## **Inside Africa**

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ON a Saturday afternoon, when you are enjoying ice cream in front of the TV or playing on the computer, what are kids your age doing on the other side of the planet? Are they at school? What do they do for fun every day? Find out here:  
  
**1 Education**  
  
School is expensive for many African kids. Lots of families can't afford school uniforms or exercise books even if they don't have to pay for school.  
  
For those lucky enough to go to school, they have a lot to learn. Some take two language classes: English or French, and their native language. There is also math, science, history, social studies, and geography.  
  
Chores take up much of kids' time after school. They have to get water and firewood for the family every day. Then, there's cleaning, washing and helping Mum with the meal.  
  
**2 Daily fun**  
  
It's not all work and no play. Sports are very popular. Sport is great because kids do not need money to play.  
  
Kids can make goals with *twigs* (嫩枝) and their own footballs with *plastic* (塑料) and bits of *string* (绳子). They play in the desert dust and the streets of old towns.  
  
There're many football teams for teenagers in Africa. The first kids' football teams were set up in *Kenya* (肯尼亚) in 1987.  
  
**3 Internet**  
  
Egypt and South Africa are the top two users of the Internet in the continent. All of the capital cities in Africa can get on the Internet.  
  
But fewer than one out of every 250 people in Africa can get on the Internet. It's really expensive. To surf the net for 20 hours costs over 600 yuan. This is more than the average monthly pay per person.  
  
Some schools offer computer lessons but few students can enjoy computer fun at home.  
  
South African Lesley Harrison, 12, wishes he had the Internet at home. "I could show my family lots of stuff. No one where I live even knows what the Internet is."