



# AFRICA

## KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



### Map and Overview



- Africa is the second-largest continent in the world. It covers about 30.3 million km<sup>2</sup>, including its outlying islands. This is about 20% of the earth's land surface area.
- It is also the second-most populous continent in the world – it has a population of about 1.2 billion people (about 16% of the world's population).
- The continent straddles the Equator, with more of its landmass in the northern hemisphere.
- Central Eastern Africa is generally considered to be the birthplace of mankind: the place in which modern humans originated.

### Human Geography Features

|                             |  |  |   |   |
|-----------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Deforestation</b>        |  | Both the Congo Basin and parts of East Africa have suffered rapid deforestation. According to UNEP, parts of Africa are suffering deforestation at twice the world rate, e.g. 90% of West Africa's forests are already destroyed.              | <b>Why?</b><br>Deforestation is often caused by unregulated logging and mining.               | <b>Key Fact:</b><br>West Africa lost the highest % of tropical rainforests through the 1980s and 1990s. |
| <b>Poaching</b>             |  | Africa faces a major poaching crisis, as animals are being killed in order to sell their body parts (e.g. tusks) for vast sums of money. Many animals, for example black rhinos, are now close to extinction (population down 98% since 1960). | <b>Why?</b><br>Rhino horn is falsely believed to cure illnesses. It sells for more than gold. | <b>Key Fact:</b><br>As many as 35,000 African elephants are killed by poachers each year.               |
| <b>Atlantic Slave Trade</b> |  | The Atlantic slave trade involved the transporting thousands of enslaved western and central African people to the Americas. The African people were sold by Western European slave traders against their will.                                | <b>When?</b><br>This took place between the 16 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> centuries.     | <b>Key Fact:</b><br>Conditions on slave boats were appalling & many died in transit.                    |
| <b>Poverty and Famine</b>   |  | Many African countries are extremely poor. When this is combined with a hot climate, poor harvests, wars, and corruption, there is little food to go around. Many people across East and Central Africa suffer hunger/famine every day.        | <b>Who?</b><br>South Sudan, Nigeria, Somalia, Ethiopia.                                       | <b>Key Fact:</b><br>At least 15 million people in Africa go hungry most days.                           |
| <b>AIDS in Africa</b>       |  | AIDS is a deadly illness that attacks the immune system. About 69% of all people living with AIDS/HIV are in Africa. As a result, in many countries, life expectancy is declining.   | <b>Who?</b><br>15 million people in Africa have already died of AIDS.                         | <b>Key Fact:</b><br>Life expectancy in some African countries is now as low as 34 years old.            |

### Regions & Countries of Africa

#### Top 5 largest African countries

1. Algeria – 2.4 million km<sup>2</sup>
2. DR Congo – 2.3 million km<sup>2</sup>
3. Sudan – 1.9 million km<sup>2</sup>
4. Libya – 1.8 million km<sup>2</sup>
5. Chad – 1.3 million km<sup>2</sup>

There are 54 countries in Africa, and a further 2 whose independence is disputed (Western Sahara and Somaliland).

#### Top 5 most populous African countries

1. Nigeria – 201 million
2. Ethiopia – 110 million
3. Egypt – 101 million
4. DR Congo – 87 million
5. Tanzania – 61 million

#### Northern Africa



Northern Africa contains some of Africa's largest countries by area, including Algeria, Libya and Egypt. Many countries in Northern Africa have an Arabic culture, use the Arabic language, and are predominantly Muslim. Northern Africa is dominated by the vast Sahara Desert, the largest hot desert in the world (it is over 9.2 million km<sup>2</sup>).

#### Eastern Africa



Eastern Africa is made up of around 20 countries (depending on definition) and is known for its wide array of wildlife. The Serengeti (Tanzania) and Masai Mara (Kenya) National Reserves house the 'Big 5' mammals (lions, leopards, elephants, rhinos, buffalo). Mount Kilimanjaro, at 5,895m, is the highest mountain in Africa. Africa's largest lakes are also in Eastern Africa.

#### Western Africa



Western Africa is generally considered to consist of 16 countries, in which just under 400 million people live. Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, and one of its main cities, Lagos, is the most populous city on the continent. Deforestation has erased around 90% of West Africa's rainforests.

#### Southern Africa

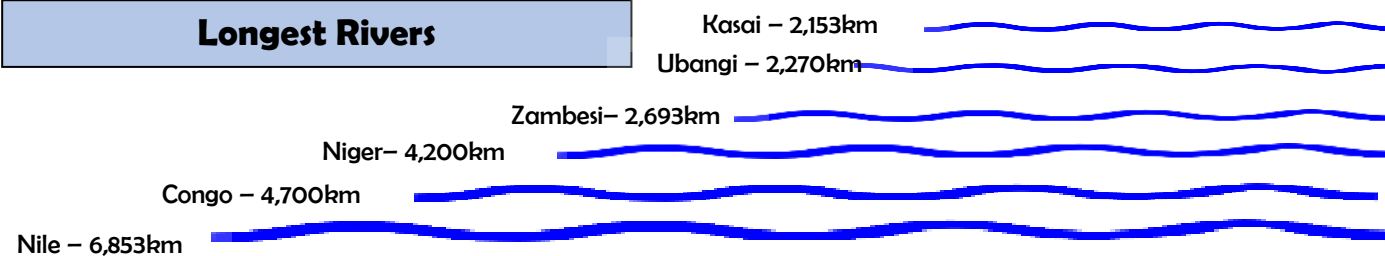


Southern Africa is often considered to be the portion of the continent that is south of the Zambezi River. The terrain is varied, ranging from forest and grasslands to deserts. The country of South Africa is the economic powerhouse of the region, and contains the spectacular Table Mountain.

### Physical Geography Features

|                          |  |   |  |  |
|--------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| <b>The Nile</b>          |  | The Nile River is the longest river in Africa, and the disputed longest in the world. It flows through 11 countries, and has been vital to life in the area for thousands of years.   | <b>Where?</b><br>From Central Africa to the Mediterranean north of Egypt.  | <b>Key Fact:</b><br>The Nile discharges 3.1 million litres of water every second!  |
| <b>Congo Basin</b>       |  | The Congo Basin is the area around the Congo River, largely made up of a large rainforest – the Congo rainforest is the 2 <sup>nd</sup> largest in the world, and has relatively low deforestation.   | <b>What?</b><br>The Congo is the 2 <sup>nd</sup> longest river in Africa.  | <b>Key Fact:</b><br>The area is home to the last remaining mountain gorillas.  |
| <b>Animals</b>           |  | Africa has a huge variety of animals, including a whole host of large mammals. Some of these include lions, rhinos, hippos, giraffes, zebras, and cheetahs. Although most of the animals used to live in abundance, human encroachment and poaching has meant that many are now vulnerable to extinction. | <b>What?</b><br>Many creatures are dangerous to humans, e.g. Nile Crocodiles kill hundreds of people every year. | <b>Key Fact:</b><br>Four of the five fastest land animals are found in Africa. The cheetah is fastest, able to run at a speed of 110kph! |
| <b>The Sahara Desert</b> |  | The Sahara Desert is the largest hot desert in the world. It is spread across almost all of North Africa. It is believed that over-grazing of cattle is causing the Sahara to grow larger still.  | <b>What?</b><br>There is very little vegetation, and lots of sand!   | <b>Key Fact:</b><br>The temperature exceeds 50°C in summer.  |
| <b>The Serengeti</b>     |  | The Serengeti National Park is a famous Tanzanian National Park, which is famous for having over 1.5 million wildebeest and 250,000 zebra. It also holds a dense population of Nile crocodiles and honey badgers.   | <b>Where?</b><br>Northwestern Tanzania, covering 14,750 km <sup>2</sup>  | <b>Key Fact:</b><br>The Maasai people have hunted in the Serengeti for hundreds of years.  |

### Longest Rivers



### Highest Mountains

