



Name _____

World Geography

Unit 6 - Africa's Physical Geography

List of Regions & Information for Project

North Africa

- The Sahara is a desert in North Africa.
- North Africa includes 6 countries. Egypt and Sudan are in northeastern Africa. Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco are called the Arab West.
- Egypt is mostly desert, but also has farmland in the Nile basin and delta.
- Sudan, which is south of Egypt, has two landscape regions, plateau and river basin.
- Egypt and Sudan have desert climates with hot temperatures and little rainfall.
- The majority of people in Egypt and Sudan live along the Nile River. Most farming in the area is primitive although the governments have tried to introduce modern agriculture methods.
- The ancient Egyptian culture began along the Nile about 5000 B.C.
- Algeria is the largest of the Arab West countries and Morocco and Algeria are the most populous.
- The Arab West countries have fertile coastal areas and desert areas farther inland.
- The northern regions of the Arab West have Mediterranean climates with sufficient rainfall for agriculture. The southern areas have desert climates.
- Casablanca, Morocco, and Algiers are coastal cities H3 in trade and manufacturing.
- Though it has little farming or industry, Libya is the richest country in the Arab West because of its oil and natural gas deposits.
- Algeria's natural gas reserves are the fourth largest in the world.
- The Arab West countries gained their independence from European nations within the last 40 years.



East Africa

- East Africa has 7 countries; however, Somalia and Ethiopia are sometimes studied along with Egypt and Sudan in northeastern Africa.
- Kenya has hot and dry interior plains and hot and humid coastal lowlands.
- Subsistence and cash-crop farming are the main economic activities of Kenya.
- Kenya's wildlife parks are important to its economy as a tourist attraction.
- Kenya's population is one of the fastest growing in the world.
- To help communication among more than 40 different ethnic groups, Kiswahili has been made the official language of Kenya.
- Most Kenyans live in small rural settlements. Some still live as nomads.
- Kenya gained its independence from Great Britain in 1963.
- Tanganyika, a large mainland territory that included Mafia Island and Zanzibar, a group of islands, combined to form Tanzania in 1964.
- Tanzania includes coastal lowlands, fertile interior highlands with volcanic soils, the Serengeti Plain in the west, and the Masai Steppe in the south.
- Tanzania has a hot, humid, tropical savanna climate.
- Although agriculture is Tanzania's major economic activity, most of its land is too dry for farming.
- Tanzania has a socialist economy. The government owns many businesses and industries.
- Disease spread by tsetse flies discourages people from living in the west central area of Tanzania.
- Anthropologists have discovered some of the oldest human remains in Tanzania.
- Ethiopia, Somalia, and Djibouti are located in the Horn of Africa, which extends into the Indian Ocean.
- Ethiopia is the largest country in both size and population in East Africa.
- Subsistence farming is the main economic activity in Ethiopia.
- Hunger is the most urgent problem in Ethiopia. Over the past few years, drought has crippled food production forcing millions of Ethiopians into food camps for portions of flour or beans to keep them alive.
- Because of its lack of physical and financial resources, the World Bank rated Ethiopia the world's poorest country.
- Ethiopia is the oldest independent nation in Africa and one of the oldest in the world.
- Somalia's economy is based on farming and livestock.
- Djibouti's location on the Gulf of Aden makes it an important shipping center in East Africa.
- The small landlocked countries of Uganda, Burundi, and Rwanda make up the East African Highlands.
- All three East African Highlands countries have agricultural economies and little industry.
- Countries of the East African Highlands are densely populated.



West and Central Africa

- The countries of West Africa lie between Lake Chad and the Atlantic Ocean.
- Central Africa contains 9 countries, if one includes Sudan and Chad.
- The people of West and Central Africa are descended from Bantu-speaking groups that lived in the area almost 1,000 years ago.
- Nigeria is the largest country in West Africa. It is the most populous country in all of Africa.
- Nigeria has a variety of landscapes including swamplands, tropical rain forests, river delta lands, and dry plateaus.
- Oil exports are the most important part of Nigeria's economy.
- Most Nigerians live in rural areas although many have moved to cities in recent years.
- The other West African countries have tropical savanna climates and agricultural economies.
- All the West African countries except Liberia were once European colonies.
- The largest Central African country in size and population is Zaire.
- Zaire has a tropical rain forest or tropical savanna climate with distinct rainy and dry seasons.
- Although Zaire's main economic activity is farming, its wealth of natural resources could make it a world economic power in the future.
- In the 1970s the country of Congo changed its name to Zaire to emphasize African traditions and to erase the signs of European influence.
- The other small countries of Central Africa have similar tropical moist climates and tropical rain forest landscapes.
- The small countries of Central Africa are poor with limited agricultural economies and mineral wealth that has yet to be developed.



South Africa

- Southern Africa includes ten countries located south of Zaire and Tanzania.
- The Republic of South Africa is located on the southern tip of Africa. It is the most populous country in the region.
- South Africa has desert, plateau, and mountain landscapes.
- South Africa has many different climates. In general, it is warm with little precipitation.
- Rich mineral deposits make the Republic of South Africa the richest country in the region.
- Until June 1991 when the registration act was repealed, South Africa's people were divided into four racial categories by law: white, colored, black African, and Asian.
- The white minority in South Africa controls the government. Blacks, who make up the majority of the population, live in designated areas called homelands. They have no national political power (continue to be unable to vote).
- Dutch colonists, called Boers or Afrikaners, came to South Africa in 1652.
- Apartheid, or legalized separation of the races, became law in 1948.
- Since that time the government has erased many of the restrictions of the apartheid system. Nelson Mandela, the long-imprisoned head of the African National Congress (ANC), has been released from jail, providing some segments of the Bantu majority population with effective leadership.
- Zimbabwe was once the British colony of Rhodesia.
- Although Zimbabwe is a tropical country, its high elevation gives it relatively mild temperatures.
- Zimbabwe has large areas of productive farmland and many mineral resources.
- Following civil war a black government was elected in Zimbabwe in 1979.
- Angola and Mozambique have the best natural harbors in the region.
- Both Angola and Mozambique have mineral deposits and fertile farmland. Angola has an abundance of untapped oil resources.
- Zambia and Malawi are former British colonies.
- Malawi's economy is based on agriculture. Zambia's main export is copper, of which it has one-fourth of the world's known reserves.
- Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, and Namibia have H3 economic ties to South Africa. Namibia's blacks recently achieved the independence of their government from South African colonial control.