Ways of Earning a Living

Probably most men in Africa make their living as hunters or miners, but not all of them do. The work that men do is as varied in Africa as in any other continent of the world. Some of the ways men earn a living are pictured on the insert sheet. The pictures may be colored, cut out, and pasted in the six squares located just off the west coast of the continent.

Hunter. Knowing about the animal life in Africa, one expects that many men would make their living mostly by hunting. This is true in certain areas, in the west and central parts especially, and in villages or tribes. The African is skilled in the use of the bow and arrow as well as in the use of the long handled spear. The hunter usually does not go out alone, but hunts in the company of the other men of the village or tribe.

Miner. Africa has an abundance of rich natural resources. The Union of South Africa is particularly productive. Gold, copper, diamonds, coal, and iron are part of the immense mineral wealth. Mining in this area is one of the chief occupations. Even though the mines produce a tremendous amount of wealth, the wages of the workers are very low and conditions under which the people have to live are substandard.

Engineer. Increasingly, Africans are becoming trained for leadership in business and industry. The picture of the engineer shows a control tower man looking down on the trains and tracks he supervises.

Flower Vender. On the city streets in South Africa, flower venders bring beautiful blossoms to sell to tourists and others at a very small price. You will notice in the picture that the sign the woman has beside her flowers is written both in English and in Afrikaans, which is a combination of old Dutch and a little Bantu.

Banker. As Africans become better educated and equipped for responsible positions, both in business and in government, they are proving their capability in these fields. The picture of the banker illustrates one way in which Africans are taking their place in handling their own affairs.

Government Worker. The governments of some of the countries are realizing the importance of having Africans assume responsibility and leadership in the government. Increasingly, Africans are being employed by the governments in offices and other positions.

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