

# STUDENT'S HANDOUT



## Landmines in Mozambique

1. The civil war which lasted sixteen years (1977-1992) is the principal cause of the placement of mines on the Mozambican territory. Throughout this war, which began after the country's independence, more than one million Mozambican civilians died due to fatal confrontations and the presence of immense minefields in the country.

2. Anti-personnel landmines are weapons that are placed in the ground with the aim of hurting or killing people. The simple pressure of a foot or the release of a trip wire creates an explosion so strong that it can literally tear off a leg or lead to the person's death.

3. During the war in Mozambique, landmines were frequently used by the opposing armed forces. In the country, landmines kill on average two people per week, in addition to causing many injuries. Despite what the manufacturers say, that mines only aim to immobilize fighters, they do not make any distinction between a soldier and a civilian. Fourteen years after the end of the war, a few million anti-personnel and anti-tank landmines are still present and continue to harm people, making new amputees each year. The number of people wounded and killed has reached 1.5 million in Mozambique since the early 1970s.

4. The end of the civil war in Mozambique in 1992 was the first sign of hope that work could begin to eliminate landmines and anti-tank devices scattered throughout the country. Since the early 1990s, a coalition of 1400 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from 90 countries has organized a vast operation to abolish the use of landmines in the world. Canada has played a primordial role in the coalition.

5. In December 1997, a treaty signed in Ottawa by more than 145 countries, including Mozambique, formally prohibits the use of landmines. This treaty also assist victims of landmines and stipulates that signing countries must work to remove existing landmines.

6. Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), also participates in aid projects to eliminate landmines in Mozambique. The canadian agency has elaborated a cooperation plan aiming to create a database supporting efforts for faster de-mining of the country. CIDA is also assisting landmine victims through involvement in local projects such as the establishment of first aid clinics, the donation of orthopedic material, and help to local organizations promoting the reintegration of amputees into society.



## Background Information

The civil war which lasted sixteen years (1977-1992) is the principal cause of the placement of mines on the Mozambican territory. Throughout this war, which began after the country's independence, more than one million Mozambican civilians died due to fatal confrontations and the presence of immense minefields in the country.



## Instructions

Read the following informative text. Answer the questionnaire that follows.



7. With the support of the United Nations, Mozambique created the National De-mining Institute of Mozambique in 1995, the first organization in the country to elaborate policies and strategies to eliminate landmines. Also, many NGOs organize educational campaigns to prevent accidents caused by the landmines. The mines are currently a major obstacle to the economic development of the country.

**Did you know that?**

- Every year around the world, another 2.5 million more landmines are layed in the ground. They will remain active for at least half a century.
- On average in the world, every 20 minutes a person becomes a victim of a landmine.
- 30 billion US dollars is the estimate of the cost to remove these landmines.

Stocks of Landmines in the world	Principal landmine producers	Number of victims
250 million	United States, China, Sri Lanka, Russia, Turkey, Democratic Republic of Congo, Finland, Cuba, and 45 other countries who did not sign the Ottawa Treaty on de-mining.	26,000 deaths per year

	MOZAMBIQUE	CANADA
Population	19.2 millions (2004)	32.0 millions (2004)
Salary per capita*	\$1 070 US	\$29 740 US
Ecological footprint*	0.7	6.4
Capital	Maputo	Ottawa
Life expectancy*	38 years	79 years
Illiteracy rate	54 %	1 %

*\* Salary per capita here is adjusted for cost of living in each country, compared to a base in the United States. Ecological Footprint is the area, in hectares, required for the consumption of one person. Life expectancy is the average number of years one can expect to live at the time of birth.*



Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reading Comprehension Evaluation: Landmines in Mozambique**

1. According to the text, what caused the placement of landmines in Mozambique?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Name two actions led by Canada in the fight against landmines.

Action 1 : \_\_\_\_\_

Action 2 : \_\_\_\_\_

3. Give an argument in favor of the fabrication of landmines and two arguments against as mentioned in the text. Specify, for each argument, the paragraph number where the argument is found.

Pro: \_\_\_\_\_ Paragraph number : \_\_\_\_\_

Con: \_\_\_\_\_ Paragraph number : \_\_\_\_\_

Con: \_\_\_\_\_ Paragraph number : \_\_\_\_\_

4. With information found in the text, complete the blanks in the following tables :

Information	Dates
	1997
Beginning of the civil war in Mozambique	
Creation of the De-mining Institute	
	1992

Information	Statistical Data
Stocks of land mines in the world	
	1 million
Number of mines laid annually in the world	
Total number of people wounded or killed in Mozambique because of landmines	

5. Name an action led by non-governmental organizations as mentioned in the text.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Which paragraph mentions the fact that landmines are still creating numerous victims in Mozambique? Support your answer with a quote from the text. Number of paragraph : \_\_\_\_\_

Quote: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Why is de-mining essential for countries like Mozambique? Explain your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

AN INITIATIVE OF THE  
In-Terre-Actif Network of the Comité de Solidarité/Trois-Rivières



PRODUCED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA  
THROUGH THE



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