

# Geography Knowledge Organiser – Africa

## 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

Deforestation		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.	Why? Deforestation is often caused by unregulated logging and mining.	Key Fact: West Africa lost the highest % of tropical rainforests through the 1980s and 1990s.
Poaching		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).	Why? Rhino horn is falsely believed to cure illnesses. It sells for more than gold.	Key Fact: As many as 35,000 African elephants are killed by poachers each year.

## Physical Geography Features

Animals		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.	What? Many creatures are dangerous to humans, e.g. Nile Crocodiles kill hundreds of people every year.	Key Fact: Four of the five fastest land animals are found in Africa. The cheetah is fastest, able to run at a speed of 110kph!
The Sahara Desert		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.	What? There is very little vegetation, and lots of sand!	Key Fact: The temperature exceeds 50°C in summer.
The Nile		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.	Where? From Central Africa to the Mediterranean north of Egypt.	Key Fact: The Nile discharges 3.1 million litres of water every second!

## Key Vocabulary

hill	A landform that extends above the surrounding terrain.
river	A natural flowing watercourse, usually freshwater, flowing towards an ocean, sea, lake or another river.
near	At or to a short distance away.
far	At, to, or by a great distance.
town	A built-up area with a name, defined boundaries, and local government, that is larger than a village and generally smaller than a city.
north	The direction in which a compass needle normally points, towards the horizon.
south	The direction towards the point of the horizon 90° clockwise from east, or the point on the horizon itself.
desert	A waterless, desolate area of land with little or no vegetation, typically one covered with sand.
beach	A pebbly or sandy shore, especially by the sea between high- and low-water marks.
coast	The part of the land adjoining or near the sea.
ocean	A very large expanse of sea, in particular each of the main areas into which the sea is divided geographically.
river	A large natural stream of water flowing in a channel to the sea, a lake, or another river.

## Countries in Africa.

Northern Africa	Eastern Africa	Southern Africa	Western 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.	Eastern Africa is made up of around 20 countries and is known for its wide array of wildlife. Mount Kilimanjaro, at 5,895m, is the highest mountain in Africa. Africa's largest lakes are also in Eastern 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	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.

**Set yourself a target! By the end of this topic, what do you want to achieve?**

Did you achieve your target? Yes / No