+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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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:PollutionScarcity/Unequal Distribution | TrashSewageIndustrial WasteDrought | (DID you in)-death of livestock and humans-water borne disease-skin and eye infectionsunequal distributionwalk 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 soilextinction 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 populationharsh 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