

Napoleon in Waterloo

Napoleon went to Waterloo.
It was raining so hard,
Napoleon lost a shoe.
When the Brits saw him,
they chased him *à la fin*.
Napoleon went back all the way
to the River Seine.

Napoleon was the Emperor of France. He quarreled with his neighbors, such as the British, Prussians, Austrians and Russians. Instead of settling disagreements calmly, Napoleon decided to fire cannons at his neighbors. He probably thought that the louder the bang, the greater was his chance to be heard. Not so, as he later found out in a small Belgian town called Waterloo, where he decided to fire his cannons at his neighbors on June 18, 1815.

The night before the battle, it rained so hard, which Napoleon should have known could happen in rainy Belgium. The ground became so muddy that Napoleon's cannons got stuck. When the battle began the next morning, Napoleon could not fire as many cannon balls as he liked. He lost the fight and could be heard shouting to his soldiers "*retraite en France*." Napoleon's defeat taught him a good lesson – the best way to settle disagreements with your neighbors is to talk calmly and not fire your cannons at them!



A Name by any other Name

Columbus called it Land of Grace,
in a letter he sent to Her Royal Highness.

Alonso asked, "what country is this?"

Amerigo replied, "it is little Venice."

Finally a name - Venezuela it is!

It is true. It is not false.

It even has Angel, the tallest waterfalls.



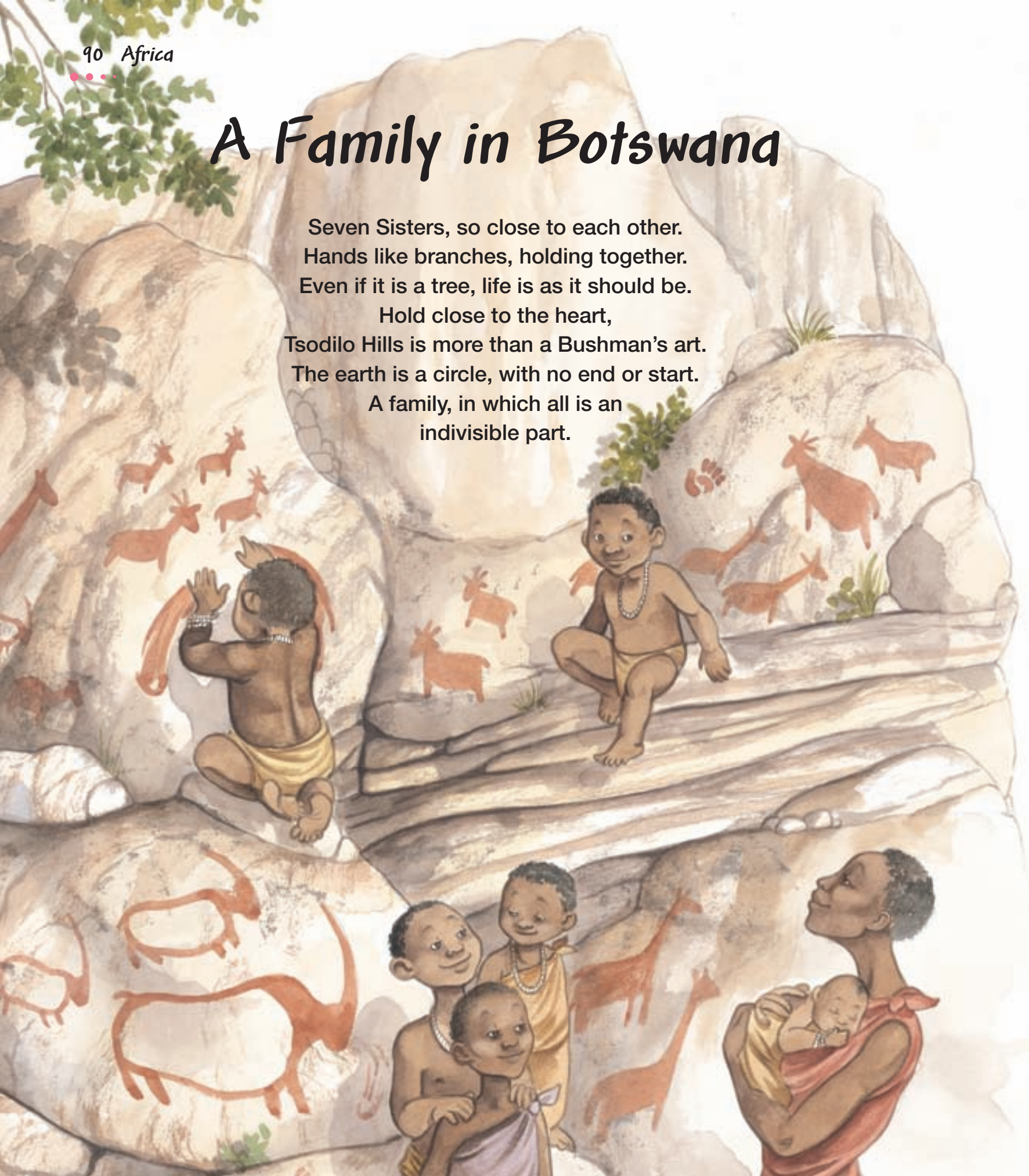
In 1498, Christopher Columbus arrived in Venezuela. Awed by its natural beauty, Christopher called it "Land of Grace" in a letter he wrote to Queen Isabella I of Spain. The following year, the Queen dispatched Alonso de Ojeda to explore this paradise. Alonso's navigator was the Italian Amerigo Vespucci, himself an explorer and cartographer. Seeing the stilt houses reminded Amerigo of Venice and inspired him to name this paradise, Venezuela - meaning "little Venice."

Venezuela has the tallest waterfalls in the world. Salto Angel or Angel Falls rises to 979 meters (3,212 feet) and plunges to 807 meters (2,648 feet). It is so tall that much of its waters do not reach the bottom. Midway, they evaporate or are carried by the wind as mists. It is called Angel Falls after James Crawford Angel, a US pilot who was the first to fly over the Falls in 1933. Before then, the Falls was known only to the locals and they call it "Kerepakupai Merú," meaning "waterfall of the deepest point."

A Family in Botswana

Seven Sisters, so close to each other.
Hands like branches, holding together.
Even if it is a tree, life is as it should be.

Hold close to the heart,
Tsodilo Hills is more than a Bushman's art.
The earth is a circle, with no end or start.
A family, in which all is an
indivisible part.



The African Baobab, an ancient tree, is considered as the *tree of life*, because it can store water that is vital during drought season. Bushmen use hollow pieces of grass to suck the water out of its trunk. Baobabs do not normally grow so close together, but there are in Botswana's Nxai Pan National Park seven baobabs clustered so close that they are called *Seven Sisters*. They are also known as Baines Baobabs after the explorer and artist John Thomas Baines, who made a painting of them in 1862.

Tsodilo Hills in Botswana is known for its series of more than 4,500 rock paintings that are believed to have been painted thousands of years ago mostly by the San people or Bushmen. There are four main hills in Tsodilo. The highest is known to the local San people as the "Male." The next two are the "Female" and the "Child," while the fourth hill has no name. The San people or Bushmen who live in the area believe that Tsodilo Hills is the site where the first Creation took place.