

AFRICA — Year 9

Africa is located South of Europe and South West of Asia.

Africa is the second largest continent in the world, by area and population; home to 1.2 billion people in 54 countries, speaking 1,500 different languages. Africa is rich in natural resources.

Physical Geography—

Africa is a large continent with many biomes. Its vast Geography has provided the longest river in the world (The Nile), the biggest hot desert in the world (The Sahara) and many mountain ranges (Atlas mountains, Drakensburg mountains). The highest peak in Africa is Mt Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

Opportunities

- Africa is rich in natural resources:
 - It exports 16 per cent of the world's uranium,
 - In 2011, Africa produced more than half of the world's diamonds,
 - Africa has 10 per cent of the world's oil and gas reserves.
- The different climate zones allow Africa to be an area full of biodiversity – eg: Elephants in South Africa, Gorillas in Uganda.

Challenges

- Africa experiences different ecosystem zones - tropical rainforest/ Desert/ Savanna/ Mediterranean/ Grassland.
- Spread of disease – Malaria is common in Africa due to the climatic conditions - Fifteen countries in Africa accounted for 80% of all malaria cases globally.
- Different terrains makes transport difficult

Perceptions of Africa –

Many public figures and journalists often refer to Africa as one place. Africa is a continent with 54 countries. In the UK there is often the idea that all people from 'Africa' are poor and in desperate need of aid. Now this is really dependant on the country you are looking into.

These ideas come from:

- The media – headlines such as 'Deadly daily poverty'.
- Charity Campaigns - Red Cross and Red Nose Day.
- Songs – eg: Africa by Toto and Band Aid, Do they know its Christmas



Desertification –

The process of land turning into desert as the quality of the soil declines over time.



'Sahel' is an Arabic word meaning 'edge' or 'shore'. It lies at the southern edge of the Sahara Desert.

Causes =

- The population is increasing rapidly and too many people have cleared the vegetation for firewood, shelter and farming.
- Droughts have occurred
- Livestock have also overgrazed the vegetation. The removal of vegetation exposes soil to wind and water erosion

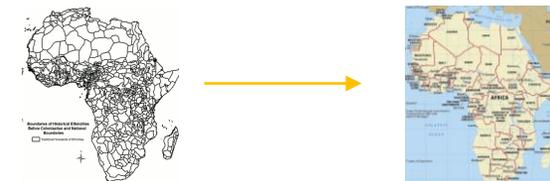
Solution =

Great Green Wall – Vegetation planted stretching across Africa. It is hoped that this will prevent soil erosion and halt desertification.

The Scramble for Africa -

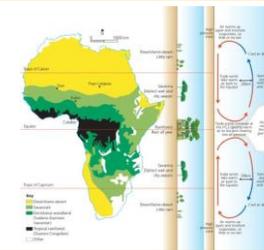
The competition between different European empires to take over as much land in Africa as possible (1880-1914).

- Europeans established plantations
- Europeans stabilised roads between villages and towns
- Europeans started educating the people in Maths, Science and English
- Europeans put in water pipes, sewage systems, and electricity. Eventually they also built telephone lines.
- They created official countries instead of the tribal boundaries that often changed.



Climate zones-

The climate zones and biomes of Africa have evolved as a repeated pattern north and south of the Equator.



Urbanisation –

Africa currently has the highest rate of urbanisation in the world. In 1990, there were only 24 cities in Africa with more than 1 million inhabitants. Today this number has increased to 48 cities.

Push = Reasons to move away from a place

- People may want to leave the African countryside because they have to work so hard to survive and have few opportunities for education, healthcare, etc.
- Desertification
- Poor transportation in local area



Pull = Reasons to move to a place

- They may want to move to the cities to get a job and be able to send their children to school.
- To have access to food and water

Social, economic and environmental challenges facing people who live in slums–



Unemployment rates are as high as 20%
Average incomes are less than £75 a month



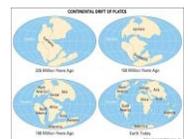
High murder rate of 20 per 1000
High infant mortality rate of 50 per 1000
12% of homes do not have access to running water



Many favelas have been built on steep slopes making them vulnerable to landslides.
Sewers are often open to run down the street

The Great Rift Valley

Africa's surface is mainly composed of very old, stable, hard rocks. Much of the continent is formed of one tectonic plate. The Great Rift Valley in East Africa is being formed as tectonic activity forms new plates.



Key Words:

Atmosphere – The thin fragile, layer of gases that surrounds earth

Biosphere – Living matter on the earth including all plant and animal life

Biomes – An area with the same climate, plants and animals.

Colonisation - one country having political or economic control over another country. One culture dominates another. It usually involves controlling resources.

Climate – The average weather over a period of time

Desertification - the process of land turning into desert as the quality of the soil declines over time.

Development – The process of getting better.

Drought - a period of abnormally dry weather that lasts long enough to lead to a serious lack of water, and crop failure. This region is known to the world for its frequent famines which have led to the death of millions of its inhabitants.

Ecosystem – An interaction of all living and non-living things

Hydrosphere – The water on the earths surface in oceans, rivers, lakes and mist

Lithosphere – The earths crust including landforms, rocks and soil.

Population – all the people who live in a particular geographical area

Perceptions – How we see/ feel about somewhere

Semi-Arid – An area with little rain but not completely dry

The Scramble for Africa - The competition between different European empires to take over as much land in Africa as possible (1880-1914).

Urbanisation - the process of making an area more populous and like a city.

Unemployment - when persons above a specified age are not in paid employment.

Revision Tasks:

- Make a mindmap/ poster/ revision cards/notes/ presentation/ song/ answer the following questions.

1. Define Urbanisation
2. Use the pictures below to name the biomes found in Africa.



3. State the longest river in Africa.
4. How many countries are located in Africa? How many can you name?
5. Explain where our perceptions come from. Use the newspaper article below to help.
6. Describe the Savanna biome in Africa.
7. Describe the location of Africa in the world.
8. What is the name given to the huge feature that is being created as the African plate splits apart?
9. Explain one cause of desertification in the Sahel.
10. Explain one solution to desertification in the Sahel.
11. State one push and one pull factor for urbanisation in Africa
12. What are the challenges facing the people of Africa?
13. Explain the formation of the continent of Africa.
14. Give a social challenge of those who live in slums.
15. Evaluate if the physical geography of Africa provides opportunities or challenges for its people.
16. Assess the challenges climate zones can provide when development occurs in Africa.

Command Words:

Analyse - Take apart an idea, concept or statement and criticise it.

Assess - Come to a conclusion about the overall value or significance of something; discuss its positive and negative aspects to show balance.

Compare - Identify similarities and differences.

Define - State the meaning of an idea or concept.

Describe - Set out the main characteristics of something; DON'T EXPLAIN.

Discuss - Set out both sides of an argument (for and against) and come to a conclusion; there should be some evidence of balance.

Evaluate - Make a judgement about the effectiveness of something; discuss its strengths **and** weaknesses and come to a conclusion about its overall success or importance.

Explain - Give reasons why something happens.

Give - Produce an answer from recall.

Justify - Support an idea or argument with evidence; for the outcome chosen, the positives must outweigh the negatives.

State = name

Africa is not a country

There are 54 states on the continent, yet the media insists on referring to it as one place.

Many public figures and journalists have no problem describing someone from Botswana and a person from Mauritania as 'Africans'. They probably wouldn't call them 'Americans' if they were from Brazil and the United States, even though the distance between the two is the same – and the economic conditions as different.

You don't have a film called *Out of Asia* and you rarely go to *Oceania* on holidays (instead you talk of vacations in Australia, New Zealand or another island). Yet for a continent of one billion people three times the size of the US, it's no problem to call it by one single name – 'Africa'! This is hugely detrimental to many countries. When a civil war starts in the Central African Republic (Africa!), it negatively impacts countries as far away as Senegal (Africa!) and Lesotho (Africa!). This has to change.