

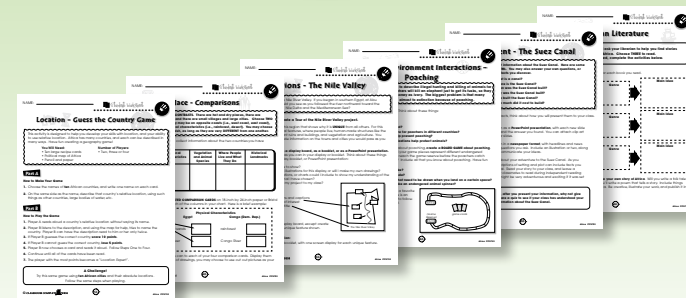
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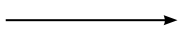
Africa - Regions

1. A **region** is an area of land that can be described by the following things:

a) size (large or small)



b) changes over time



c) physical characteristics
(hills, valleys, rivers, etc.)



d) where, how, and why
people live there



Think of your school, pretending that its building, schoolyard, and nearby neighborhood is a region. How would you describe it? In the box beside each way of describing a region, give details about your school. Your teacher might need to help you or share your work with a partner.

2. Using a dictionary, find the definitions of the following words.

- a) region _____
- b) border _____
- c) unique _____
- d) ancient _____



Africa - Regions



Geographers use the word **region** to describe an area of land. A region is described by the **features** that make it **unique**, and can be either small or large. Regions are often studied over time to see how they have changed. To understand a region, geographers look at a region's **physical characteristics**, where, how, and why people live in a certain area, and by the **languages** spoken there. Africa has many regions.



The Nile Valley is a well-known region in Africa because of its long history. The Nile is the longest river in the world, and has affected the lives of people, wildlife, and vegetation for thousands of years. Along either bank of the river is a rich, green, fertile strip of land. People have raised crops in this area for thousands of years, relying on the river to provide the water they need. Outside of this strip is a hot, dry desert. Along the river are modern towns and cities, as well as the ruins of ancient Egyptian society. In the ancient city of Luxor we find the temple of Karnak, and in Thebes we find the Valley of the Kings, known for its mummies of ancient pharaohs. A large dam can be found at Aswan, providing a basin of water that can be released when needed. Further south is the ancient monument of the pharaoh Rameses II at Abu Simbel.



How has the Nile affected life along its banks?

One of Africa's most famous regions can be found along the **border** between Kenya and Tanzania. This area is known as the Serengeti Plains. It is a flat, grassy area filled with a variety of wildlife, such as giraffes, elephants, wildebeests, and lions. The Masai Mara National Reserve is one of many game **reserves** created to preserve the endangered animals that live there. In certain areas, mountains can be seen rising far in the distance. From Kenya's Amboseli National Park, an area in which the endangered black rhinoceros can still be found, visitors can see the snow capped peak of Mount Kilimanjaro to the south.



Africa - Regions



1. Circle **T** if the statement is true or **F** if it is false.

T = True
F = False

- T F a) The Valley of the Kings is found in Thebes.
- T F b) The Temple at Karnak is in the ancient city of Luxor.
- T F c) Geographers describe a region only by the language spoken there.
- T F d) Mount Kilimanjaro is found south of Kenya's Amboseli National Park.
- T F e) The word **region** is used to describe an area of land.

2. Think of the regions mentioned in the reading. Match the region to each of its features using arrows. The first has been done for you.

Nile Valley

- a) Flat and grassy area
- b) A rich, fertile area on each bank
- c) On the border between Kenya and Tanzania
- d) Ancient Egyptian ruins
- e) Game reserves
- f) Modern towns and cities
- g) River floods each year
- h) Crops are raised here
- i) World's longest river
- j) Endangered animals
- k) A hot, dry desert lies outside the fertile area

Serengeti Plains



Africa - Regions



Answer each question with a complete sentence.

- 3. Be like a geographer! Describe the Nile Valley region.

- 4. Describe the Serengeti Plains. What makes this region unique?

Research and Extensions

5. The **Sahara Desert** is a region that is constantly changing. Sandstorms and winds reshape the surface of the sand each day. However, did you know that the Sahara Desert is actually growing larger each and every year? It is! Conduct some simple research on the Sahara Desert and find answers to these questions:

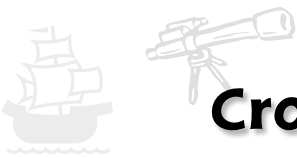
- Why is the Sahara Desert growing larger?
- How much does it grow each year?
- How has this affected the people who live near the desert?

After you have collected your information, share it with your class.

6. Find an example of each of the following types of regions in Africa. Use a physical or vegetation map of Africa to help you.

Type of region	Found in this country	Name of region (if possible)
savannah (plains)		
mountain range		
valley		
desert (not the Sahara)		

Highlight the type of region in the chart that most interests you. Find out more about that region, and create a **travel booklet** for that area. What would someone visiting that region see? What would the weather be like? Give as many details as you can. Remember to illustrate your work.



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

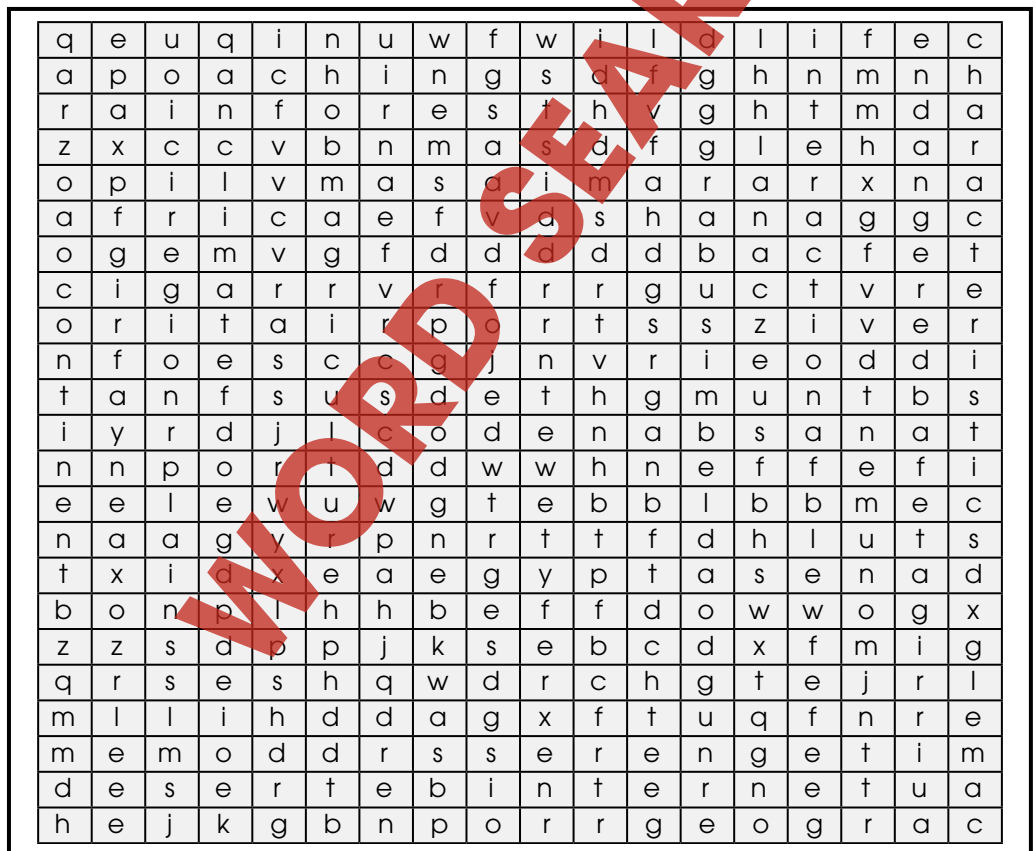


Word Search



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 A

Circle **T** if the statement is true or **F** if it is false.

T = True
F = False

- T F** a) Both the prime meridian and the equator pass through Africa.
- T F** b) Africa is like a giant island because it is surrounded by water.
- T F** c) People in Africa live in either traditional or more modern ways.
- T F** d) The Suez Canal provides a shortcut from the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea.
- T F** e) Game reserves provide protection for animals from poaching. The Aswan High Dam was built to help control the waters of the Nile River.
- T F** f) Latitude and longitude are used to find a place's relative location.
- T F** g) The word urban describes an area in the country or a remote area.

Part B

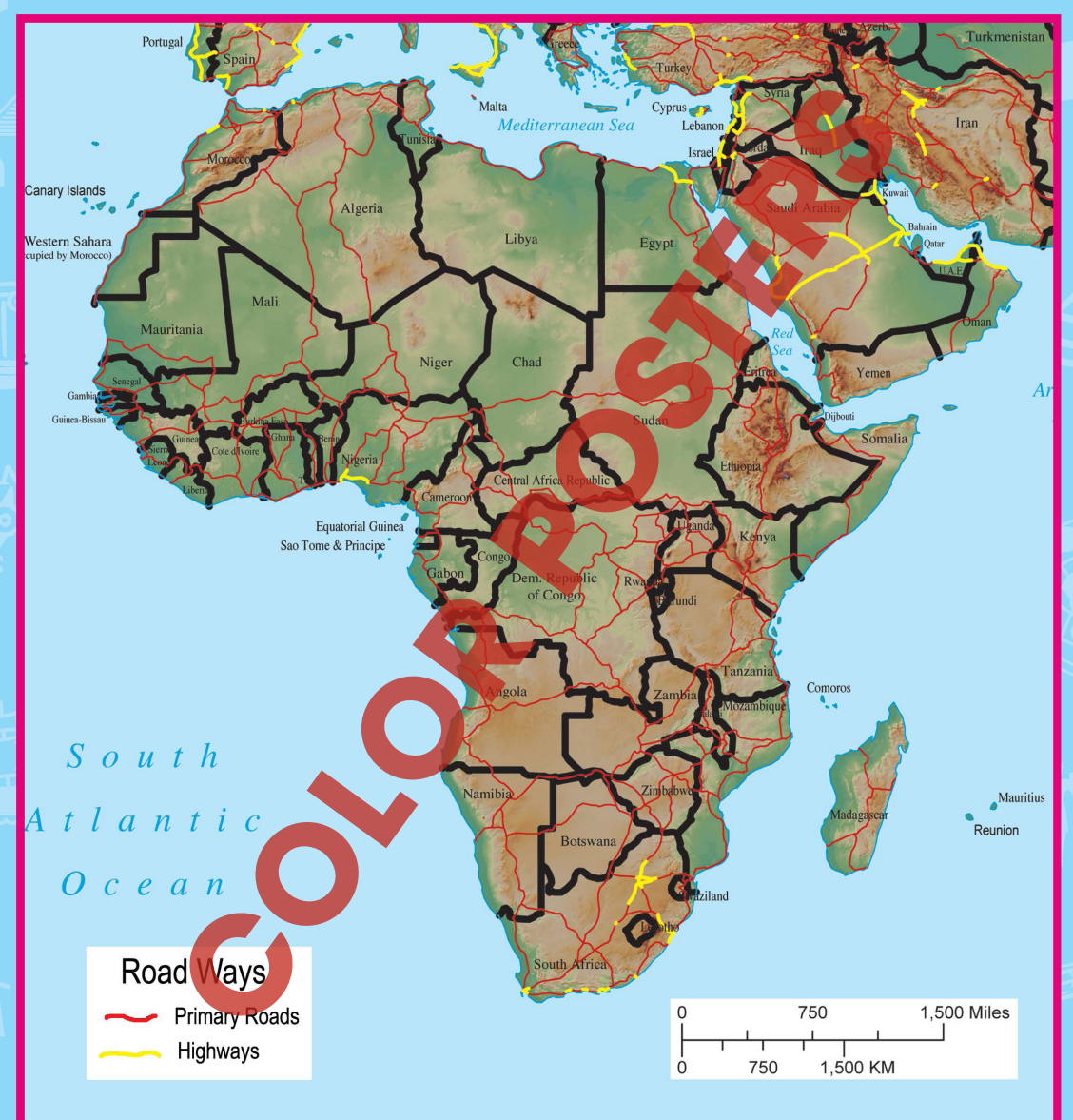
Label the map by doing the following:

- 1. Show the following features on the map by writing the letter on the map in the correct location.
 - a) Atlantic
 - b) Europe
 - c) Indian Ocean
 - d) Atlantic Ocean
 - e) Mediterranean Sea
- 2. Color the prime meridian **red** and the equator **purple**.



SUBTOTAL: /14

Africa Transportation Map



NAME: _____

After You Read 



Africa - Regions



1. Circle **T** if the statement is true or **F** if it is false.

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- T** **F** d) Mount Kilimanjaro is found south of Kenya's Amboseli National Park.
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- g) River floods each year
- h) Crops are raised here
- i) World's longest river
- j) Endangered animals
- k) A hot, dry desert lies outside the fertile area

Nile Valley

Serengeti Plains

1.

- a) **T**
- b) **T**
- c) **F**
- d) **T**
- e) **T**

3.

Answers may vary; Should reflect the information from question 2

4.

Answers may vary; Should reflect the information from question 2

5.

Answers will vary depending upon resources used

Across:

- 1. communication
- 4. negative
- 6. endangered
- 8. rural
- 9. desert
- 11. region
- 13. contrasts
- 14. plains

Down:

- 1. continent
- 2. transportation
- 3. Nile Valley
- 5. game reserve
- 7. absolute
- 10. links
- 12. Asia

2.

Nile Valley
b, d, g, h, i, k

Serengeti
a, c, e, j

6.

Answers will vary (i.e. desert: found in Namibia and Botswana; region's name is Kalahari)

9

10

11

EZY