KIVU (October 29, 2008)  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nHWrcx5l0l4  
Hundreds of thousands of people have fled fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo's North Kivu province since late August when fighting resumed. Many of them were already living in camps. Repeated displacement has left them in great need of food, access to water, shelter and medical care.

CHANNEL 4 NEWS: HORROR OF CONGO’S FORGOTTEN WAR (March 27, 2008)  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_ois9rQNvE  
The war formally ended five years ago - but the fighting didn't. It just carried on, ignored by much of the world. One shocking statistic: every single month 45,000 people are killed. The Democratic Republic of Congo remains one of the most dangerous and isolated places on earth. The accompanying video contains photographs and film which offer a rare insight into Africa's forgotten war. They show the suffering of civilians and the use of rape as a weapon of war - against children as young as two.

LOCAL RESOURCES

CHILDCARE WORLDWIDE: UGANDAN ORPHAN’S CHOIR  
At Childcare Worldwide, our unique programs not only help feed hungry children and their families, they also help children receive an education that leads to employment. Our goal is to help children survive and succeed. The Ugandan Orphans Choir will delight your heart as they share their story of
hope. Joy radiates from the face of the children while they bring Africa to you through song and dance.
Childcare Worldwide is located in Bellingham, WA. On their site you will find a schedule of the Choir’s upcoming Western Washington performances, the closest of which will take place in Everett on February 8th.

**CITY STREAM – RWANDA: JOURNEY OUT OF FEAR**
http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/results.asp?Keyword=inspiration&SearchType=true
*Rwanda: Journey Out of Fear* documents the story of a Seattle area mother of two whose world is turned upside down by an unexpected divorce. In the midst of her personal turmoil, she is inspired by stories of survival among widows in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide. She travels to Rwanda, then quits her job and launches a nonprofit called Rwanda Partners, a group committed to connecting resources and hearts in an effort to rebuild shattered lives. *Rwanda: Journey Out of Fear* is the inspirational story of what one person can do when one seeks to move beyond one’s own pain.

**RWANDA PARTNERS**
http://www.rwandapartners.org
Rwanda Partners is a Christian non-profit organization dedicated to working for Rwanda’s healing and reconciliation. Since 2004 Rwanda Partners has been working directly with the Rwandan people by developing and implementing programs that promote reconciliation and poverty reduction amongst Rwanda’s vulnerable poor.

**SEATTLE P.I.: SEATTLE SEVENTH-GRADER OFFERS HELP TO RWANDANS**
(September 20, 2007)
A 12-year old student at the Seattle Girls’ School, Jessica Markowitz has taken the initiative to raise money to help girls in Rwanda affected by the genocide.
Here is the link to Jessica’s organization, Richard's Rwanda:
http://www.richardsrwanda.org/Index.htm
Richard’s Rwanda is a non-profit working to create bonding between girls in America and Rwanda, build peace, and look into the window of Rwanda to empower the future leaders of the world.

**ROTARY CLUB OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND: UGANDA CLEAN WATER PROJECT**
A major initiative of the Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island for the 2007-2008 year is to provide clean water for citizens of the Kaberamaido and adjacent Districts in Uganda. With a goal of drilling 50+ deep wells during the next three years, the club has launched a unique effort to enlist the financial support of a number of other Rotary Clubs both in this area and across the US, churches, organizations, and individuals.

**Key Terms and People:**
The Democratic Republic of Congo
(From Raise Hope for Congo an Enough Campaign, and with the Center for Attention for American Progress)

People

Doss, Alan: Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; the highest-ranking UN official in the country.

Kagame, Paul: President of Rwanda. Former leader of the Rwandan Patriotic Front, a rebel movement which took power in Rwanda following the 1994 genocide, despite 800,000 of their fellow Tutsis being killed.

Kabila, Joseph: President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In December 2006, Kabila became Congo’s first democratically elected president since independence.

Kabila, Laurent-Désiré (deceased): Former Congolese president. He was assassinated in January 2001 and replaced by his son, Joseph.

King Leopold II (deceased): King of Belgium. In the 1880s, King Leopold turned Congo into his own private colony and began exploiting its natural resources. His brutal rule resulted in the deaths of some 10 million Congolese.

Malu Malu, Apollinaire: Coordinator of the Amani program, the peace plan for eastern Congo.

Nkunda, Laurent: Congolese general leading a rebellion in eastern Congo.

Sese Seko, Mobutu: Deceased dictator who ruled Congo from 1965 to 1997. While the United States supported Mobutu as a Cold War ally, he plundered Congo’s natural resources and amassed vast personal wealth.

Armed Groups

A wide and confusing array of armed groups operate in eastern Congo, a region where government as we know it has largely collapsed. Several armed groups with different motivations and interests have turned the eastern Congo into a battlefield where everyday citizens, especially women, are at risk.

National Congress for the Defense of the People—CNDP: The Congolese rebel group led by Laurent Nkunda. Approximately 3,000 CNDP fighters are based in North Kivu province. Nkunda justifies his rebellion as necessary to protect his ethnic Tutsi community, but his forces are responsible for crimes against humanity against civilians.

Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo—FARDC: The Congolese army. The FARDC is rarely paid, poorly equipped, ill-trained, and is one of the worst human rights abusers in the Congo. Nearly 20,000 FARDC troops are based in North Kivu.

Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda—FDLR: Hutu rebels with links to the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. Approximately 7,000 FDLR rebels are based in North and South Kivu provinces. The FDLR are responsible for shocking acts of sexual violence and other crimes against humanity in eastern Congo.

Mayi-Mayi: Community-based defense forces formed by President Laurent Kabila. Mayi-Mayi militias are responsible for widespread atrocities in eastern Congo.

In addition to these major groups, a number of smaller militias and rebel factions presently operate in eastern Congo, these include:

Coalition of Congolese Patriotic Resistance—PARECO: Recently formed armed group that consists principally of ex-Congolese Mayi-Mayi militia but also includes some ex-FDLR combatants.

Rastas: Armed group composed of ex-FDLR combatants and Congolese Hutus that operate mainly in South Kivu. The Rastas are one of the most violent groups in the East, known to gang-rape girls and then keep them as sex slaves.

Rally for Unity and Democracy—RUD: A breakaway faction of the FDLR of roughly 400
combatants.

Other Key Factors

Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons—IDPs: An IDP is a person who has been forced to leave his or her home for reasons such as religious or political persecution, war, or natural disaster, but has not crossed an international border; a refugee is someone who has crossed an international border. While this is a technical distinction, it can often have considerable meaning in international law and in an individual’s ability to receive humanitarian assistance. There are roughly 1.4 million IDPs in the Congo.

International Criminal Court—ICC: A permanent court with headquarters in The Hague and with jurisdiction over genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes committed since its inception in 2002. The court is investigating crimes committed in the Ituri region of eastern Congo.

United Nations Peacekeeping Force in the Congo—MONUC: MONUC deployed in 1999 to support a peace agreement, and since 2004 has had a mandate to protect civilians. Approximately 17,000 military personnel and 3,000 civilians work for MONUC. This is the largest UN peacekeeping force currently in operation.

Non-governmental organizations—NGOs: Humanitarian NGOs such as the International Rescue Committee and Doctors Without Borders provide emergency assistance and other vital services, including health care and food aid, to vulnerable populations.

Recent Agreements

Goma agreement: Ceasefire agreement signed January 23, 2008 between the Congolese government, 10 armed groups from North Kivu (including Laurent Nkunda’s CNDP), and 13 armed groups from South Kivu. The Goma agreement established a peace plan called the Amani program, but implementation is lagging and violence continues.

Nairobi communiqué: An agreement signed November 9, 2007 between the Congolese and Rwandan governments. The communiqué establish a common strategy for addressing the threat posed by the FDLR to the security and stability of both countries.

Other Useful Terms

Cassiterite: Cassiterite is the most important source of the metallic element tin. It is crucial for the production of tin cans and electronic equipment. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is home to about one-third of the world’s cassiterite, making it a major source of wealth for armed groups.

Coltan: Short for columbite-tantalite, coltan is a metallic ore used to make tantalum capacitors, which control the electrical current flow in cell phone circuit boards. Some 80 percent of the world’s known coltan supply is in eastern Congo, and armed groups reap profits from illegal coltan mining.

Demobilization, disarmament, repatriation, resettlement, and reintegration (DDRRR): A process by which armed groups are disarmed and dismantled and former combatants rejoin society. In Congo, this critical process has been inadequate and incomplete.

Responsibility to Protect—R2P: Principle which states that a government has a responsibility to protect its citizens from genocide and crimes against humanity. If a government is unwilling or unable to fulfill this responsibility, it shifts to the international community.

Security Sector Reform—SSR: A process to restructure and train a nation’s military and police to more effectively secure the country.

www.raiseloveforcongo.org/keyterms
A Taste of the Congo

Fufu

Fufu (also known as foo-foo, foufou, foutou, and fu-fu) is a Western and Central African staple that corresponds to European mashed potatoes. Fufu is a starchy accompaniment for stews or other dishes with sauce. To eat fufu use your hand to tear off a bite-sized piece of the fufu, shape it into a ball, make an indentation in it, and use it to scoop up the soup, stew, sauce, or whatever you’re eating. In Western Africa, fufu is usually made either from yams, sometimes combined with plantains or from cassava flour. In Central Africa, fufu is often made from cassava tubers, like Baton de Manioc.

Because cassava is difficult to work with, and is potentially poisonous if not prepared correctly, we thought we’d share the recipe for yam fufu.

Ingredients

2 pounds white yams
2 tablespoons butter
Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

Place the unpeeled yams in a large pot, cover with cold water and bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Boil for 15-30 minutes, or until the yams are cooked through and tender. Drain and let cool somewhat. Peel the yams, chop them into large pieces and place them into a large bowl with the butter, salt, and pepper. Mash with a potato masher until very smooth. Alternatively, put the yams through a potato ricer and then mix with the butter, salt, and pepper. Place fufu into a large serving bowl. Wet your hands with water, form into a large ball and serve.

Recipe found at:
http://www.whats4eats.com/vegetables/fufu-recipe

Chicken Moambe

Moambé (or Mwambé) is a traditional African stew from the Congo river area. It has been called the National Dish of Africa. Moambé is the Lingala word for eight, as this stew has eight ingredients.

Ingredients

2 (3-pound) chickens, disjointed
2 teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon ground red pepper
3 tablespoons butter
2 yellow onions, minced
½ teaspoon nutmeg
2½ cups tomato sauce
1 cup peanut butter

Directions

Season the chicken with the salt and the ground red pepper. Place the seasoned chicken pieces in a large pot. Cover the pieces with water, bring to a boil, cover, reduce heat to a simmer and cook until tender, 45 minutes to 1 hour. Melt the butter in a large saucepan. Add the onions and sauté until golden brown, about 5 minutes. Add the tomato sauce and nutmeg and simmer uncovered for about 5 minutes. Remove a cup of the tomato sauce and reserve. Add the chicken and simmer over low heat, covered, for about 5 minutes. In a medium bowl, combine the reserved tomato sauce with the peanut butter until smooth and slightly liquefied. Add the peanut butter mixture to the pan to thicken the sauce and simmer uncovered for another 10 minutes.

Recipe found at:
http://www.xs4all.nl/~westher/recepten/CHICKEN%20MOAMBE.htm