

# David Livingstone

(1813-1873)

He was just one man, but when he disappeared, thousands of people worried about him. They all wanted to know what happened to the famous Dr. Livingstone.

David Livingstone was no stranger to hard times. As a little boy in Scotland, he had to work in a cotton mill twelve hours a day. Then, after work, he would go straight to school and stay up late studying. There wasn't time to play.

When he grew up, Livingstone still worked hard without any breaks. He became a doctor and a **missionary**. In 1841, he left for South Africa to help the sick and to teach the African people about Christianity. He traveled north, deep into the African jungles where other Europeans had never been. He slashed his way through thick jungles, having no idea what kinds of people, plants, and animals he would encounter along the way.

Livingstone quickly made friends with the African natives. He wasn't like many other explorers of his time. He didn't care about getting rich from what he found. What mattered to him was ending the slave trade in Africa. He wanted

to bring hope and freedom to Africa's people. He acted as a doctor, scientist, and preacher. He even learned the languages and customs of the natives he met. Then, he shared what he'd seen and learned with the rest of the world.

When Livingstone finished a three-year journey across Africa from west to east, news of his incredible trip quickly spread to Britain. They heard about his discovery of the Victoria Falls, a giant mile-wide waterfall and one of the greatest sights in Africa. They also heard about the horrors of the slave trade. On a rare trip home, Livingstone was awarded a medal and asked to write a book.

In 1866, Livingstone suddenly disappeared while trying to find the source of the great Nile River. A newspaper reporter named Henry Stanley was sent to find him. People feared that the great explorer might be dead. Stanley searched long and hard for him. Then, one day, he found a sick white man in a small hut.

"Dr. Livingston, I presume?" said Stanley. Stanley was correct. He had found the great explorer. He was alive but very sick. Stanley gave him medicine and supplies and offered to take him home to Britain. Livingstone refused. He still had work to do.

Soon after, Livingstone died in the jungle, exploring to the very end. His African friends carried his body over a thousand miles through thick jungle to find a boat. Livingstone was finally going home.



# Theodore Roosevelt

(1858-1919)

Theodore Roosevelt wasn't just a United States president. He was also an avid explorer. One of his greatest expeditions came several years after his presidency ended in 1908. It took place in one of the most dangerous regions of the world—the Amazon Basin in South America. The trip was so treacherous that Roosevelt barely made it home alive.

People who knew "Teddy" Roosevelt called him a bull. He would charge headfirst into danger without a second thought.

In his lifetime, Roosevelt had explored Africa, India, and the American West. He'd faced grizzly bears, rhinos, and lions. When he went to South America, his plan was to see what animals the continent had to offer. Roosevelt was a hunter, but the animals he shot were sent to museums so others could learn about the many creatures of the world.

On his trip to the Amazon Basin, the hunter soon became the hunted. Animals in this region were quite vicious. There were flesh-eating fish called piranhas. These small fish with sharp teeth can bite off a finger if it's placed in the water. There were poisonous snakes and cougars. But worst of all were the insects. There was no escape from the mosquitoes and army ants.

Roosevelt and his companions paddled seven canoes down the unexplored River of Doubt. The river wasn't on any maps, so Roosevelt didn't know how long it was. He wasn't sure if they'd have enough food for the



journey. There were also many fast and dangerous rapids, forcing the men to pull their canoes and heavy gear out of the water and carry them.

Then, Roosevelt became very sick with a high fever. They were afraid that the former president was going to die. And, there were no other people around for hundreds of miles that could help him.

Roosevelt managed to regain some of his strength and continue the trip. When they finally reached the end of the river, they had lost five of their seven canoes and two of their men. It had been a rough trip. It would also turn out to be Roosevelt's last, but he had added a new place to the world map and had charged through yet another great adventure.