



Mennonite  
Mission  
Network



## Children's Mission Project

# A place to play in BOTSWANA

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

—Matthew 19:14

## Packet contents

- Introduction and background information
- Guidelines for using mission banks
- A story card for use in worship or Sunday school
- Age-specific activities. More activities can be found at [www.MennoniteMission.net/BotswanaMissionBank](http://www.MennoniteMission.net/BotswanaMissionBank).

## Introduction for children

Imagine that you are going to take a trip. If your destination, where you want to go, is nearby, you could walk or ride a bike to get there. If it is a bit further away, you might need to take a car or even an airplane. If you live in the United States and want to take a trip to Botswana, you'd likely take an airplane because it is far away.

The country of Botswana is in southern Africa and has no coast on the sea, nor on a lake. This type of country is called landlocked. The map shows how it is surrounded by other countries. Can you find it on the map?

Botswana has two main types of land: a river delta and a desert. The Okavango Delta is a huge river system in the northern part of Botswana. It has long grassy fields and many animals. If you travel down the river, sometimes you can see hippos and crocodiles. The Kalahari Desert covers most of the rest of Botswana and is dry with red sand. Since the animals and plants need special places to live, there are many national parks. The parks protect animals like cheetahs, hyenas, elephants and rhinos. There is a special park in Botswana for rhinos, called The

Khama Rhino Sanctuary. Rhinos are endangered, which means there are very few of them. This park helps protect them and increase their numbers. Unlike zoos, the parks don't have cages and bars. The animals can move freely.

Sometimes it can be hard to find a job in Botswana, even if you are smart and work hard. When you don't have a job, sometimes you have to make hard choices. And sometimes those choices hurt you or your family. So when Mennonite missionaries went to Botswana in the 1970s, they helped young people and families, and shared about the hope they find in Jesus. Recently, they helped build a big park for children and adults to enjoy. It has beautiful gardens and a *futsal* court (futsal is a game that is played like soccer, but is played on a smaller, hard court instead of grass, and there are fewer players). It took lots of sweaty hours, days and months to build the park, but by working together with their Botswanan friends, and God's help, it happened! You can read more about it on the story card.

## Did you know?

- A common food in Botswana is called *Seswaa*. It is a stew of boiled meat, and is often served with maize and greens.
- A fun thing to do in Botswana is to go on safari. A safari is a trip that you take to watch animals where they live in the wild.
- Botswana is the size of Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma together.

## Using mission bank teaching tools

These teaching tools are used in conjunction with the globe-shaped mission banks provided by Mennonite Mission Network. Banks for children can be ordered online at [www.MennoniteMission.net/MissionBank](http://www.MennoniteMission.net/MissionBank).

For more resources about Botswana, visit [www.MennoniteMission.net/BotswanaMissionBank](http://www.MennoniteMission.net/BotswanaMissionBank).

*Mission bank projects teach children mission-focused stewardship. The tools show children how God is at work in Botswana and what mission can mean in a child's own context.*

# BOTSWANA

- In Botswana, the Kalahari Desert covers most of the country. Its name comes from a local word that means “waterless place.”
- Netball is a popular sport in Botswana, and in much of the world. It is a sport with a ball and a hoop, kind of like basketball.
- Rain is very important to people in Botswana. The word for rain in Botswana is “*pula*,” which is also the name for the type of money people use there.

## Meet our workers



**Asher and Lindsey Fast** have served in Botswana since 2017. They live in Francistown and work with children and young adults. They help lead and plan activities for children, like arts and crafts, sports, and other games at a local youth center. They also help a local netball coach and his players to plan games and team events, and to give transportation to players that need it. In their spare time, they enjoy participating in recreational events with local church groups, cooking, and walking their dog, Siggy.

## Material for teachers

### Story cards

Share this story from Botswana with children during worship, Sunday school, or another gathering time. After reading the story together, invite children to reflect on how they might follow Jesus at home, in school, and in church.

### Giving project

Mennonite Mission Network supports a variety of ministries in Botswana. One of the primary ways that mission happens is by sharing the good news of Jesus through friendships and loving our neighbors. In Botswana, this happens by working with children and youth through sports activities. Giving children a

clean, safe place to play is very important and something everyone can help provide. Gifts will fund the Botswana ministry, including coaching, organizing events, equipment, and clean water.

### Did you know?

- **\$25** buys enough seed for a small community garden to provide fresh produce.
- **\$50** buys three soccer balls for girls and boys to use for practice and games.
- **\$100** helps support teachers and coaches from the community.

## Giving project display idea

Use Legos to re-create a sports park that was recently built in Botswana. You can add trees in the garden, a futsal or soccer court, a building to gather in. For every \$10 you raise (*teachers, feel free to adjust the dollar amount*), add a Lego person in the park. Can you add enough Lego people to play a futsal game? (There are five people on each team.)

## Additional activities

### Early childhood activities

- Find Botswana on a map. (*Teachers, point out the countries that are close to it.*)
- Using black, white, and light blue construction paper, make the flag of Botswana. The blue represents water, because of how valuable water is to people in Botswana. Black and white represent the color of people’s skin who live together in harmony. Download a picture of the flag at [www.MennoniteMission.net/BotswanaMissionBank](http://www.MennoniteMission.net/BotswanaMissionBank).

### Kindergarten–grade 3 activities

- Using the map of Africa coloring page, find the country of Botswana. Many times, the continent of Africa is talked about as a whole, disregarding the different countries and cultures within. Ask children to point out countries nearby. Then, use crayons or markers to color the map, using a different color for each country.
- Using the map of Botswana, put a sticker on the major cities: Gaborone, Francistown and Maun. Draw a star near Gaborone, Botswana’s capital city. Draw a heart shape around Gaborone and Francistown, the locations of African Independent Churches that Mennonite Mission Network works with.

- In Botswana, early artists painted on rock. (This ancient art form is also found throughout the world.) Traditional Botswana paintings used bright colors to show people, animals, and the outdoors. Gather bright paint, brushes, and stones for children to decorate, just like early Botswanan artists did.

## Grades 4–6 activities

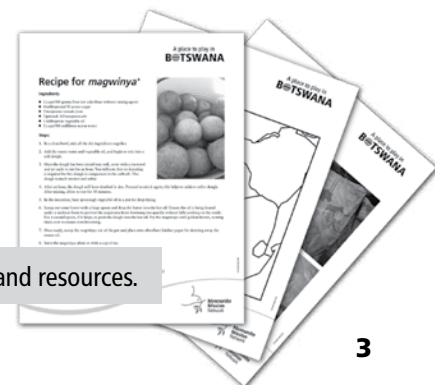
- Using the map of Africa coloring page, find the country of Botswana. Many times, the continent of Africa is talked about as a whole, disregarding the different countries and cultures within. Ask children to point out countries nearby. Then, use crayons or markers to color the map, using a different color for each country. If you have time, children could research unique things about each country that borders Botswana.
- Using the map of Botswana, put a sticker on the major cities: Gaborone, Francistown and Maun. Draw a star near Gaborone, Botswana’s capital city. Draw a heart shape around Gaborone and Francistown, the locations of African Independent Churches that Mennonite Mission Network works with.
- Pottery is a traditional art form of Botswanan women. The clay is rolled into thin coils, made into the shape of a pot, and smoothed. Using clay or Play Doh, have children make their own pots. Instead of firing them in the ground, let them dry, and decorate them.

## Snack ideas

- Try *magwinya* (“fat cakes” as they are known, similar to donut holes, but usually bigger). Download a recipe at [www.MennoniteMission.net/BotswanaMissionBank](http://www.MennoniteMission.net/BotswanaMissionBank).
- Drink Rooibos tea (“red bush” tea). Tea or coffee is served for visitors, and is often had in the late morning and afternoon. It’s great with milk and sugar!
- Try this Goldfish cracker activity: Many years ago, Botswana was one of Africa’s poorest countries. Soon after it gained its independence, a diamond mine was found. This made Botswana very wealthy, but the money was only in the

hands of very few people. This is called inequality. It’s a big problem in the United States, too. To show inequality, choose two “special children” in the class and give 20 Goldfish crackers to them. Give two Goldfish crackers to the rest of the children in the class. For the rest of the class period, give the “special children” certain privileges (example: they can walk around the room, talk without raising their hand, etc.) while the rest of the class must behave as normal. Then discuss these questions at the end of class:

- How did it make you feel to receive extra Goldfish and special privileges?
  - How did it make you feel to see others receiving so much more than you, for no reason?
  - In your class at school, are there people who have more or less than you? How do you think this makes them feel?
  - In our world, just like in our classroom today, there are a few people who have a lot of money, and there are many people who live on as little as \$2 a day. How does God tell us to treat the poor? Read Matthew 25:34-36 and 1 John 3:17-18.
- To teach the class about Botswana, give 20 Goldfish crackers to each student. The following data is taken from the *CIA World Factbook*:
    - 58 percent of people in Botswana live in a city. To show this, count out 12 Goldfish crackers. The rest of the crackers represent those who live in the country. Compare this to 82 percent of United States citizens who live in a city, or 16 Goldfish.
    - 36 percent of people in Botswana don’t have a job. To show this with your Goldfish crackers, separate seven crackers. That represents the people without a job. Compare this to 10 percent in the United States. To show this, have one person in your group separate two crackers from the whole.
    - 21 percent of people in Botswana live with HIV/AIDs. That’s four out of 20 Goldfish crackers. In the United States, there are about 1 million people living with HIV/AIDs, out of a total of 320 million.





## Using mission banks

*Please follow these guidelines as you use Mennonite Mission Network's mission banks to support God's work in Botswana.*

**Use of banks**—The globe-shaped mission banks were created to collect funds for ministries in the countries highlighted by the mission bank teaching tools produced by *Mennonite Mission Network*. In these packets you can find:

- Stories about Mission Network ministry happening in that area.
- A giving project.
- Activities, songs, and snack ideas to help children engage the country's or region's culture.

**Age range and cost**—Mission banks are a fun way for children and congregations to learn together about stewardship and generosity, and to hear stories about the ways that God is working around the world. Because we want each child to be able to participate in this learning experience, banks are offered free of charge to all Mennonite Church USA children in grades K-6 from Jan. 1–Mar. 31 of every year. Banks can also be ordered throughout the year for \$4.95 per bank.

**Resources**—Along with each teaching tool packet, we also post extra resources online. Check back often at [www.MennoniteMission.net/MissionBank](http://www.MennoniteMission.net/MissionBank) for new pictures and ideas for mission education.

**Other uses**—Stewardship and mission education are not just important for children; they are important for the whole church. Consider giving one globe bank to each household, or sharing stories from the Mission Network teaching tool packets during worship. Invite all members of your congregation to pray and support Mission Network personnel around the world.

**Collecting funds**—Congregations are asked to collect the funds contributed through the mission banks and send a check payable to Mennonite Mission Network, with **"Mission Banks: Botswana"** or **"Project #1814"** written in the check memo line. Congregations may decide to participate with other congregations in bringing the total collected to a cluster or area conference gathering.

**Alternate gift designation**—Mennonite Mission Network supports workers and partners all around the world. You may wish to consider using your banks to also support Mennonite Voluntary Service or Service Adventure participants from your congregation, or to raise support for a Mission Network worker that your congregation is connected with.

**If you have other questions about how to use your Mennonite Mission Network mission banks, or would like to order more teaching tool packets, please contact us at [MissionBank@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:MissionBank@MennoniteMission.net) or 1-866-866-2872.**

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