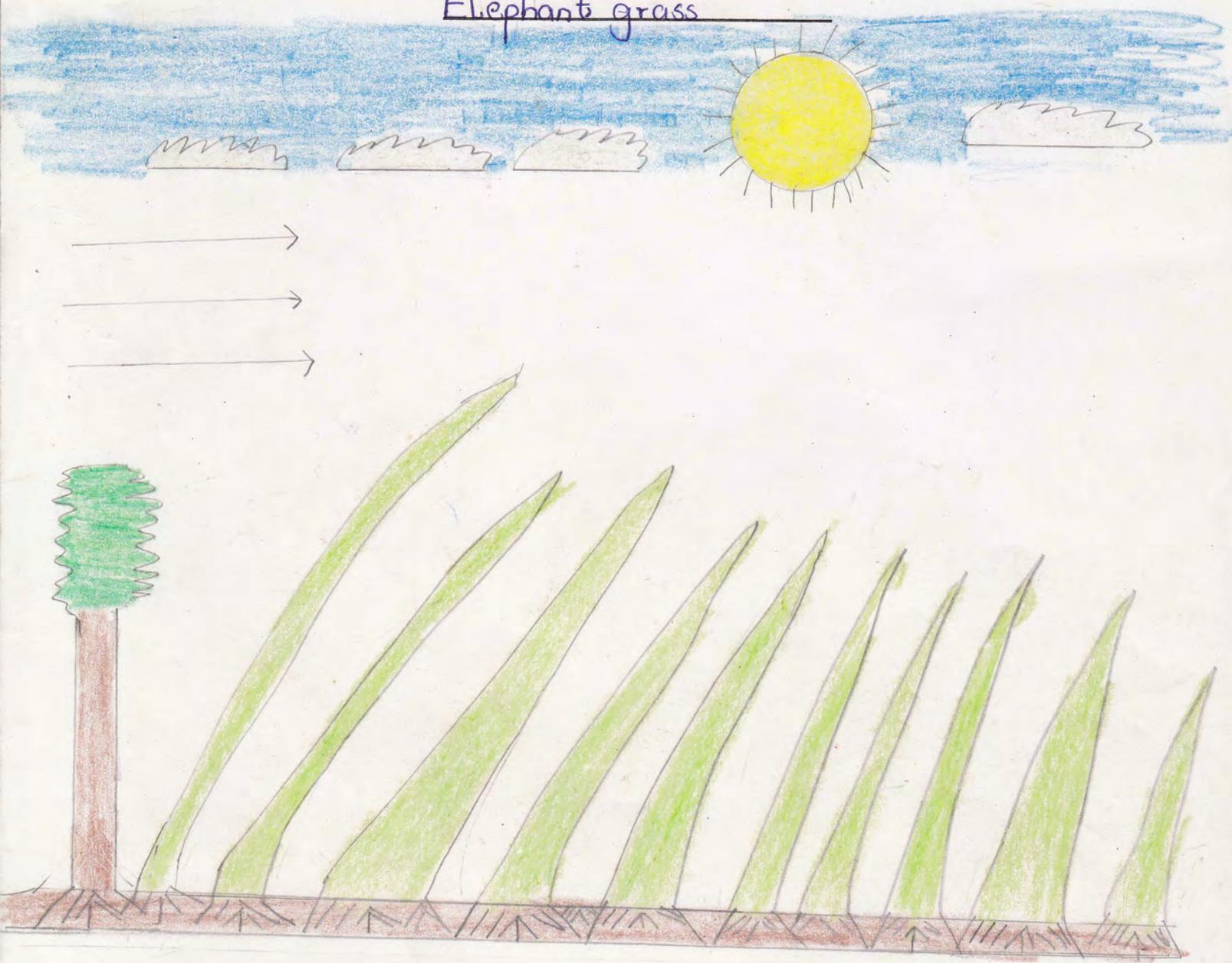


My Savanna Plant Book on
Elephant grass



Written by Barbara Ndungu

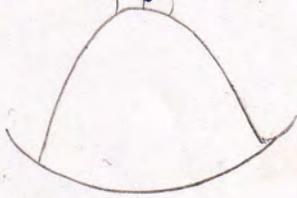
Hello fellow students. My name is Barbara Muthon Ndungu and I'm a 5th grade student at Midas Golden Academy in Zimmerman estate. We are learning about *savannas* and I'd like to share with you about what *savannas* are, how *important* they are, and a *plant* of particular interest to me, elephant grass.



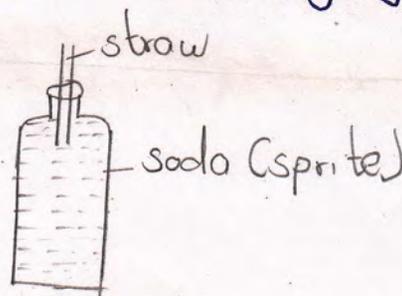
About me...

But before I start my book, I'd like to share with you about some of my favorite things.

Some of my favorite things are helping in church and reading. My favorite things are recipes which are ugali and vegetables. When preparing you need a mwiko (wooden spoon), maize flour and water. It is commonly known as corn in America. Some green vegetables are pigweed, kales and spinach.



Some of my favorite books are The famous five and my favorite drinks are soda (sprite) and youghurt.



Okay, now I'm ready to write about what savannas are and facts about one of my favorite plants, elephant grass.

First, *savannas* are found in a wide band on either side of the equator on the edges of tropical forests and desert biomes. Savannas are typically characterized as rolling grasslands scattered with shrubs and isolated trees. Additional

characteristics are:- Scattered trees which are Acacia and Baobab.

- Also has long grass (elephant grass), shrubs and scrubs.



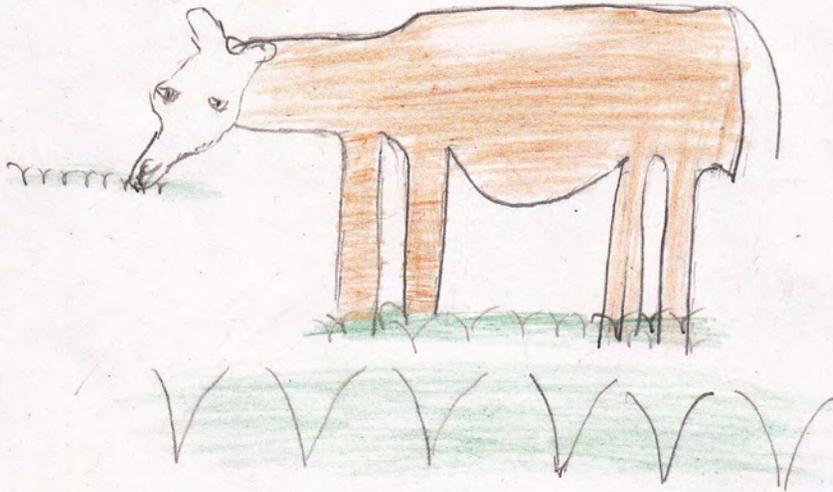
Second, we are very fortunate to literally have savannas as part of our community. They serve many *important* purposes, such as:

- It can attract tourists.
- Pastoralists can graze their cattle, sheep and goats.
- Can be used to thatch houses traditionally by the aborigines.



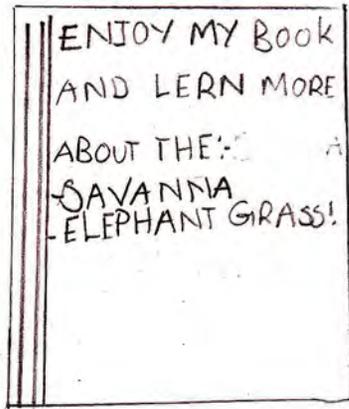
thatch house (hut)

Third, there is a particular plant of interest to me, namely the elephant grass. I chose this plant because it supports life in the savannas especially the herbivores.



In the following paragraphs, I will briefly discuss the following: common name, scientific name, physical characteristics, needs, range, if the plant is native or non-native, habitat, adaptations, population, status, animals that eat the plant, and whether aborigines used the plant.

I hope you enjoy the book!



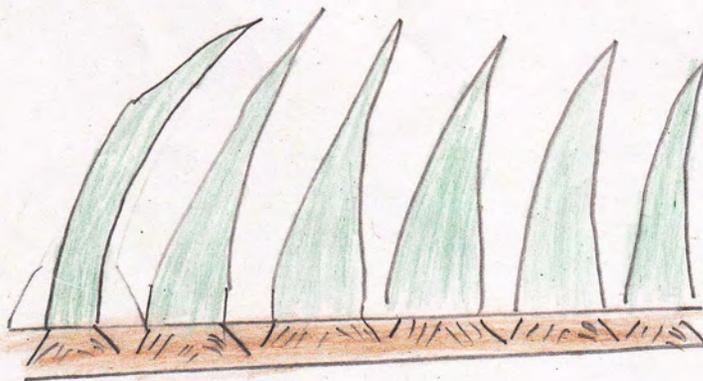
Names

The elephant grass has two names. The common name is nyas (Nyeki) kikuyu, and the scientific name is Pennisetum purpureum.

In science, the *scientific name* is the genus and species of the plant or animal.

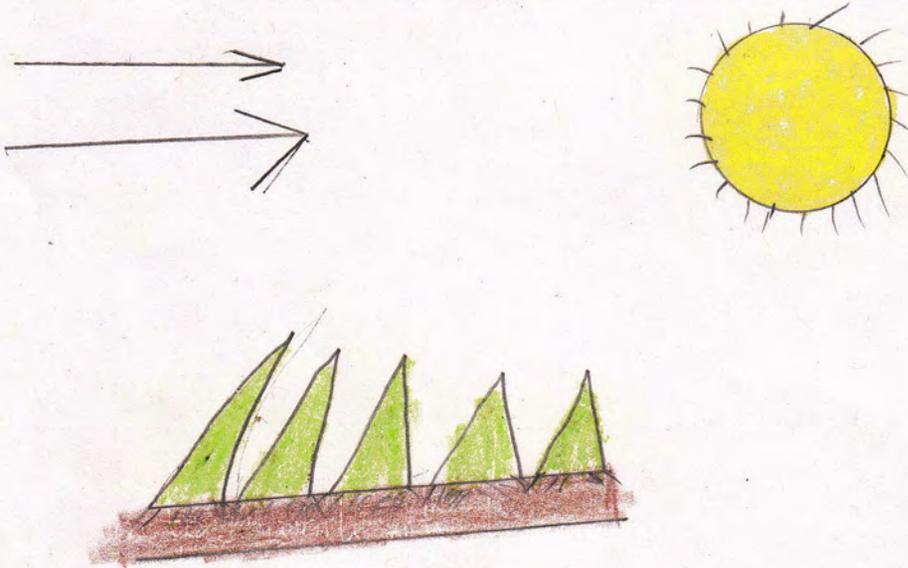
Physical characteristics...my plant looks like...

My plant is tall and perennial and has fibrous roots and parallel veins. It grows to 2-4 meters while its leaves grow 80-120 centimeters wide



Needs...

In order to grow, it needs little air, a lot
of sunlight and little water. Also the cactus
needs little water but stores a lot of water.



My plant is also very important to the
ecosystem because it provides food to
other animals, such as the herbivores eg zebra,
gazelle and elephant.

Range...where it's found...

The range of my plant is found in different parts and it is mostly in the savannas together with acacia and baobab.



Native or non-native...to belong or not to belong...

My plant is native to the savanna environment

Habitat...where plant lives...

The habitat is the savannah which is dry and
has short scattered trees and shrubs



Adaptations...special features...

After researching the elephant grass,
I've discovered that the elephant grass uses very
little water and a lot of sunlight to grow.

Population

The population of the elephant grass
is high because it is found in most parts of the
Savanna.

Status

The status of the elephant grass is
not endangered.

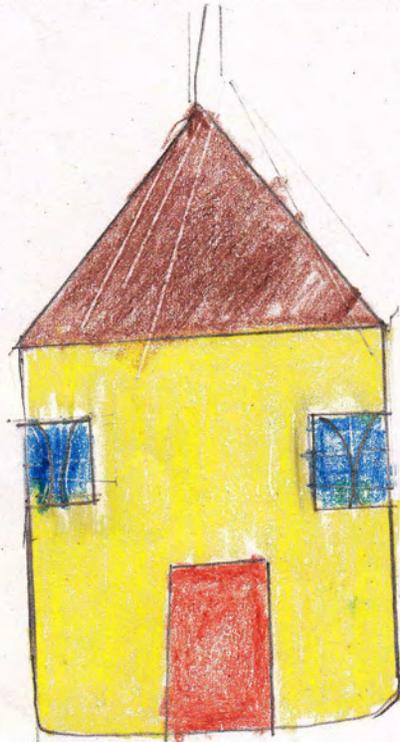
Who/what eats me?

Animals that eat me are the herbivores example
zebra, gazelle, impala and the elephant.

Aborigines...

I was curious to investigate whether the aborigines used the elephant grass for any purposes. What I discovered was that they used for building.

- Also they used it to control pests by the method push and pull method. Some of the pests are the corn borer and can be used as a biofuel crop.
- It can be planted in artificial terraces to stop soil erosion.



References

(books, articles, web-sites, etc.)

www.blueplanet.org/savannas.htm

www.blueplanet.org

www.blueplanetbiomes.org/elephantgrass.htm

2 Primary Social Studies K.L.B

3 Our lives today Oxford

4 Kenya primary atlas Macmillan

5 Nairobi County Longhorn

Thank you for reading my book. I hope you enjoyed it and learned a lot about the elephant grass. Please feel free to *comment* about my book and also, test your knowledge by answering the following *questions* below. I look forward to hearing from you.

Comments for me:

Questions for you: (See if you can answer these...)

1. X List down 3 characteristics of ~~an~~ the elephant grass.
2. What is the habitat of my plant?
3. What is importance of my plant to the
aborigines

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