

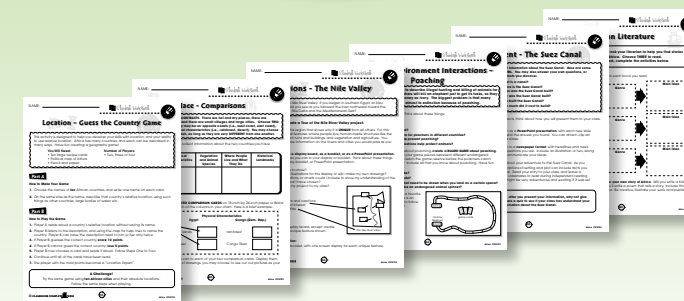
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Africa - Place

1. Match the word on the left to its definition on the right. You may use an atlas or a dictionary to help.

port	The features of a place that help us recognize and describe it. They may include mountains, plains, forests, deserts, or bodies of water.	A
desert	A flat, open area of land, mostly covered by grasses instead of trees.	B
plains	A large harbor where many ships come to drop off and pick up products to be delivered across the ocean. Passenger ships also use large ports.	C
physical characteristics	An area with very little rain and very little vegetation.	D

2. Make a list of those things that you **already know** about Africa using the following chart. You may also include some small illustrations if they help you express your ideas.

Plants and Animals of Africa	Countries in Africa	The Landscape of Africa	The People of Africa



Africa - Place

Which features make Africa **unique**? Perhaps it is the **wildlife** we find there. Maybe its **physical characteristics** make it unique. Perhaps it is the **people** of Africa, and where they have chosen to live, and the languages that they speak. Each of these features helps us better understand Africa and describe it as a **place**.



Africa is a **continent** of huge contrasts. While large cities can be found throughout the continent, some people continue to maintain their tribal customs and live as they have for thousands of years, preserving a unique way of life. Many people in Africa live near coastal areas, while others prefer the savanna regions, areas of grasslands and certain kinds of agriculture.

There are many important cities on all of Africa's ocean coasts. They developed there because they had easy **access** to transportation and **trade** with other continents. The ports of northern Africa make travel to Europe very easy. East African **ports** provide an easy **route** to Asia. The harbors of western Africa provide access to North America and western Europe. The Suez Canal in Egypt provides a short cut from the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean.

STOP Why have so many cities in Africa developed along its coastal areas?

The physical characteristics of Africa are many. There are huge rainforests at the Equator. There are vast plains in eastern Africa. There are tall mountains, deep valleys, and huge deserts in different parts of the continent. The world's largest desert, the Sahara, covers northern Africa like a hot, sandy blanket.



Africa - Place

1. Put a check mark (✓) next to the answer that is most correct.

- a) In which country would we find the Suez Canal?
- A in the Sahara Desert
- B in western Europe
- C in South Africa
- D in Egypt
- b) East African ports provide an easy route to _____.
- A Asia and Antarctica
- B North America and western Europe
- C the Sahara Desert
- D the Indian Ocean
- c) What is the name of the world's largest desert?
- A Kalahari
- B Sonora
- C Gobi
- D Sahara

2. Read each of the examples below, and write a sentence describing how it helps preserve our environment.

- a) Circle those things that geographers use to describe **place**.
- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|--------------------------|----------|
| automobiles | ships | languages spoken | wildlife |
| where people live | mountains | physical characteristics | valleys |

b) Using the words that you have circled, write a short paragraph describing what is meant by the word **place**. You may look back at the reading for ideas as well.



Africa - Place

Answer each question with a complete sentence.

3. Why do many of Africa's important cities develop on Africa's ocean coasts?
-
4. Why is Africa a continent of huge contrasts?
-

Research

5. Find out more about the **Masai** people of eastern Africa by conducting some simple research. Collect facts on their ways of life and complete a chart like the one below. Then, present your facts in a short brochure or on a poster. Illustrate your work.

a) Where do the Masai live?	b) What language is spoken by the Masai?	c) Clothing? Food?	d) What are some Masai customs?

6. Many of Africa's animals are **endangered species**. Research some of the endangered species of Africa, by finding how endangered it is and why, and its habitat. One has been started for you.

Animal Species Name	How endangered is it?	Its habitat
black rhinoceros		

7. Many different **languages** are spoken in Africa, many within a single country! Find **ten** examples of different languages spoken, and name the country in which they are spoken. Complete a chart like the one below.

Language	Spoken in which countries?



Crossword Puzzle!

- plains
- desert
- game reserve
- absolute
- continent
- negative
- transportation
- endangered
- Asia
- rural
- region
- communication
- contrasts
- Nile Valley
- links



Across

- 1 Sharing of ideas through speech, sign language and printed words
- 4 Poaching is an example of _____ human/environment interactions
- 6 Many of Africa's animals are _____ species
- 8 A remote area with few people
- 9 The Sahara is a _____ in Africa
- 11 A _____ can be described by the languages spoken there
- 13 Africa is a continent of huge _____
- 14 Flat, open areas of land covered mostly by grasses

Down

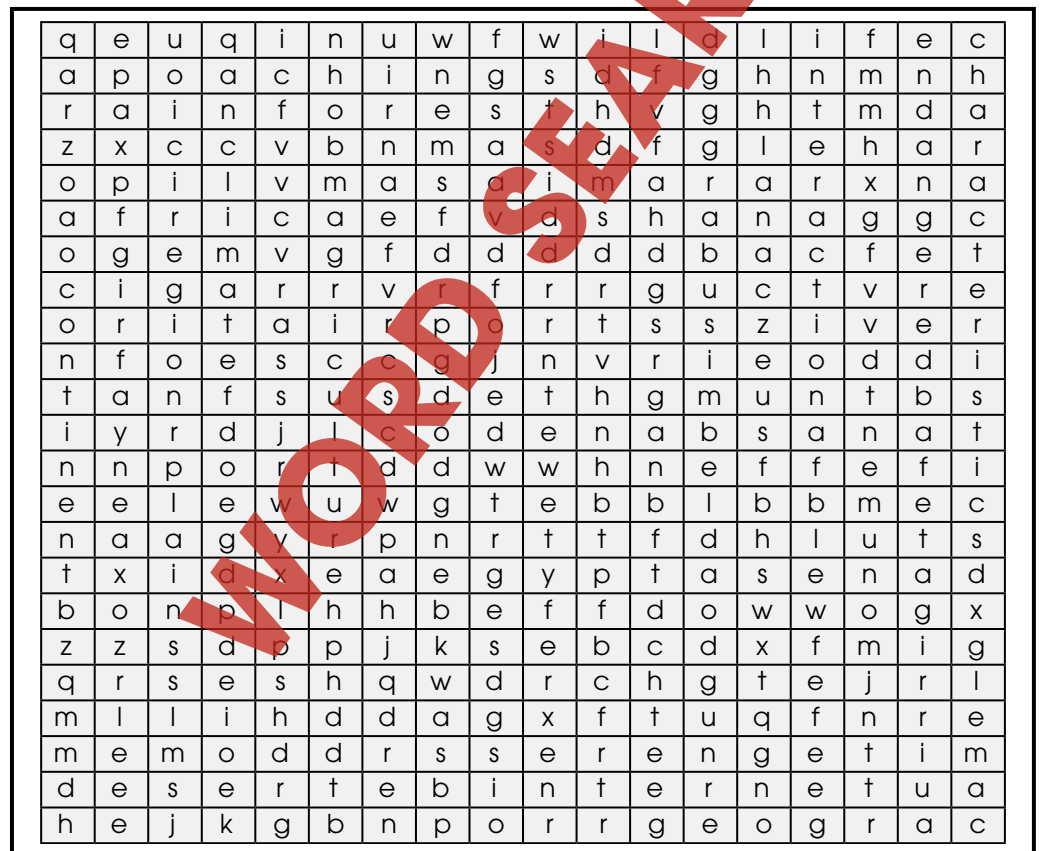
- 1 Africa is the world's second largest _____
- 2 Movement involving vehicles
- 3 The _____ is a region known for its ancient Egyptian ruins
- 5 Protected area where animals can live free of threats from humans
- 7 It is difficult to describe Africa's _____ location
- 10 Africa's coastal ports provide _____ to other continents
- 12 Africa is linked to _____ at the Panama Canal



Word Search

Find all of the words in the Word Search. Words may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal. A few may even be backwards! Look carefully!

- | | | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|
| hemisphere | camel | interaction | trade |
| Africa | continent | poaching | Egypt |
| wildlife | rainforest | Suez Canal | endangered |
| region | plains | airports | irrigate |
| Serengeti | agriculture | climate | elephant |
| monument | unique | desert | Internet |
| Abu Simbel | Masai Mara | characteristics | oxen |



Comprehension Quiz

Part C

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. What is the difference between **absolute** location and **relative** location? As an example, describe Africa's relative location.

2. How do we describe **place**? Describe Africa as a place.

3. Describe what is meant by **human and environment interactions**. Explain how the poaching of animals is a negative interaction.

4. What do we mean by **movement** in geography? Give one example of transportation and one of communication.

5. What is a **region**? Describe the Nile Valley as a region.

4

3

3

3

3

SUBTOTAL: /16

Africa Outline Map





Africa - Place



Answer each question with a complete sentence.

3. Why do many of Africa's important cities develop on Africa's ocean coasts?

4. Why is Africa a continent of huge contrasts?

Research

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black rhinoceros		

7. Many different **languages** are spoken in Africa, many within a single country! Find **ten** examples of different languages spoken, and name the country in which they are spoken. Complete a chart like the one below.

Language	Spoken in which countries?

3.

Answers will vary
Response should include: travel, trade, easy access to other places

4.

Possible answers: modern way of life vs. traditional (tribal); wide variety of physical characteristics; etc.

5.

Possible answers:
a) Kenya and Tanzania border area
b) Nilotic language (the Nile basin area)
c) Clothing: traditional (i.e. men - red cloaks; women - neckpieces); ornamentation; body decoration
Food: follow their herds of cattle
d) A nomadic people who follow their cattle

6.

Answers will vary

7.

Possible answers: French (Morocco), Egyptian (Egypt), etc.

Across:

- communication
- negative
- endangered
- rural
- desert
- region
- contrasts
- plains

Down:

- continent
- transportation
- Nile Valley
- game reserve
- absolute
- links
- Asia

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EASY MARKING ANSWER KEY