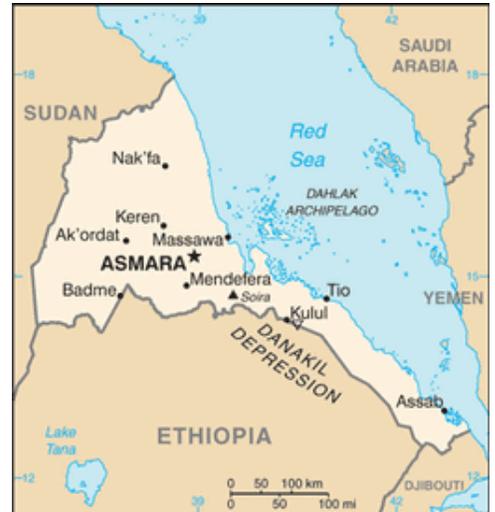


Eritrea

- ◆ The capital city of Eritrea is Asmara.
- ◆ About half of the people are Christians and about half are Sunni Muslims.
- ◆ Eritreans have three official languages: Tigrinya, Arabic, and English.
- ◆ Eritrea is in Eastern Africa. It borders the Red Sea, Djibouti, and Sudan.
- ◆ Eritrean Christians have no religious freedom. No missionaries are allowed into the country and Christians are often tortured or killed.
- ◆ Soccer is the favorite sport of the Eritreans. They love to play it and also support their national soccer team.
- ◆ Eritreans are known by their first name, followed by their father's first name.
- ◆ Eritreans commonly scoop up food and put it in the mouth of a loved one or a guest. This is a sign of affection!
- ◆ Eritrea has a lot of mountains and is very hot and dry. Sometimes the crops fail and the people experience serious famines.
- ◆ Eritrea was an Italian colony until 1941. Some of their traditional games and foods reflect the Italian influence.



Story: Far From Home

Futana is fourteen years old. She's quite young to be all alone in a refugee camp in Ethiopia. A refugee camp is a temporary shelter for people who have lost their homes because of war or other disasters.

Futana left Eritrea because she failed her school's tests and was afraid she would be forced to work in the country's army. That is what happens to children who flunk out of school. They are forced into military training camps first, and then sent to support Eritrea's army.

Because Futana wants to continue her schooling and knows how important it is, she just started walking one day and never looked back. She didn't tell her parents she was leaving because they would have stopped her. Now she is homesick and misses them.

Story cont...

There are many children like Futana who leave Eritrea without their parents and end up in refugee camps in Ethiopia. At the camps they are given food and shelter, but they need their family the most. The children leave for a lot of different reasons, but many discover that life was better at home. Although some regret that they came, they are unable to go home. They did not leave Eritrea legally so they can't go back legally, and trying to sneak into the country is too dangerous. Because of this, many of the children at the camps are very sad and depressed.



Recipe: Taita



2 cups whole wheat flour (a finely milled type such as chapati flour works well but you can substitute buckwheat flour)
1 cup unbleached white flour
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
2 -3 cups club soda

Combine flour and baking soda in a large bowl. Add club soda and stir well to form a thin batter. Heat a large well-seasoned or non-stick griddle until hot. Brush lightly with oil. Using a large cup or ladle, begin on the outside of the griddle and pour in a circle around the inside edges until the center is filled. Quickly tilt the griddle back and forth to fill in any holes and spread evenly, as if making crepes. Cook for 1-2 minutes, until surface is spongy and filled with tiny air bubbles. Do not flip the bread—

just slide off the griddle onto a large plate. Continue cooking Taita until all of the batter is used, transferring them to a plate as they are done. Arrange around the outside edges of the plate so that the centers overlap. Serve immediately with a meat or vegetable stew.

Activity: Kibkib

This crazy game was brought to Eritrea by the Italians. It is loads of fun!

The object of the game is to keep a ball in the air by bouncing it off of the head. The one who keeps the ball bouncing up and down the longest is the winner.

Use a plastic ball, about volleyball size or bigger, from Wal-mart. With large classes it is easier to form teams and have one from each team compete against each other. Be sure to have a clear, open space to do this in. Balls bouncing off the head can get wild!



Go to www.frontlinekids.net/resources to find lesson supplemental materials such as: prayer points, recipes, maps, videos, printable coloring sheets and more.