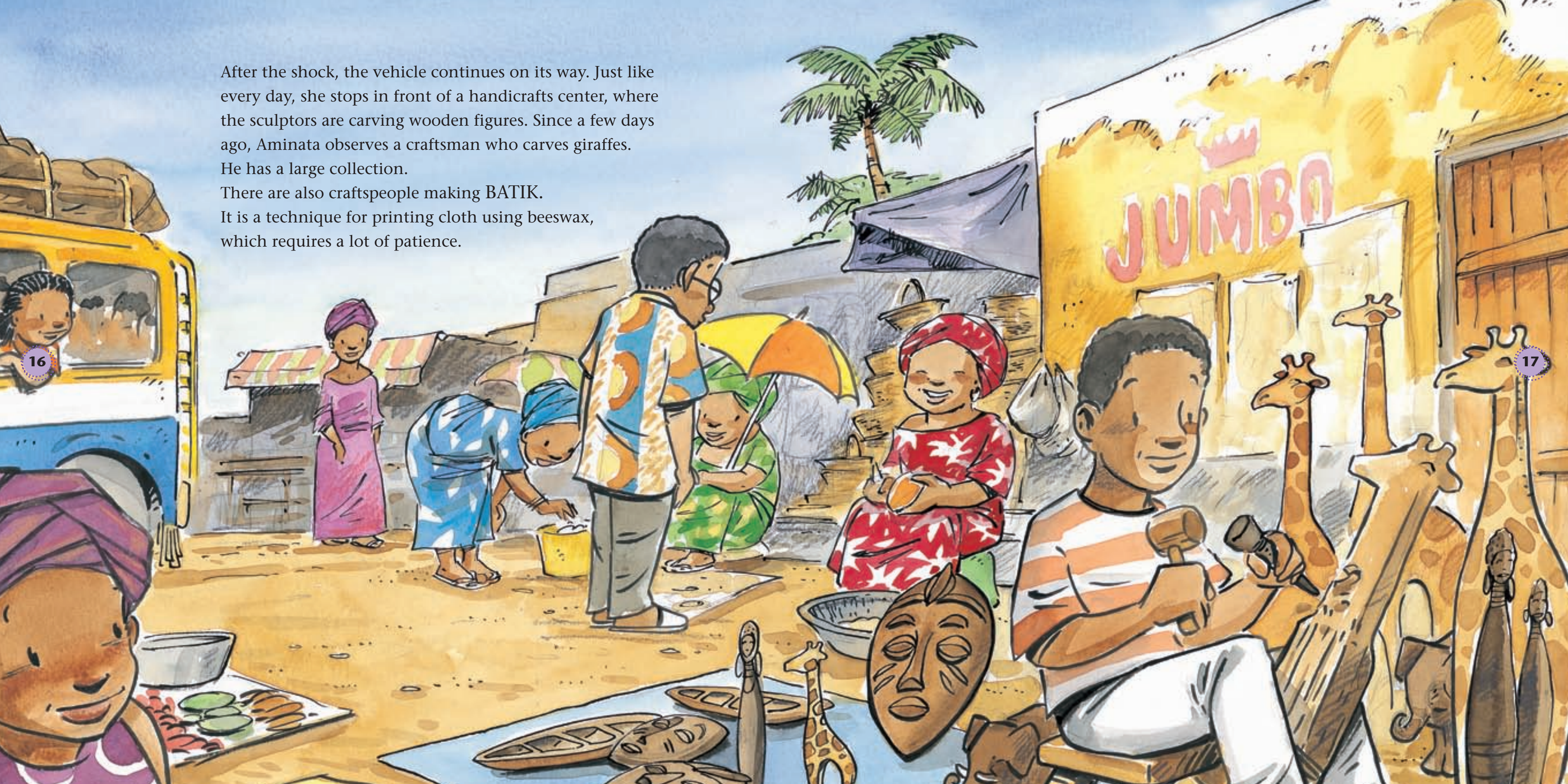


After the shock, the vehicle continues on its way. Just like every day, she stops in front of a handicrafts center, where the sculptors are carving wooden figures. Since a few days ago, Aminata observes a craftsman who carves giraffes. He has a large collection.

There are also craftspeople making BATIK. It is a technique for printing cloth using beeswax, which requires a lot of patience.

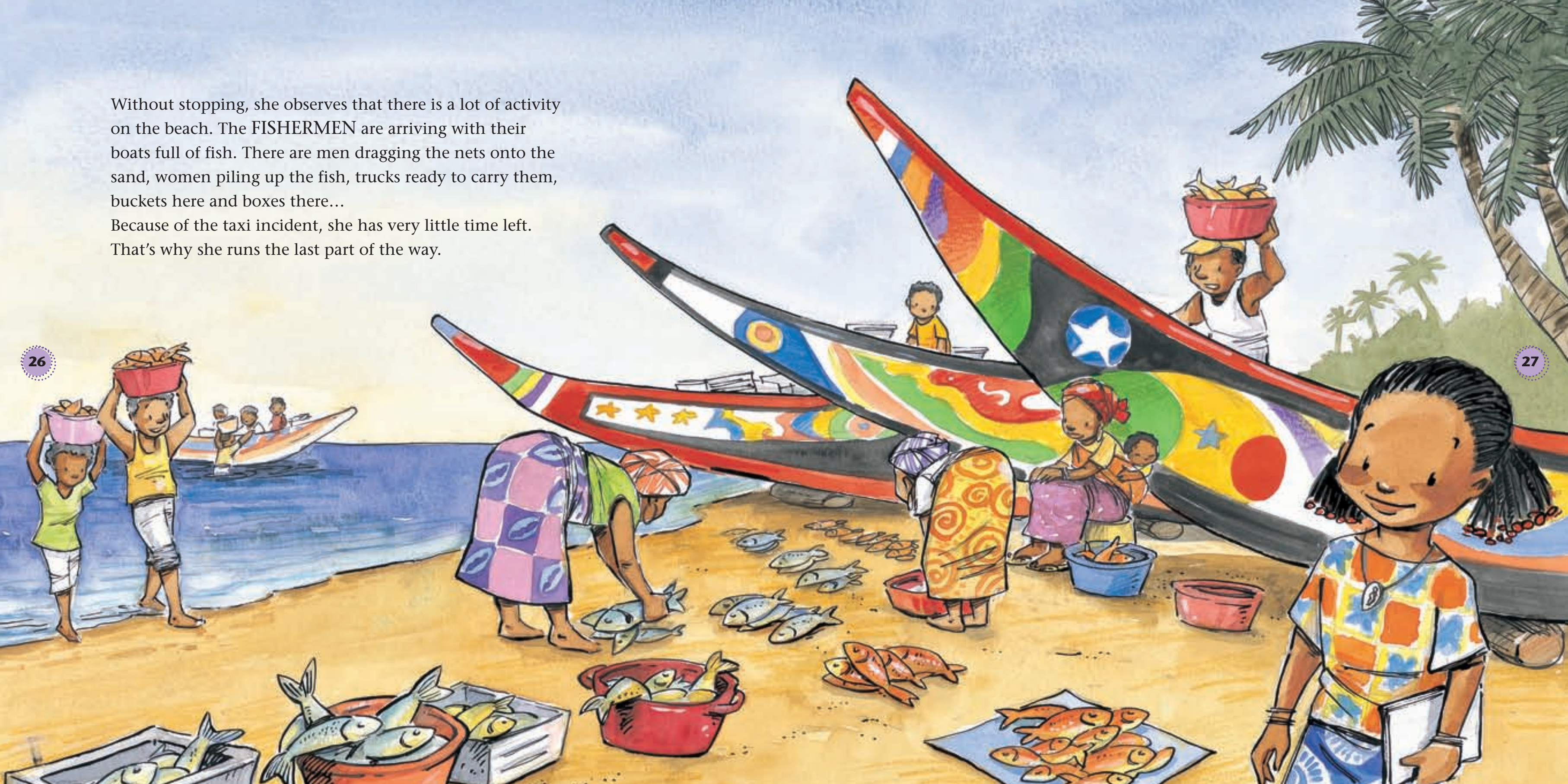




Without stopping, she observes that there is a lot of activity on the beach. The FISHERMEN are arriving with their boats full of fish. There are men dragging the nets onto the sand, women piling up the fish, trucks ready to carry them, buckets here and boxes there...

Because of the taxi incident, she has very little time left. That's why she runs the last part of the way.

26



27





# Learning more

Senegal is a Country in West Africa. It seems to be divided in two, because there is another country in the middle: Gambia.

The **capital city** is Dakar and the official **currency** is the CAF Franc.

34

The **flag** consists in three vertical stripes: A green one, a yellow one and another red one with a five-pointed star in the middle of the flag, which symbolizes the opening of Senegal to the five continents.



French is the **official language**, although very few Senegalese use it in their daily routines. The most widespread language is Wolof, spoken by the most people.

The Senegalese people are very religious and sometimes they combine ancient magical rites with Islam, which is the predominant **religion**. Some are **animists**, that is, they believe that objects have a spirit and they place great importance on magic and dreams.

Senegal is a poor country from an economical point of view, though it is very rich in culture and history.

**Fishing** is the most important activity and resource in the country. After this, there is tourism and peanut farming.

**Water** and **electricity** are scarce. Many Senegalese houses don't have running water and they have to go to fetch it from wells and sources, like Amanita, the main character in this story. Power cuts are common and they have to use candles for lighting.

**Transport** and basic services such as **health** and **education** are also inadequate, as they don't have enough economical resources.

In Senegal, there are a wide variety of **ethnic groups**. The main ones are the Wolof, Serer, Mandinka, Peul and Jola... Families tend to be large extended families, as **polygamy** is common, that is, the husband has several wives, each of which has children. We can also mention that in Senegal, almost everybody has a relative who has emigrated overseas. More than two million Senegalese live dispersed throughout other countries.



35

The country's musical wealth is very important. Among the traditional instruments, we highlight the **djembe** or drum, the **kora**, a small guitar with 21 strings and the **balafon**, a wooden xylophone.

On **Gorée Island**, situated 3 km from Dakar, the **House of Slaves** is found, currently converted into a **museum**. In 1978, it was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO as a global symbol of suffering.

