

GOOGLE CABLE TO AFRICA

Mar 21st, 2022

WARM-UP QUESTIONS: *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s).*

1. How often do you use the internet? What do you use it for?
2. Read the headline above. Have you heard this news story? If so, say what you know. If not, can you guess what it's about?

VOCABULARY: *Match the following vocabulary words with a description. Use a dictionary if you need to.*

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. Luminary | a) a person in the movement to get rid of slavery |
| 2. Depict | b) a central place with lots of activity |
| 3. Abolitionist | c) to change someone's mind or to make them believe something |
| 4. Internet penetration rate | d) to say what will happen in the future |
| 5. Hub | e) an important person |
| 6. Convince | f) to increase |
| 7. Branch | g) the value of goods and services produced by a country in one year (Gross Domestic Product) |
| 8. Boost | h) the percentage of people in an area that use the internet |
| 9. GDP | i) a part that goes outward from a main line |
| 10. Predict | j) to show |

LISTEN: *Listen to the audio track on eslnewsstories.com or to a reader of the text. Try to fill in the missing words. Then check your answers with the full text.*

People of West _____ can expect their quality of internet connection to improve in the coming years. Google is in the process of laying an undersea cable that connects Portugal to South Africa, with stops in Togo, _____, and Namibia along the way.

The cable is being fully funded by Google and is their third private international cable. Following a _____ of naming their cables after historical luminaries, this one is called *Equiano*, after Nigerian-born Olaudah Equiano. Equiano, who lived in the 18th century, was sold and resold as a

slave. Eventually, he bought his _____, wrote a book that depicted the reality of slavery, and joined the abolitionist movement in London.

The _____ of West Africa have low internet penetration rates when compared internationally, but with large numbers of young people, there is plenty of demand for improved access. Google’s original plan had Nigeria as the cable’s first stop. However, the Togolese Government, which hopes to turn Togo into a tech hub, was _____ to convince Google that a branch should extend to Togo.

The cable arrived in Togo this _____. It is expected to not only increase internet speeds but also reduce prices. Google predicts the cable will indirectly create 37 000 jobs and boost GDP by \$193 million by 2025.

WORD FORMS: *Fill in different forms for the vocabulary from the article. Use a dictionary if you need to. Where there is an x, the word is uncommon, has a different meaning, or doesn’t exist. Sometimes there are multiple possible answers, and sometimes the adjective form is a past or present participle.*

VERB	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB	NOUN
x			luminary
depict		x	
		x	abolitionist/abolition
convince			
		x	branch
boost		x	
predict			

People of West Africa can expect their quality of internet connection to improve in the coming years. Google is in the process of laying an undersea cable that connects Portugal to South Africa, with stops in Togo, Nigeria, and Namibia along the way.

The cable is being fully funded by Google and is their third private international cable. Following a pattern of naming their cables after historical luminaries, this one is called *Equiano*, after Nigerian-born Olaudah Equiano. Equiano, who lived in the 18th century, was sold and resold as a slave. Eventually, he bought his freedom, wrote a book that depicted the reality of slavery, and joined the abolitionist movement in London.

The countries of West Africa have low internet penetration rates when compared internationally, but with large numbers of young people, there is plenty of demand for improved access. Google's original plan had Nigeria as the cable's first stop. However, the Togolese Government, which hopes to turn Togo into a tech hub, was able to convince Google that a branch should extend to Togo.

The cable arrived in Togo this month. It is expected to not only increase internet speeds but also reduce prices. Google predicts the cable will indirectly create 37 000 jobs and boost GDP by \$193 million by 2025.

Sources: reuters.com, cloud.google.com/blog, africanews.com, aljazeera.com, wikipedia.org

For source links, see the article on ESLNewsStories.com

COMPREHENSION: *Decide if the following are true (T) or false (F), and then discuss your answers with your partner(s).*

1. A new cable will go from Portugal to South Africa. (T / F)
2. Google named the cable after an inventor. (T / F)
3. The cable's first stop is in Togo. (T / F)
4. Togo is a tech hub. (T / F)
5. The GDP of Togo will probably increase. (T / F)

COMPLETE: *Re-order the following sentences. Capitalize certain words and add punctuation.*

1. cable / nigeria / stops / also / in / the
-

2. slavery / equiano / a / wrote / about / book
-

DISCUSSION: *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s). Try to speak in sentences and ask follow-up questions.*

1. Is your internet connection fast enough? Is it reliable? Is it reasonably priced?
2. What do you know about Google? Do you use their products or services?
3. Is internet access a necessity in the modern world? What problems would a person have without internet access?
4. How digital is the community you live in? Are many services available online?
5. What other places around the world are tech hubs or want-to-be tech hubs? Why do they want to focus on technology?
6. Do you think Togo will succeed at becoming a tech hub? Why or why not?

7. What do you think Olaudah Equiano would think about an undersea cable being named after him more than two hundred years after he lived?
8. Slavery was abolished, but it still happens in the modern world. How is this possible?
9. What jobs exist in your country because of the internet?
10. Improving digital infrastructure, like internet access, is one way to increase economic growth. How else can we increase economic growth?

RESEARCH: *Read or watch more about this topic. Write several pieces of information in the form of a list in English. Share what you learned with your partner(s) when you next meet.*

WRITING: *Write a paragraph that clearly states your opinion on the above news article. Give reasons for your opinion.*

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY: 1-e, 2-j, 3-a, 4-h, 5-b, 6-c, 7-i, 8-f, 9-g, 10-d

WORD FORMS: luminous, luminously, depictional, depiction, abolish, abolitionary, convinced/convincing, convincingly, conviction, branch, branched, boosted, boost, predicted/predictable, predictably, prediction

COMPREHENSION: 1-T, 2-F, 3-T, 4-F, 5-T.

COMPLETE: 1. The cable also stops in Nigeria. 2. Equiano wrote a book about slavery.