

Olà! (Hello!)

I am Madelena and I live in Cape Verde. Cape Verde is a group of islands located just off the coast of Western Africa. In my country it is sometimes very dry because it does not rain often. Is it dry where you live? Much of our drinking water comes from the Atlantic Ocean that surrounds us. My community has a factory that removes the salt from the water so that we can use it for drinking, bathing, cooking, and playing. Where does your community's water come from?



All children in Cape Verde go to school and most live in neighborhoods. In my community, there are many families with children. We all go to the same school, which is only a short walk from my home. I help walk some of the younger children from my neighborhood to school each morning. We like to know our neighbors here and often work together. Sharing is a big part of my community. I am lucky, too, because most of my cousins, aunts, and uncles live near me. I see them almost every day. One of my uncles was even elected to serve on the assembly which helps lead our community.

If you visited, you would hear people speaking Portuguese, the official language of Cape Verde. Many people also speak Crioulo, which is a mixture of Portuguese and local African words. My community grows bananas, corn, beans, and coffee. We have many celebrations that include our traditional songs and dances. What is your

community like? Do you also have celebrations? What is special about your community?

I look forward to learning about you and your community,

Adeus (Good-bye)

Madelena