

## Lesson Plan 01

### **Where is Bo?**

Location of Bo in Sierra Leone for Linked schools in Warwick District.  
and  
Background information about Sierra Leone

**Age group: Years 2 to 6**

**Aims:**

- a) To show children the whereabouts of Bo in Sierra Leone and Leamington Spa/Warwick in England.
- b) To raise awareness of the location of the linked school in Bo.
- c) To raise awareness of the geography of the world.

**Resources:** *General* Classroom World Map and/or Globe  
Coloured crayons (including blue), glue or Pritt stick  
Scissors, pencils, coloured sticky dots

*Each child* Maps 1a, 1b, 2, 3a, 3b.  
Instructions (will need to be read and explained by  
teacher for younger children)

**Teacher Guidelines:**

Class questioning and discussion on the whereabouts of Africa, Europe,  
Sierra Leone, England using the wall map and globe.

Where are Leamington Spa/Warwick and Bo?

Direction of the activities on the children's instruction sheets.

Ask about similarities between the position of Freetown and London (near the  
coast), Bo and Leamington/Warwick (near the centre of the country) and the  
distance between them.

Background information about Sierra Leone has been added.

Detailed work on rainfall can be found in Lesson Plan 8(c).

Also, there is a more detailed history of Bo by Josiah Bangali, obtainable from  
OWL.

## 1. Location of Bo in Sierra Leone

### **Map 1: The world**

Use a coloured crayon to colour in the templates of Africa and the British Isles within the black outlines (Map 1a)

Cut out the outline shapes as near as possible.

Can you find the small shape on the world map (Map 1b)? Stick your coloured shape onto it. Can you name it? Label it.

Find the large shape on your world map and stick your coloured shape onto that. Label it AFRICA.

### **Map 2: Europe and Africa**

Map 2 shows Europe and Africa.

Find the two dots. One dot is England and one is Sierra Leone. Do you know which is which?

Cover the dots with a coloured sticky dot.

Can you fill in the boxes with the labels?

### **Map 3a: British Isles**

Colour the sea blue (or you can colour round the edge of the country if you wish).

Label the top **empty box** with the name of your country.

Label the box near **the dot** with the name of the town where your school is found.

Label the box near to **the square** with the name of the capital of your Country.

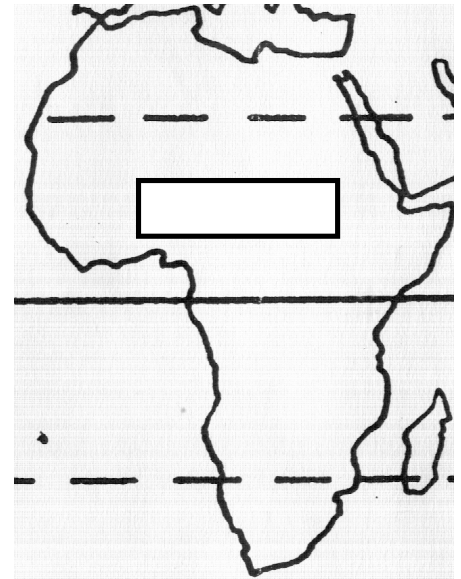
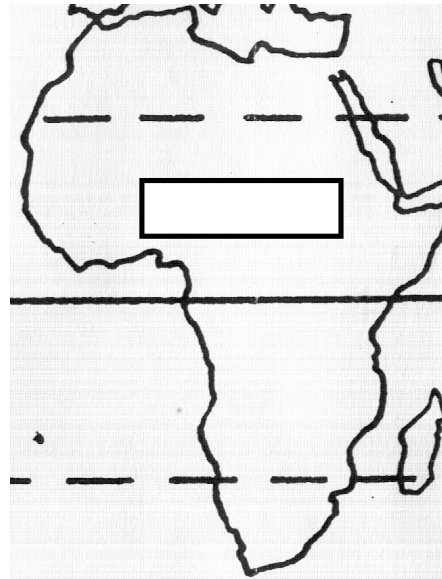
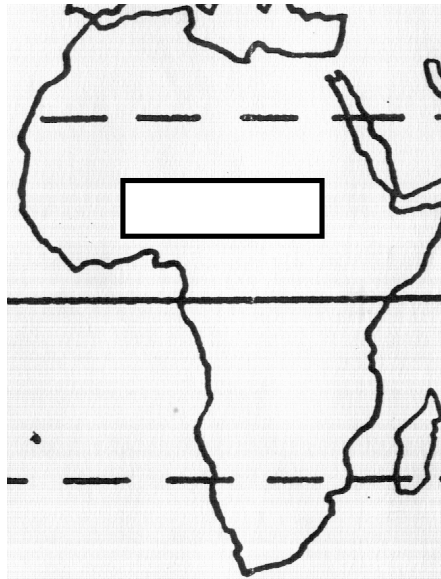
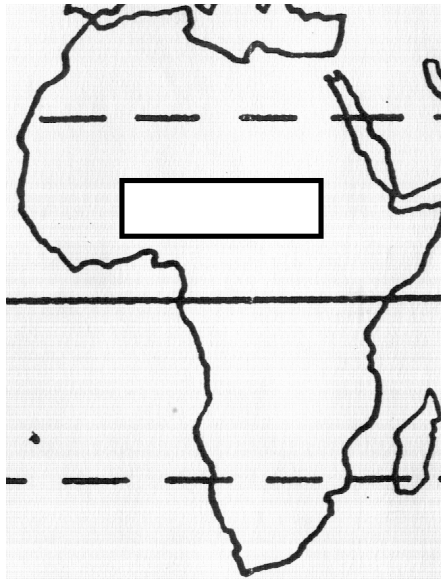
### **Map 3b: Sierra Leone**

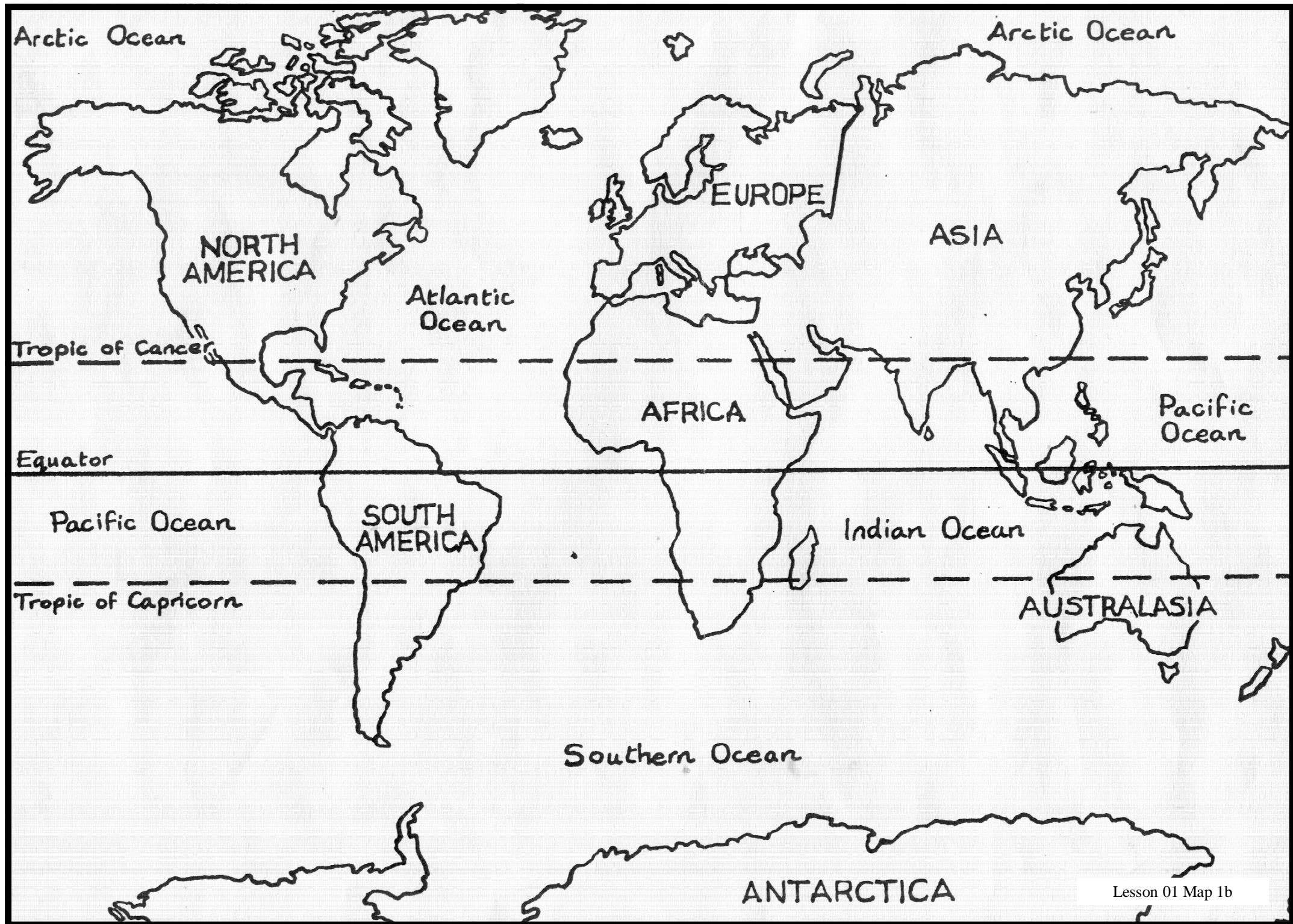
Colour the sea blue (or you can colour round the edge of the country if you wish).

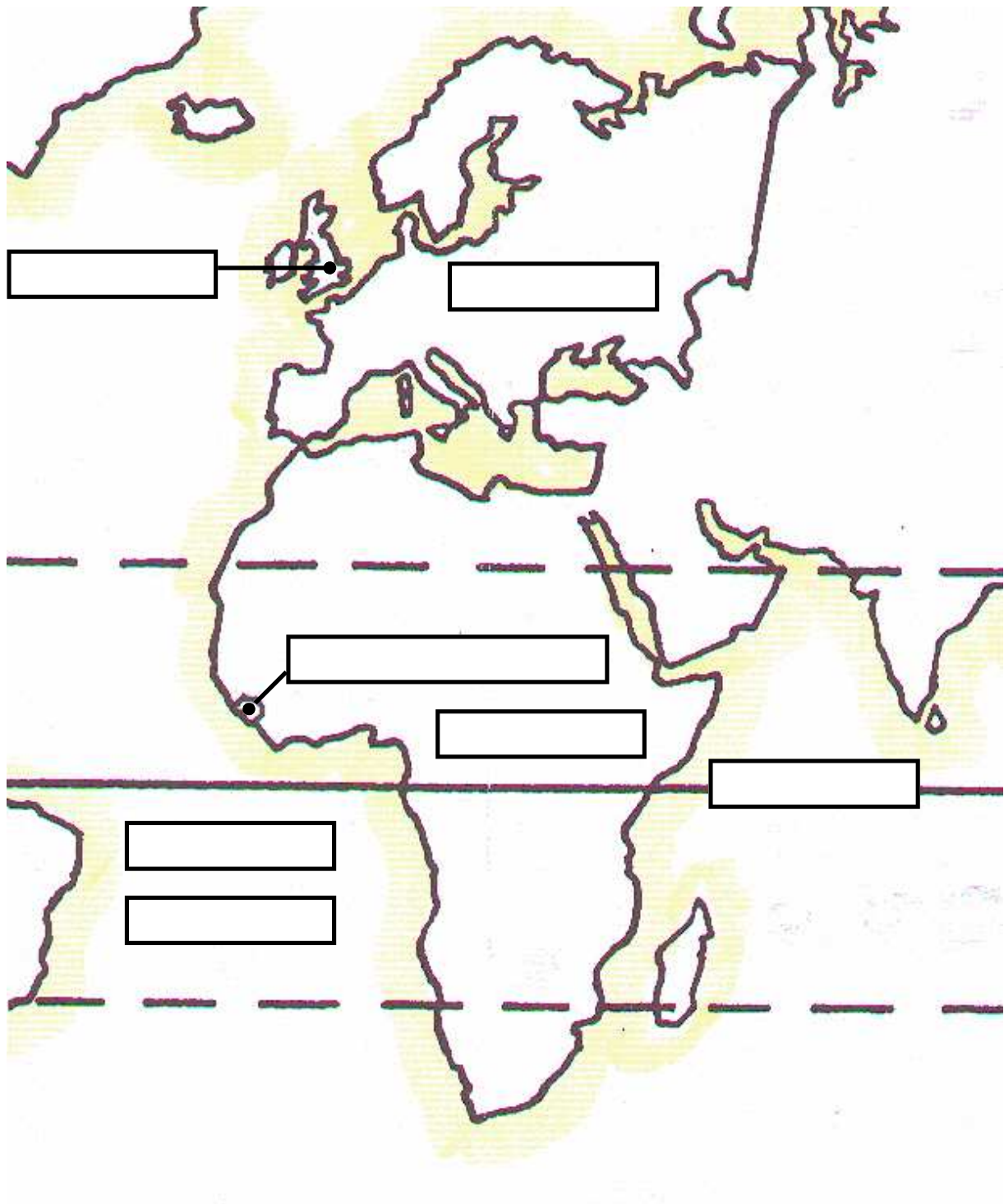
Label the top **empty box** with the name of the country.

Label the box near **the dot** with the name of the town or area where your linked school is found.

Label the box near **the square** with the name of the capital of the country.







**Words you can use:**

**Africa**

**Atlantic Ocean**

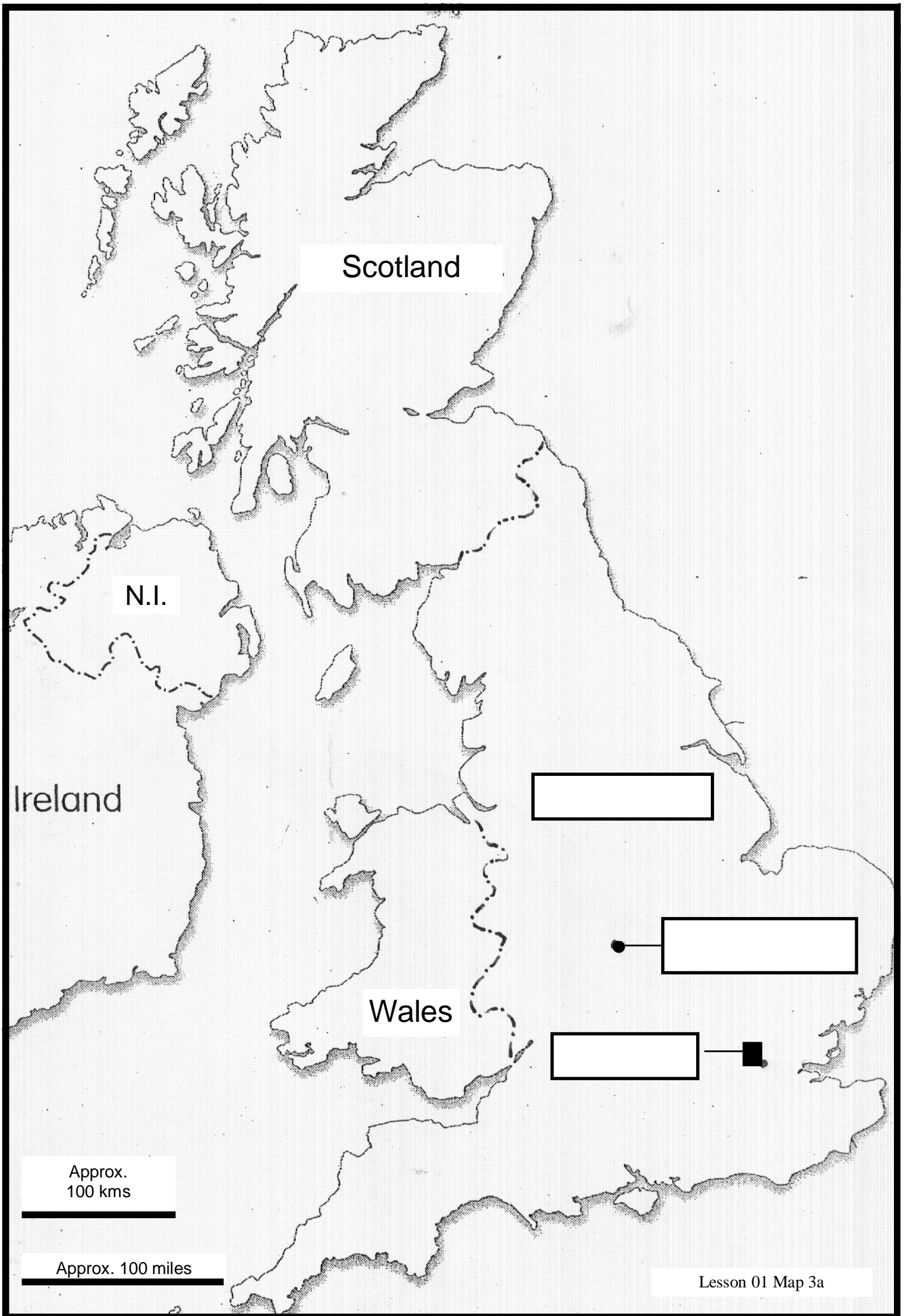
**England**

**Equator**

**Europe**

**Sierra Leone**





Scotland

N.I.

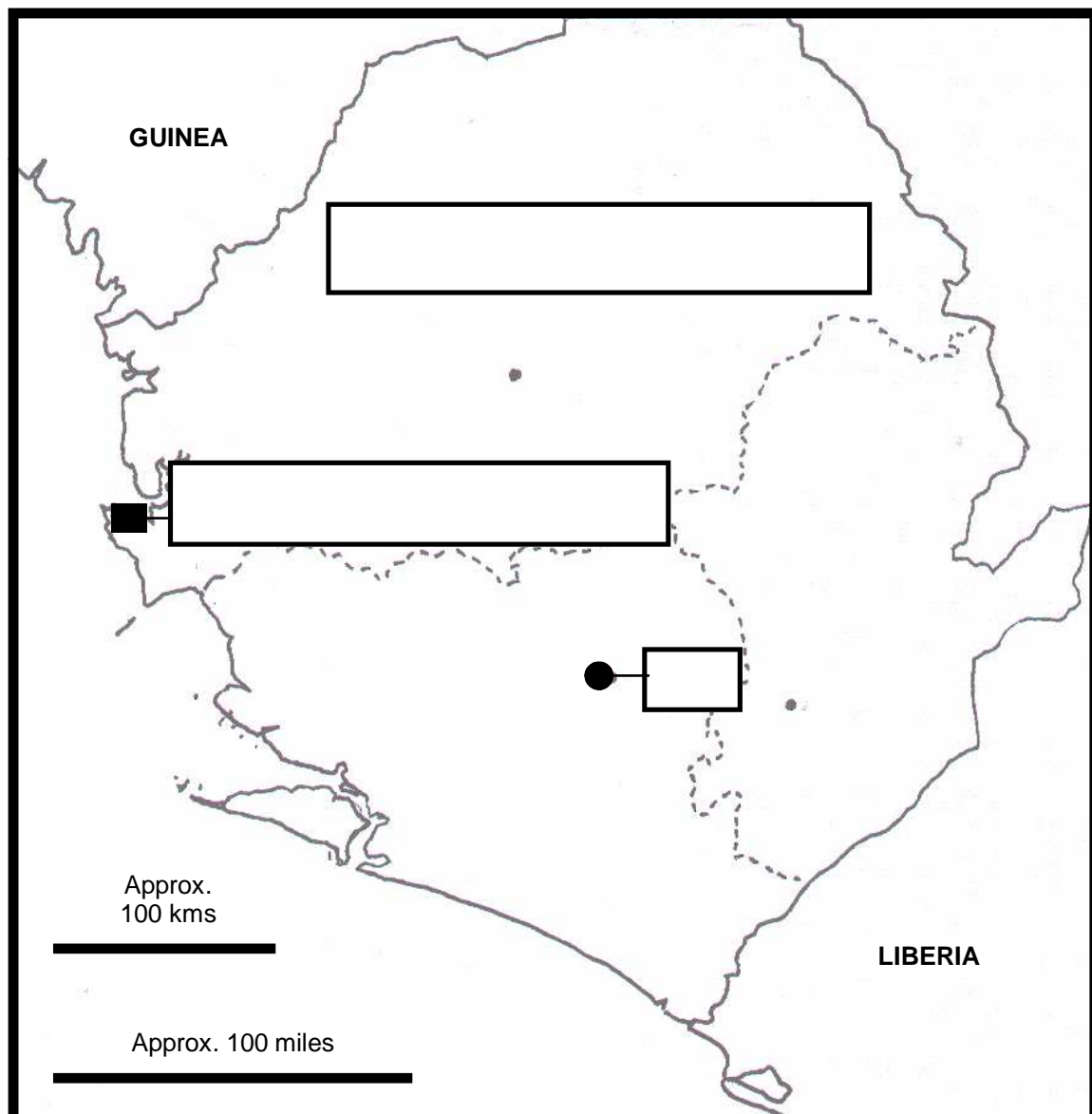
Ireland

Wales

Approx.  
100 kms

Approx. 100 miles

Lesson 01 Map 3a



Words you can use:

**Bo**  
**Freetown**  
**Sierra Leone**

# SIERRA LEONE – background facts

## Location

Sierra Leone is a tropical country of West Africa bordering the Atlantic Ocean and between Guinea to the north and Liberia to the south, lying between Latitude 8° and 10° N and between Longitude 11° and 13° W

## Land Area

71,740 sq. kms (27,400 sq miles) – about the same size as Scotland (30,000 sq miles), approximately 320 kms (200 miles) from north to south and 290 kms (180 miles) from east to west.

## Climate

There is a hot humid rainy season from May to October and a dry season from November to April. The average temperature is above 30°C for most of the year during both season

## Capital

Freetown

## Population

5,883,889 in 2004 (compared with 3,500,000 in 1980)

Births at 43.34 / 1000 and deaths of 20.62 / 1000 results in a population growth rate of 2.27% p.a. (2004 est.)

## Independence

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 1961

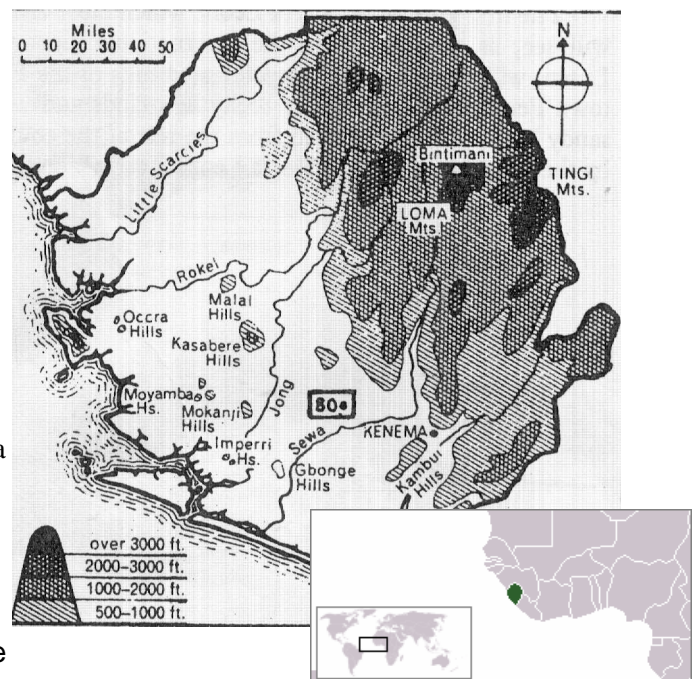
## Economy

Principal food crops: rice cassava, corn millet and peanuts. Leading cash crops, most of which are exported, are palm kernels, palm oil, cocoa and coffee. Poultry, cattle, sheep, pigs and goats are raised. The fishing industry is also important.

Other resources: Minerals – diamonds, iron ore, gold, bauxite (aluminium) and rutile (titanium). Foreign companies largely control the mining industry and diamond smuggling is a problem.

Exports: diamonds, other minerals, cacao, coffee and fish.

Imports of machinery, manufactured consumer goods, foodstuffs, transportation equipment and



## The People

Nationality: Noun Sierra Leonean(s)

Adjective: Sierra Leonean

## Ethnic groups

90% 20 native African tribes 90%: Temne 30%, Mende 30% and other tribes 30%

10% Creole (Krio) - descendants of freed Jamaican slaves who were settled in the Freetown area in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century – including refugees from Liberia's recent civil war, small numbers of Europeans, Lebanese, Pakistanis and Indians.

## Life Expectancy

42.9 years

## Main Occupations

Subsistence farming, mining (working for foreign companies), fishing, distributive trades, general services, profession and technical: doctors, teachers, etc.

## Religions

60% Islam (Muslim)

30% Indigenous beliefs

10% Christian

## Languages

English is the official language, but its regular use is limited to a literate minority.

Mende is the principal vernacular in the south and Temne in the north.

Krio, an English-based Creole or 'pigeon-English', is a lingua franca and first language for 10% of the population but understood by 95%.

## Literacy

31/4% of the population over 15 years can read and write in English, Mende, Temne or Arabic.



## History

Little is known about the country's history before the fifteenth century, when it was invaded by the peoples of the Mali empire to the north and east. The Mende and Mandingo appeared at this time. The Portuguese, and soon after the British, discovered it around the same period and established trading in slaves, gold and tropical produce. The country derives its name from the Portuguese for 'Lion Mountain', the name given to this part of the coast by the navigator Pedro de Cintra.

In 1787 the land was chosen through the efforts of English philanthropists as the site for the settlement of slaves repatriated from the New World after the abolition of slavery and freed from slaving ships on the high seas. A British 'Crown Colony' was established in 1808 on land bought from the indigenous population; the start of a long-standing antipathy. The freed slaves, who were British subjects and accepted English law, education, language and customs, emerged as a distinct ethnic group, the Creoles, by the end of the nineteenth century.

In 1896, the British Government took over the interior of the country, declaring it a 'Protectorate' and controlling it by indirect rule – the chiefs were allowed to handle local legal and administrative business. The movement towards independence developed with the growth of the trade unions between world wars until Sierra Leone was declared independent on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1961. After some years of party politics, it became a 'Sovereign Republic with a one-party form of government' in 1978. The President, Dr Siaka Stevens, had led the country since 1971.

Recent history incorporates the civil war, which broke out in 1991 with the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) of Foday Sankoh rebelling against the government, fuelled by years of bad governance, endemic corruption and institutional collapse (according to a post-war Truth Commission). A peace agreement, signed on July 7th, 1999 in Lomé, Togo offered a slight hope that the country would be able to terminate the diamond-powered conflict and rebuild its devastated economy and infrastructure and up to 6,000 UNAMSIL peacekeepers were deployed to bolster the peace accord. This war, declared over in 2002 after the intervention of a 17,500 strong U.N. peacekeeping force, killed 50,000 people and many, many more were maimed or mutilated as well as over a third of the population (2 million) displaced.

One of the reasons for the support the rebels received during the conflict was the discontent of thousands of youths; many young adults today are still unemployed and experiencing despair. Now Sierra Leone is trying to revive its economy and many people are working to care for displaced people, orphan children, people and victims of all kinds. Politicians have a big challenge to fight corruption, improve healthcare and education and restore the infrastructure of the country.