

# Zoe's other world

*Zoé enjoys travelling and that gave her a gift.  
She can speak with things, and they tell her stories so she can  
know how people live all over the world, where and how things  
she uses are made.*

***It's easy for Zoé, and for you!***

*Zoé invites you on her expedition to discover the world,  
its history and its inhabitants.*

***Are you ready? Let's go ! Have a good trip...***



# Zoé in a cloud of cotton and the country where it comes from

Zoé is getting dressed to go to school. Under her coat, she is wearing her favourite purple T-shirt. This T-shirt is made of cotton. It tells her its story...

Cotton comes from a cotton shrub. In Africa, in some countries like Benin or Mali for example, it is harvested by hand, by women who work hard every day and earn very little money.

The cotton is then sent to Morocco, a country in North Africa, in factories where it is woven, dyed and sewn to become a T-shirt.



S.Ouattara © SYFHA International

In these factories, the employees are also most often women who work in really terrible working conditions, and don't always earn enough money for themselves and their family.

When it leaves the factory, the T-shirt is sent to France by boat, then by truck to the shops.



© Clean Clothes Campaign

So, the cotton had a long journey before becoming a T-shirt and being sent to the shop where Zoé bought it with her Dad...

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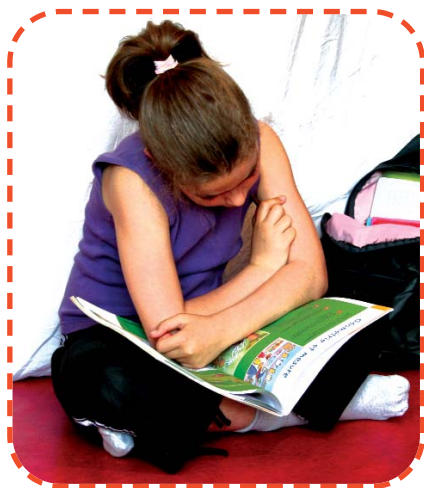


# Zoé goes to school

Before going to school, Zoé thinks about the journey of the cotton whool. She wonders if her T-shirt has passed through many people's hands. She would like to meet these people.

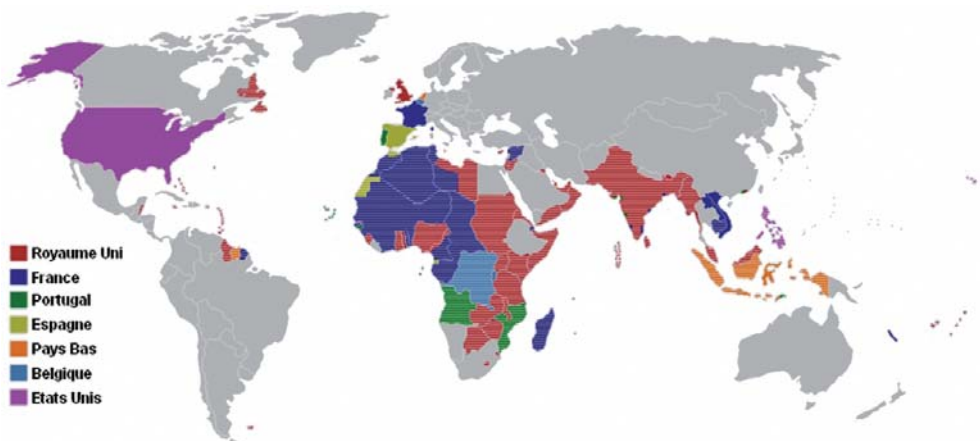
For many centuries, France and other European countries, like England or Portugal conquered territories in Africa, Asia and America by force. It was the era of colonisation. Until the 1960s they administered these territories by using the resources of the colonised countries (gold, diamond, copper) and also the land products (coffee, banana, cacao) to enhance their wealth and satisfy their consumption needs.

Zoé tells her book about her dream; that everywhere in the world men and women learn to know each other better and better, understand each other's stories.



© RITIMO

## The colonised countries by the developed countries in 1945.



# Zoé in the land of videogames

Coming home from school, Zoé discovers her older brother's video game on the table in the living room: the game also tells her its story.



© RITMO

French and Japanese engineers paid a lot of money for creating this idea. It was then being made in a Chinese factory where Miss Cheung works. At 15 years old, she works 10 hours a day, six days a week, in a workshop where it is very hot. Miss Cheung often gets ill but she doesn't have the right to be off work. If she does, she could be fired. She earns €2 for each day's work.

Finally the videogame was put on a plane to be sold in France. It explained to Zoé that it had not travelled all over the world, only in the USA and Europe.



She would like to go to Africa but she knows that most of the children who live there don't have videogames, and sometimes, they don't even have access to electricity. Zoé is upset by what she has just learnt. She puts aside her brother's videogame and picks up two little shells and imagines herself playing with children in a faraway country. This makes her smile again.



# Zoé in the land of science



© RITIMO

After her snack, Zoe feels tired and ill. When her father comes back home, he notices she has got a fever. He takes her to the doctor. The syrup that her father buys at the chemist's tells her that she lives in a country where everyone can be cured. That is not the case for all children in the world.

The syrup tells her that it was made from a plant that grows in Cambodia. In this country, Chanthou caught a disease which makes her very tired and stop her from going to school. In her village, there is no doctor. She has to travel one hour on the road to see one who lives in the big city. But there are other problems. Chanthou's parents don't have enough money either to pay the doctor or to buy medicine to make her feel better.

They hope that her illness is not too serious otherwise they will have to borrow money off someone to get proper health care for their daughter.

During her recovery Zoé imagines that she will tell Chanthou's story to her classmates.



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# If the world of Zoé were a village...

Zoé would live in a country called France, which is a part of the world. But imagine, for a moment that the world was a village

**composed of 100 inhabitants, there would be:**

- **59** Asians
- **14** Africans
- **14** North and South Americans
- **13** Europeans, and only one French person

**There would be:**

50 people younger **than 25 years old**

20 people **who would own 80 % of village's wealth**

42 people **who never have drinking water**

33 inhabitants **who live in conflict situations**

60 people (**40 men and 20 women**) would know how to read, write and count

50 inhabitants **who have access to healthcare.**

This village is our world at all



Information and educational use:

[www.ritimo.org/Jeunesse/autre\\_monde\\_zoe.html](http://www.ritimo.org/Jeunesse/autre_monde_zoe.html)