

## Maggie's journal through Liberia

Day 1: I just entered a village. There are lots of huts and a single dirt road goes through the village. The huts are made of out of mud and roofs were made out of straw. I did not speak the language but they seem very friendly. The villagers were wearing clothes that look like they weaved the cloth themselves.

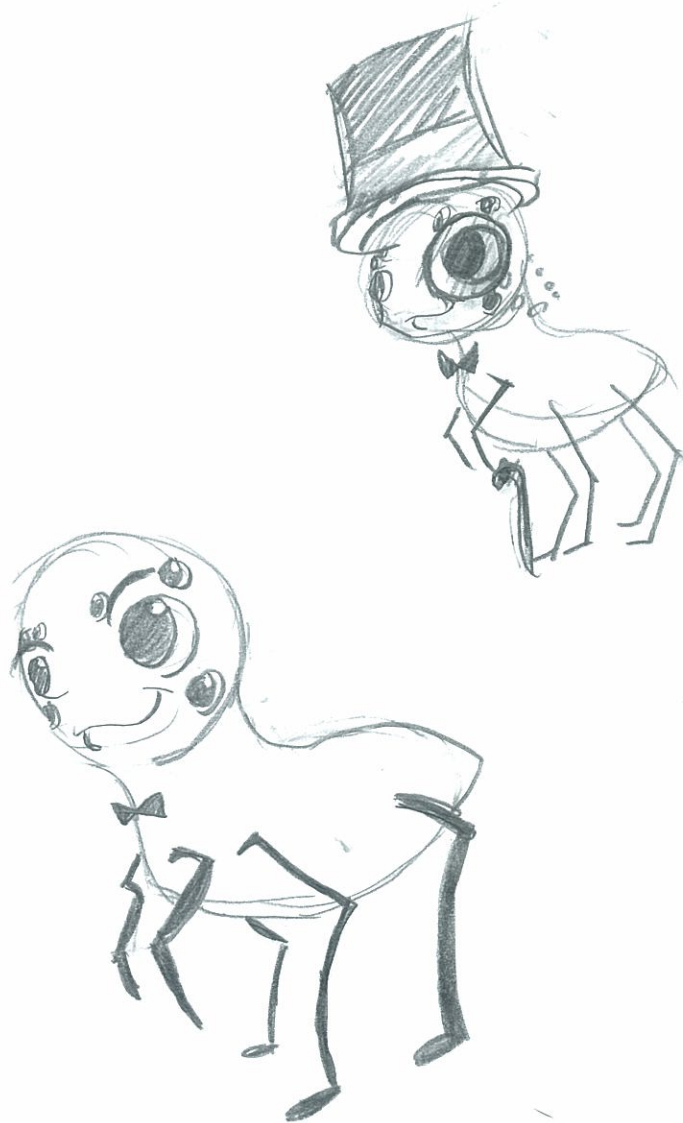
Day 2: Today I went on a safari and encountered many animals. Some of my favorite was the giraffes, zebras, monkeys, a mongoose, and the lions. There are some animals I saw that I am not familiar with and our guide described them to me. One animal that was interesting to look at is the mongoose. It looks like an anteater with an armadillo shell because of the striped fur he wears.

All of a sudden I felt something crawling up my back. I looked and it was a spider. My native safari guide told me the story of how the spider got its tiny waist. It went something like this. The greedy, crafty spider got invited to two parties. He wanted to go to both. His friends Groundhog and Pepper bird would help him. He tied a long string around his waist. Groundhog was at one party and Pepper bird was at the other party. They would pull the string when the party began so that Spider could go there. Then he could go on the next one. Both parties started at the same time so they both pulled at the same time. They thought Spider couldn't feel it so they pulled harder. Spider's waist got very tiny. So don't be greedy.

Day 3: I have become friends with the people at the village. They wave to me and are teaching me simple words like thank you, how are you, and hello. The villagers who don't speak English are teaching me to make pots with clay. I do not like making pots because it gets all messy and I realize that my life in America is much easier.

Day 4: Today I just chilled out.

Day 5: Today I am going home. I will miss the animals and seeing them in their natural habitats and the people I have met. I am ready to eat food from America and go to places where things are easy to buy. I look forward to taking a shower and using a toilet (a normal one).



### This is the story of Mr. Spider.

Mr. Spider is the craftiest of all animals in the forest and also the greediest. One day it was heralded throughout the forest that Bush Hog's coming out party was on the same day as Red Deer's birthday bash. The forest was abuzz as all of the animals tried to decide which one of the parties they would attend. Eventually, the news reached Mr. Spider, who in his greediness, devised a plan to attend both occasions. Spider called in his best friends Ground Hog and Pepper Bird to help him. This was the plan. Spider would tie a very long string about his waist. Ground Hog would go to one party taking along an end of the string. Pepper Bird would go in the opposite direction, to the other party, taking the other end of the string. They were to pull on the string, telling spider which party began first. Spider planned to go and eat his full until he felt a tug on the other end. He would then proceed to the other party and eat his full there too. The morning of the party came and Ground Hog and Pepper Bird took their ends of the string and each proceeded to a party, while Spider sat at home, waiting for a tug. What Spider did not know was that both parties also began at the same time. At three o'clock sharp, Ground Hog and Pepper Bird both began to pull on their strings. They both wondered why Spider was not coming. They thought he could not feel the tug, so they pulled harder. The harder they pulled, the smaller Spider's waist became. Ground Hog and Pepper Bird pulled until both parties were over. By that time Spider's waist had gotten very tiny indeed. That is how Spider's waist got so tiny.

