



**Transcript for *Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, an Imprint of Macmillan) Preview Video**

**Preview (0:00 – 7:49)**

Hi everyone! It's Colleen from the KU Natural History Museum, and I'm so excited to remind you about tomorrow's Story Book Science. I will be reading the book *Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai*. This book, it's written and illustrated by Claire A. Nivola, and it's published and being read with permission from Farrar, Straus and Giroux, which is an imprint of Macmillan. So thank you to them for letting us read the book!

Now last week, we talked about trees. We talked about these giant coast redwoods that you find in Northern California. And we're going to talk about trees this week too, except this time the trees we'll be talking about are in a completely different place very far away from Northern California. In fact, these trees are located in the country of Kenya.

So this is Kenya on a map of the continent of Africa. Kenya is a country in the continent of Africa. And what you can see from this map is there are a lot of different countries. So there are a lot of different countries and different peoples and cultures represented on the continent of Africa. And not only that, but there are also all of these different landscapes, these natural areas, and we're going to talk about those.

But before we talk about those natural landscapes, let's talk about the equator! Now this is another map of the continent of Africa. And this is where the equator is. Now the equator is an imaginary line. So it's not real. We imagine it. And it's a flat line that goes all around the earth! And it splits the continent of Africa into two halves: a northern hemisphere and a southern hemisphere. Now understanding where the equator is is very important because it helps us better understand the unique natural areas on the continent. And there are many! And I just want to go over a few. I can't talk about all of them. I don't have enough time. But we're going to talk about a few of the natural areas you can find on the continent of Africa.

So first, this is a desert. And this is a photo of sand dunes in the Sahara Desert near Morocco. Now one of the things I want us to understand is just how big the Sahara Desert is. And here is a map that shows you where the Sahara Desert is located and also just how big it is. So there's that line, the equator, we talked about earlier. So the Sahara Desert is in the Northern Hemisphere. So it's in the northern part of the continent. And look how large it is! So the picture we saw earlier of those sand dunes, those were near Morocco. And only a small part of Morocco incorporates the Sahara Desert. But the Sahara Desert is huge, and I really want you to just look at that map, and try to imagine how big that desert is!

Now another natural area in, or on, the continent of Africa is mountains. Now this is a photo I've seen many times before. This is Kilimanjaro. But as I was looking up pictures of Kilimanjaro to share with you, I learned something very interesting. Kilimanjaro is actually three volcanic cones! They're inactive, so that means that they're not active volcanoes. But Kilimanjaro is three volcanic cones. What we normally see in pictures is the largest of those volcanic cones, which is in the center, but there are 1, 2, 3 volcanic cones. And Kilimanjaro is located in East Africa, specifically in a country called Tanzania, which is right below Kenya. And Mount Kilimanjaro you would find on the border of Kenya and Tanzania.

Another natural area I want to share with you are the rainforests. Now the rainforests on the continent of Africa, you find those in the Congo Basin. So I have a map to show you where the Congo Basin is. And it can be a little confusing looking at this map because there's a lot of rivers, and it can be a little overwhelming. So when that happens, what we want to do is we want to look at the smaller map. Do you see that? There's a red square, and that red square, if we were to zoom in, what we would see is what's on the big map. So that red square represents where the Congo Basin is. And it includes many different countries including the Democratic Republic of the Congo. And just to give you an idea of what the rainforests look like in this region, this is the Ituri rainforest. And it's very green and lush. There's a lot of biodiversity, so lots of different animals and plants that you would find in the rainforest.

Now the last natural landscape I want to talk about are the savannas or the grasslands. And what characterizes the savanna is grass! So it's an area, it's mostly grassland with maybe a few trees dispersed here and there. And this is a really good photo of what a savanna grassland looks like. So there is a tree, but it's mostly grass. It's a wide open space. And these areas, this is a specific savanna called the Serengeti plains, but in these areas you might see animal migrations, such as wildebeests, or gnus.

So there are so many different landscapes, so many different natural areas on the continent of Africa. And not only are these natural areas full of biodiversity, but you also have a lot of natural resources! And natural resources are things that you can use that come from the earth. And a lot of powerful leaders from Europe wanted these natural resources. In fact, they wanted them, and they didn't ask for them. They just took them! And that had a really big impact on many of the countries that you find on the continent and the people that live there.

Now tomorrow, when we read our book about Wangari Maathai, we're going to talk about one country in particular: Kenya. Now when Wangari was born, Kenya was under the rule of Great Britain. So it was a British colony. But then in 1963 it gained its independence, but there were still a lot of things that kind of remained from when Britain was in control. And a lot of it impacted the land. So Wangari had an idea! She had an idea that was a movement called the Green Belt Movement to restore the land, and we're going to talk about that tomorrow when we read the book.

So I hope you join me tomorrow for Story Book Science at 10 AM here on Facebook Live, and we will learn and read together about Wangari Maathai and her Green Belt Movement. So I hope to see you then! Bye!