+Africa Geography and People Study Guide

Know the following geographical features:

Sahara: desert in N Africa; world’s largest

Sahel: transition zone between desert and rainforest, struggles with desertification

Savanna: rolling grassland, scattered trees, wildlife

Lake Victoria: largest lake in Africa, located in Great Rift Valley

Congo River: central Africa on equator, in DRC, runs through tropical rain forest

Nile River: flows through Egypt, longest river in world

Niger River: Most important river in West Africa

Climates

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| --- | --- |
| Biome | Description |
| Sahara Desert | Hot, dry with little rain (less than 7 inches/year) |
| Sahel | Arid, dry, hot, some rain: short grass and few trees |
| Savanna | Dry & wet season, grasslands |
| Rainforest | Hot, humid, much rainfall up to 17 ft of rain/year |

Environmental Issues:

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| Issue | Causes | Effects | Solutions |
| Water:  Pollution  Scarcity/Unequal Distribution | Trash  Sewage  Industrial Waste  Drought | (DID you in)  -death of livestock and humans -water borne disease -skin and eye infections  unequal distribution walk for miles to get water | Trash recycle, wells, water treatment plants  Dig wells for drinking water & irrigation |
| Desertification | (SODD)  Overgrazing,  drought,  deforestation,  poor farming (slash and burn) | Starvation,  famine, death,  people moving to cities, | Plant trees to hold soil, moisture, limit logging – enforce laws |
| Deforestation: | Cutting trees, logging, | (DUST)  desertification:  top soil erosion,  nutrients wash away,  sun bakes soil extinction of plants and animals | Stop buying illegal lumbar, plant trees |

People:

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| Biome | Live | Work | Travel |
| Sahara | Nomadic herding, in tents | Nomadic herding | By camel |
| Sahel | low population  harsh climate causes most to move to cities to find work | Subsistence farming, agriculture | Walking, bicycle |
| Savanna | Most populated area | Farmers Agriculture, livestock, tourism | Walking, bicycle, cars in cities |
| Rainforest | Low pop density, traditional villages | Logging, hunting, gathering | Walk or Congo rivers |

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| Group | Location | History | Religion | Language |
| Arab | Northern Africa | Came from Middle East, trading salt & gold | Islam | Arabic |
| Ashanti | West Africa, | Golden stool fell from heaven | Animism, traditional African beliefs, Islam, Christianity | Asante (Twi) |
| Bantu | Sub Saharan | 50,000 BCE; | Animism, traditional African beliefs, Islam, Christianity | Bantu |
| Swahili | East Coast | Arab traders with local people | Islam | Swahili |

**DEFINE:**

Infrastructure: roads, bridges, power utilities, buildings.

Landlocked: without a coast line or water source

Slash and Burn: farming technique: cut down and burn the remains

Irrigation: provide water to crops

Famine: severe lack of food

Subsistence Farming: Provide only enough to survive/eat