

Birth of a new country – South Sudan

South Sudan has been celebrating its creation as a new independent East African nation. The new country celebrated in Juba, its new capital, on Saturday 9th July 2011, raising its flag before tens of thousands of its cheering citizens. The country has finally managed to break free from Sudan following a bitter 50-year struggle involving civil war. "The eyes of the world are now on us," said South Sudanese President Salva Kiir, who was inaugurated during a scorching midday ceremony. Kiir stressed that the people of South Sudan must advance their country together, and unite as countrymen first, casting aside allegiances to the dozens of tribes that reside there. With the creation of the new territory, South Sudan will for the first time be linked with sub-Saharan Africa. Uganda and Kenya are already laying strong economic ties with their northern neighbour, an oil rich country that may one day ship its oil to a Kenyan port, instead of through the pipelines controlled by Khartoum, capital of Sudan.

"From today our identity is southern and African, not Arabic and Muslim," read a hand painted sign that one man carried through the crowds. The new country celebrated at the stroke of midnight with raucous street parties. At midday, the speaker of parliament read a proclamation of independence as the flag of Sudan was lowered and the flag of South Sudan was raised, sparking wild cheers from the crowds. The President of Sudan Omar al-Bashir, a deeply unpopular man in Juba, arrived to a mixture of boos and murmurs. He stood beside Kiir and smiled throughout the ceremony, and said in a speech that he respected the south's choice to secede. The U.S. has promised aid to Sudan if it allowed South Sudan to secede peacefully. However, military standoffs in the contested border region of Abyei and new fighting in South Kordofan - a state in Sudan with many south-supporting residents - risk a new north-south conflict. In Khartoum, the former capital of the South one newspaper headline read: "Time to let go."

Many black African tribes of South Sudan battled two civil wars with the mainly Arab north between 1983 and 2005 when a peace deal was negotiated resulting in Saturday's independence declaration. South Sudan is expected to become the 193rd country recognised by the United Nations and will become the 54th U.N. Member State in Africa.

Category: Economic / Geography / South Sudan

Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

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EXERCISES

1. **Sudan:** Briefly, what three things do you know about Sudan? Go round the room swapping details.

2. **South Sudan:** Briefly, what three things do you know about South Sudan? Go round the room swapping details.

3. **Dictation:** The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

4. **Reading:** The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

5. **Vocabulary:** Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

6. **The article:** Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?

7. **Geography: South Sudan:** Where is South Sudan? What is its capital? What countries surround it? Draw a map on the board then **look on Google maps** to help you.

8. **Let's think!** Think of five things about South Sudan. Then add five possible economic issues. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these.

Five things about South Sudan	Five possible economic issues
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

9. **Let's think!** In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with **South Sudan**. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

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10. Let's roleplay 1: BBC Africa: *In pairs.* You are in the BBC Africa studio. One of you is the presenter; the other student is the guest. Today's interview is: *South Sudan*. The guest has just returned from a holiday in South Sudan. Describe what you saw. (Imagine!) *5 minutes.*

11. Let's roleplay 2: BBC Africa: *In pairs/groups.* One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *BBC Africa* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *South Sudan*.

1	A Sudanese government spokesperson	3	An economic journalist
2	A villager from South Sudan	4	A soldier from South Sudan

The teacher will choose some pairs to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

12. Let's think! Think of five East African countries. Then add five other African countries. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these.

Five East African countries	Five other African countries
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

13. Let's do 'The Article Quiz': Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) Name the new country.
- 2) Name the new President of the new country.
- 3) Name the capital of Sudan.
- 4) Name the President of Sudan.
- 5) Name two of the new country's neighbouring countries.

Student B

- 1) What happened at midnight?
- 2) What happened at midday?
- 3) What has been happening for 50 years?
- 4) What is at stake?
- 5) What is being contested?

14. Let's write an e-mail: Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **South Sudan**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

15. Sentence starters: Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) South Sudan _____
- b) Juba _____
- c) The new country _____

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Will the USA honour its commitment to offer aid to Sudan?
- 3) What will happen about the Darfur situation in Sudan?
- 4) What is the geographical difference between the north and west of Sudan and South Sudan?
- 5) What other country is 'new'? Was it regionised by the United Nations?
- 6) Will Sudan continue to fight the new country? Explain.
- 7) Why is oil so important to both countries?
- 8) What do the residents of Khartoum possibly think?
- 9) Is Africa on your top ten travel destinations? Explain.
- 10) What three suggestions would you give the new South Sudanese President?

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you read?
- 2) Would you like to visit South Sudan? Why? Why not?
- 3) Give three possible advantages of splitting the country of Sudan.
- 4) What three challenges might the new country experience?
- 5) How do you think South Sudan's neighbours feel about the new country?
- 6) Do you think the civil war will restart with Sudan?
- 7) What is the best solution to solving the border dispute with Sudan?
- 8) How do the people of South Sudan feel about the creation of their new country? Explain.
- 9) Will Kenya become the new oil pipeline route for South Sudan? Explain.
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's discuss! South Sudan

Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

Consider the following points to discuss:

20 things about Sudan and South Sudan.

The teacher can moderate the session.

GAP FILL: READING:

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Birth of a new country – South Sudan

South Sudan has been celebrating its creation as a new independent East African (1)____. The new (2)____ celebrated in Juba, its new capital, on Saturday 9th July 2011, raising its flag before tens of thousands of its (3)____ citizens. The country has finally managed to break free from Sudan following a bitter 50-year struggle involving civil war. "The eyes of the world are now on us," said South Sudanese President Salva Kiir, who was inaugurated during a scorching midday (4)____. Kiir stressed that the people of South Sudan must advance their country together, and (5)____ as countrymen first, casting aside allegiances to the dozens of (6)____ that reside there. With the creation of the new territory, South Sudan will for the first time be linked with sub-Saharan Africa. Uganda and Kenya are already laying strong economic ties with their northern (7)____, an oil rich country that may one day ship its (8)____ to a Kenyan port, instead of through the pipelines controlled by Khartoum, capital of Sudan.

"From today our identity is southern and African, not Arabic and Muslim," read a hand painted sign that one man carried through the crowds. The new country celebrated at the stroke of midnight with (1)____ street parties. At midday, the speaker of parliament read a proclamation of independence as the (2)____ of Sudan was lowered and the flag of South Sudan was raised, sparking wild cheers from the crowds. The President of Sudan Omar al-Bashir, a (3)____ unpopular man in Juba, arrived to a mixture of boos and (4)____. He stood beside Kiir and smiled throughout the ceremony, and said in a speech that he respected the south's choice to (5)____. The U.S. has promised aid to Sudan if it allowed South Sudan to secede peacefully. However, military (6)____ in the contested border region of Abyei and new fighting in South Kordofan - a state in Sudan with many south-supporting (7)____ - risk a new north-south (8)____. In Khartoum, the former capital of the South one newspaper headline read: "Time to let go."

oil

country

cheering

neighbour

ceremony

unite

tribes

nation

conflict

secede

murmurs

standoffs

deeply

residents

flag

raucous

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Birth of a new country – South Sudan

South Sudan has been celebrating its creation _____ East African nation. The new country celebrated in Juba, _____, on Saturday 9th July 2011, raising its flag before tens of thousands of its cheering citizens. The country has finally managed to break free from Sudan following a bitter 50-year struggle _____. "The eyes of the world are now on us," said South Sudanese President Salva Kiir, who was inaugurated during a scorching midday ceremony. Kiir stressed that the people of South Sudan must advance their country together, and unite as countrymen first, casting aside allegiances to the dozens of tribes that reside there. With the creation _____, South Sudan will for the first time be linked with sub-Saharan Africa. Uganda and Kenya are already laying _____ with their northern neighbour, an oil rich country that may one day ship its oil to a Kenyan port, instead of through the pipelines controlled by Khartoum, _____.

"From today our _____ and African, not Arabic and Muslim," read a hand painted sign that one man carried through the crowds. The new country celebrated at the stroke of midnight with raucous street parties. At midday, the speaker of parliament read a _____ as the flag of Sudan was lowered and the flag of South Sudan was raised, sparking wild cheers from the crowds. The President of Sudan Omar al-Bashir, a deeply unpopular man in Juba, arrived to a mixture _____. He stood beside Kiir and smiled throughout the ceremony, and said in a speech that he respected the south's choice to secede. The U.S. has promised _____ allowed South Sudan to secede peacefully. However, _____ in the contested border region of Abyei and new fighting in South Kordofan - a state in Sudan with many south-supporting residents - risk a new north-south conflict. In Khartoum, the former capital of the South one newspaper headline read: "_____."

GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Birth of a new country – South Sudan

South Sudan has been celebrating its creation as a new independent East African nation. The new country celebrated in Juba, its new capital, on Saturday 9th July 2011, raising its flag before tens of thousands of its cheering citizens. The country has finally managed to break free (1)___ Sudan following a bitter 50-year struggle involving civil war. "The eyes of the world are now on us," said South Sudanese President Salva Kiir, (2)___ was inaugurated during a scorching midday ceremony. Kiir stressed (3)___ the people of South Sudan (4)___ advance their country together, and unite as countrymen first, casting aside allegiances to the dozens of tribes that reside (5)__. (6)___ the creation of the new territory, South Sudan will (7)___ the first time be linked with sub-Saharan Africa. Uganda and Kenya are already laying strong economic ties with (8)___ northern neighbour, an oil rich country that may one day ship its oil to a Kenyan port, instead of through the pipelines controlled by Khartoum, capital of Sudan.

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"From today (1)___ identity is southern and African, not Arabic and Muslim," read a hand painted sign that one man carried through the crowds. The new country celebrated at the stroke of midnight with raucous street parties. (2)___ midday, the speaker of parliament read a proclamation of independence (3)___ the flag of Sudan was lowered and the flag of South Sudan was raised, sparking wild cheers from the crowds. The President of Sudan Omar al-Bashir, (4)___ deeply unpopular man in Juba, arrived to a mixture of boos and murmurs. (5)___ stood beside Kiir and smiled throughout the ceremony, and said in a speech that he respected the south's choice to secede. The U.S. has promised aid to Sudan (6)___ it allowed South Sudan to secede peacefully. However, military standoffs (7)___ the contested border region of Abyei and new fighting in South Kordofan - a state in Sudan with many south-supporting residents - risk a new north-south conflict. In Khartoum, the former capital (8)___ the South one newspaper headline read: "Time to let go."

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	independent	11	raucous
2	citizens	12	inaugurated
3	ceremony	13	midday
4	struggle	14	murmurs
5	neighbour	15	secede
6	through	16	declaration
7	peacefully	17	standoffs
8	unpopular	18	recognised
9	proclamation	19	sub-Saharan
10	allegiances	20	parliament

LINKS

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Sudan
<http://news.yahoo.com/south-sudan-launch-currency-one-week-135931392.html>
http://articles.cnn.com/2011-07-08/opinion/south.sudan.future_1_abyei-south-sudan-aquer?_s=PM:OPINION
http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/timeline-and-map-the-worlds-newest-nation/2011/07/08/gIQAzvBs3H_graphic.html
http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/south-sudan-secedes-amid-tensions/2011/07/07/gIQAQ8RT2H_story.html
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14095681>

ANSWERS

GAP FILL: Birth of a new country – South Sudan: South Sudan has been celebrating its creation as a new independent East African **nation**. The new **country** celebrated in Juba, its new capital, on Saturday 9th July 2011, raising its flag before tens of thousands of its **cheering** citizens. The country has finally managed to break free from Sudan following a bitter 50-year struggle involving civil war. "The eyes of the world are now on us," said South Sudanese President Salva Kiir, who was inaugurated during a scorching midday **ceremony**. Kiir stressed that the people of South Sudan must advance their country together, and **unite** as countrymen first, casting aside allegiances to the dozens of **tribes** that reside there. With the creation of the new territory, South Sudan will for the first time be linked with sub-Saharan Africa. Uganda and Kenya are already laying strong economic ties with their northern **neighbour**, an oil rich country that may one day ship its **oil** to a Kenyan port, instead of through the pipelines controlled by Khartoum, capital of Sudan.

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