Melinda Day - 2nd place - grades 6-8

Traveling around the world can be very educational and life changing. For me, traveling to Zimbabwe would provide me with added knowledge of differing cultures and lifestyles...

Meeting the residents of Zimbabwe introduces a different culture- a lifestyle that encompasses many nationalities and religions that are all brought together inside one little landlocked country. Ethnicities that populate the majority of Zimbabwe include Africans, the Shona, and the Ndebele. Others such as "mixed", asian and caucasian only populate about one percent of Zimbabwe. If I were to visit those groups, I would begin to adapt to their lifestyle and appreciate their customs, such as music- the center of not only Zimbabwe but many african countries. Music does not belong to any one nation, Zimbabwe's villages and tribes all have music as cultural similarity. Most songs are related to religion or peace on earth and involve hand-crafted instruments and drums...

The country of Zimbabwe suffers many struggles but it also presents a very diverse way of life... Learning about Zimbabwe's hardships, and struggles would provide me with knowledge and understanding of their lifestyle. Examining their exquisite tastes in music, and cuisine would dare my mind to explore other cultures and bring me closer to a part of me I have never experienced.