

## Introduction

My Madagascar is an educational textbook based on the everyday life of a little girl who lives in Madagascar. Balbiny describes life in her own words and shares with us original and personal photographs of her friends, family and life around her home and school.

We hope you enjoy learning about the country by looking at it through the eyes of a pupil your age. We have tried to make it both educational and fun. At the end of each chapter we have included some activities for you to do as exercises in school, either individually or as a class.

After working your way through the book, under the section Your Madagascar, we suggest you experiment and explore the country for yourselves, applying what you have learned and researched. Try copying the style of the book by making your own presentation, scrapbook, video or website.

We think teachers will find My Madagascar an important educational resource, as languages are now compulsory at Key Stage 2, and at Key Stage 3 the study of French-speaking countries is included in the French Scheme of Work.

## The Book's Aims

- To give schoolchildren an understanding of the broader aspects of language whilst respecting the requirements for cross-curricular work.
- To encourage the use of books as an educational tool by making this one accessible, attractive and entertaining.
- To guide students to use the Internet for research in an intelligent and responsible way.
- To give teachers a reliable and entertaining teaching resource that will attract children and hold their interest.

*We hope you enjoy it. Have fun!*

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Hi! My name is Balbiny and I live in Madagascar.  
Let me introduce you to my country, my family  
life and friends.

## An Overview

### An introduction to Madagascar

Have you any idea where Madagascar is?

It's a large island in the Indian Ocean off the East Coast of Africa. It's actually the fourth largest island in the world and is also known as the 'The Red Island'.



It's about the same size as France but very few people live here. It has a smaller population than London.

How many people live in your country? How does that compare to the number of people who live in Madagascar?

## Madagascar

**Population:** 20.2 million

**Area:** 587,041 sq km (226,658 sq miles)

**Location:** Indian Ocean

**Largest City in Madagascar:** Antananarivo

**Language:** The official languages are Malagasy and French.  
Local dialects are also spoken.  
English is not widely spoken.

**Religion:** 52% follow animist beliefs; about 41% Christian;  
remainder Muslim

**General Climate:** Tropical along coast, temperate inland, arid in south

**Natural Hazards:** Periodic cyclones

**Currency:** Ariary