

Monday's Warm-up

- 1) Take out paper for notes.
- 2) Write down **5 words** that come to mind when you think about Africa.



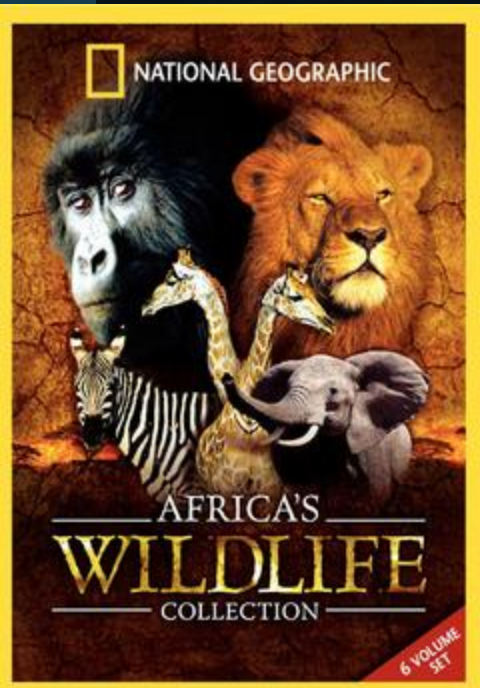
A satellite view of the Earth from space, showing the continents of Europe and Africa. A bright, circular spotlight illuminates the African continent, highlighting its geographical features and colors. The rest of the Earth is in shadow, with city lights visible on the dark landmasses.

Africa: what do you know?

What we say about Africa

- Ask yourself what words come to mind when you hear Africa.
 - Don't worry about trying to be politically correct.
- Most Americans voice an impression that Africa is a primitive place, full of trouble and wild animals, and in need of our help.
- some words commonly associated with Africa.
- native, hut, warrior, shield, tribe, savage, cannibals, jungle, Pygmy, pagan, voodoo, witch doctor, safari, wild animals, elephant, lion, pyramid, coup, poverty, ignorance, drought, famine, tragedy, tribalism, development, foreign aid, peacekeeping, missionaries, spear chucker, jungle bunny, kinship, wisdom, homeland

Where we get our information



- Most of what we know about Africa comes from stories, movies, television, newspapers, and magazines.

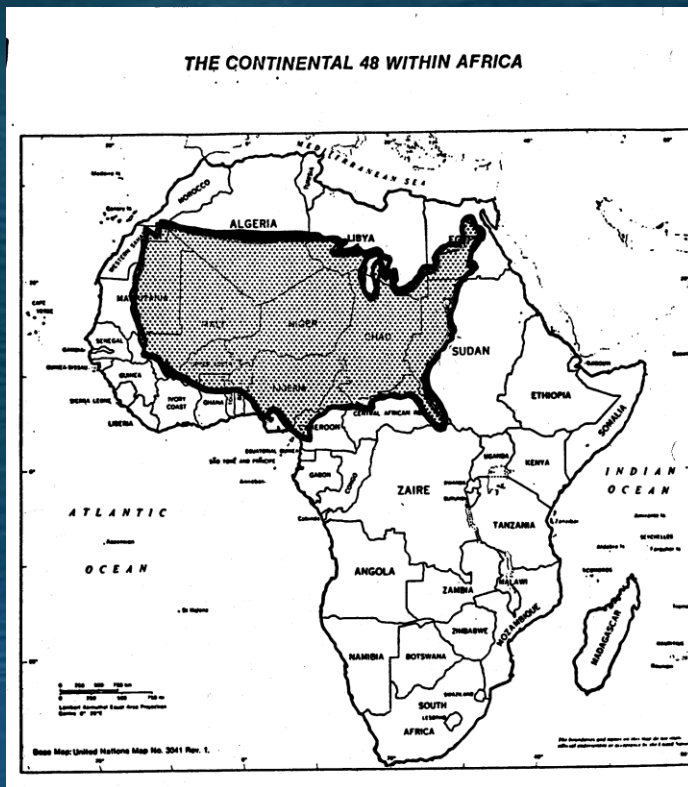


True or False?



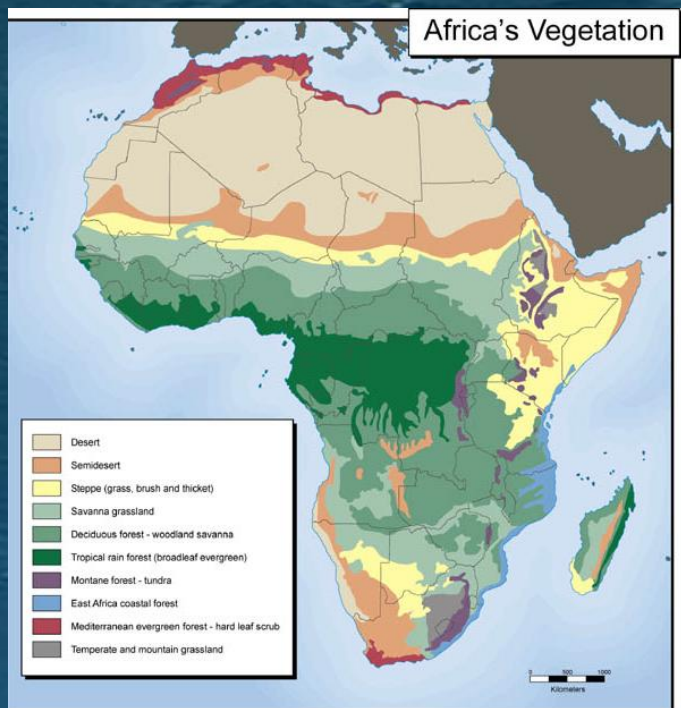
1. Africa is large, almost twice the size of the United States!

- False, Africa is actually ~3.5 times the size of the U.S.



2. Africa is mostly jungle with a desert in the north.

- False, because it covers so many latitudes, Africa encompasses a wide variety of climate regions.



3. The tiger is one of Africa's most recognizable wild animals.

- False, there are no tigers in Africa. They are from Asia.

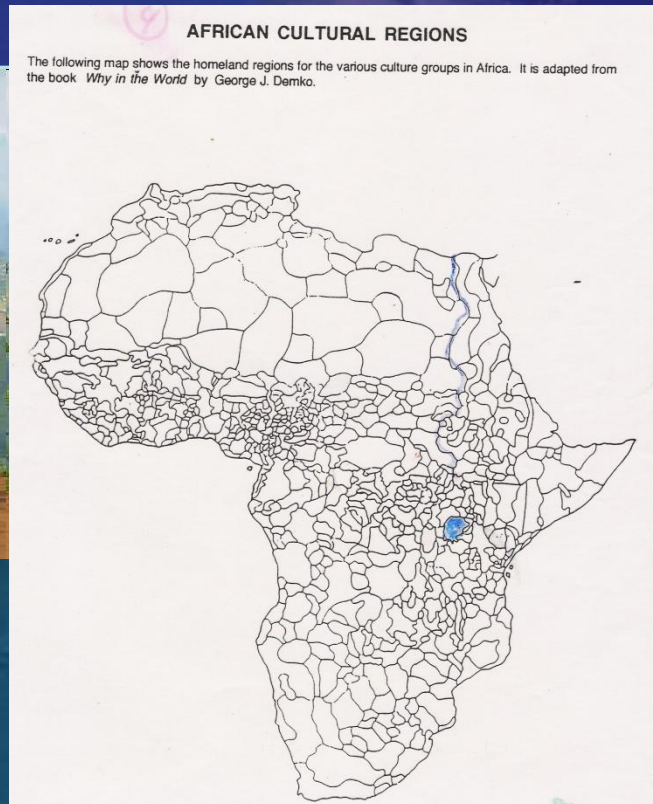


4. The culture of Africa is very primitive.

- False. There is no one “African” culture. There are over 700 ethnic groups in Africa.



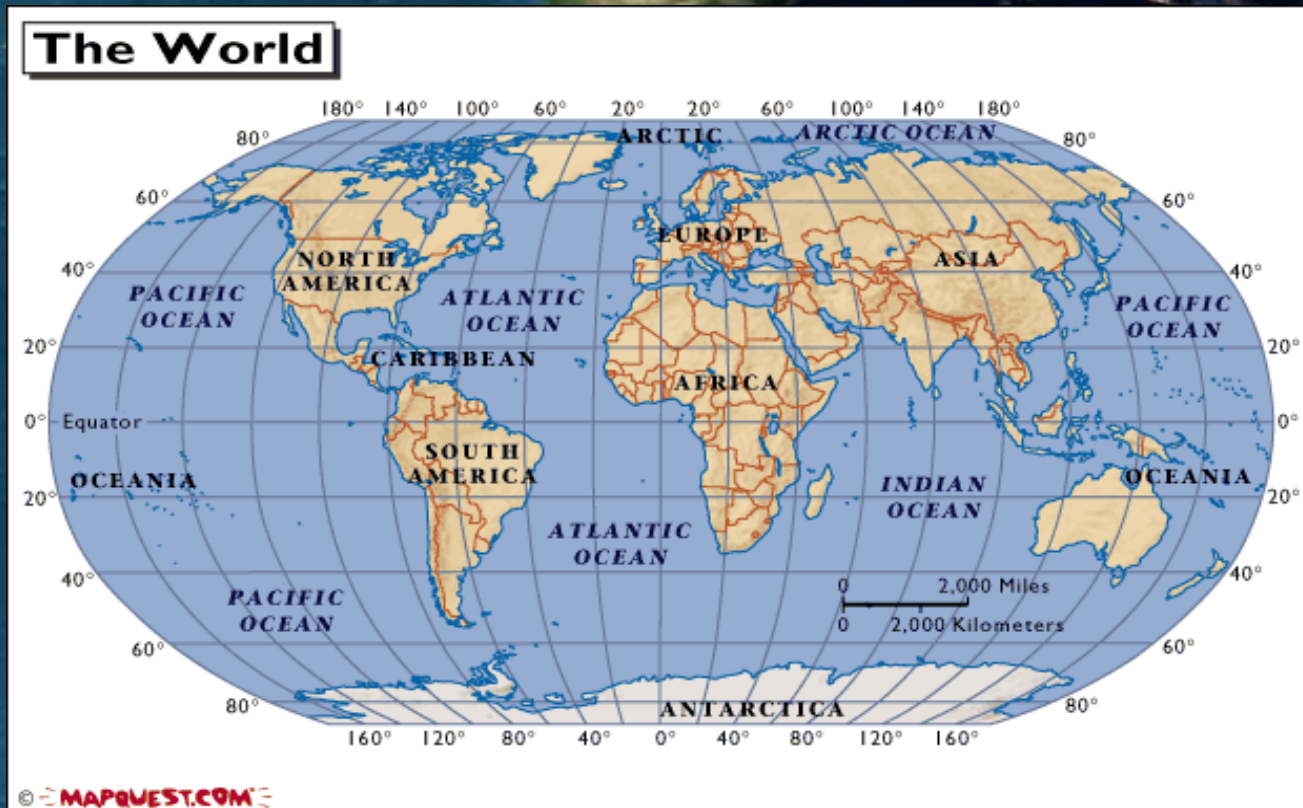
Zulu – South Africa



Igbo - Nigeria

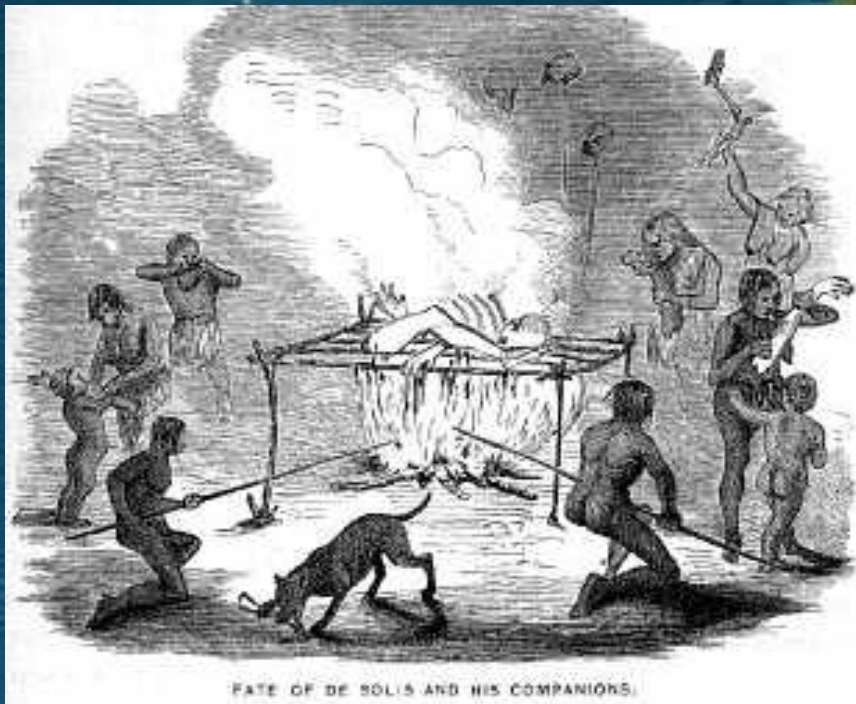
5. Africa is a country with one of the fastest growing populations.

- False, Africa is a CONTINENT with more countries than any other continent (54).



6. There are many documented cases of African cannibalism.

- True, however none of them have been proven. Cannibalism in Africa is a MYTH.



The Portuguese said this to keep other Europeans out of Africa.

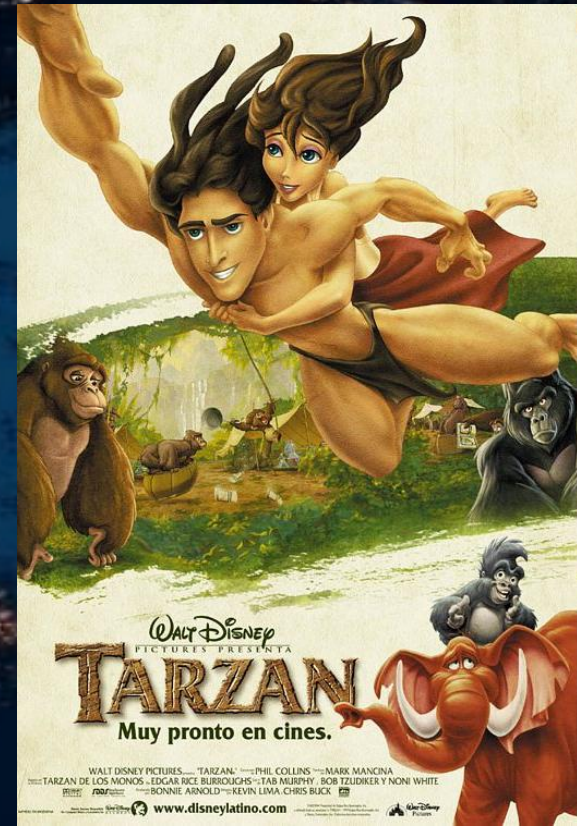
Many Africans thought they were going to be eaten by Europeans during the Atlantic slave trade.

7. The story of Tarzan is a myth. It was not based on a real incident.

- True, Tarzan was written by a European and made popular by Disney.

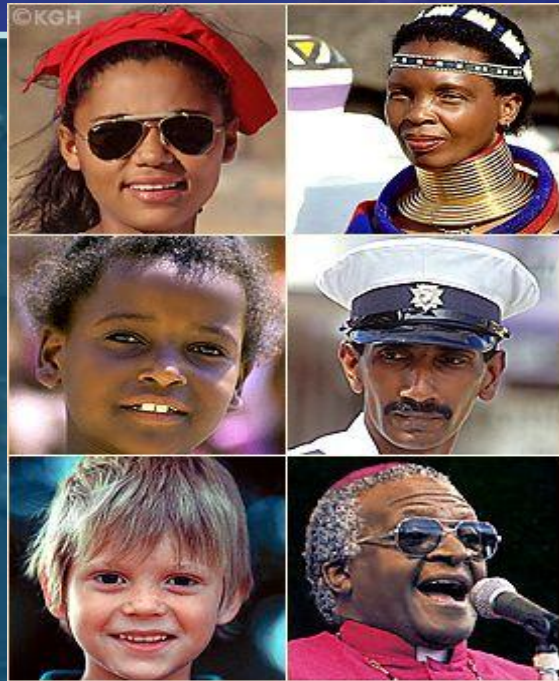


Matt's Tarzan Movie Guide - www.intrepid.net/~jkerr/bunkum/tarzan.htm



9. Not everyone in Africa is black.

- True, while most would be considered black by our standards, there are many culture groups ranging from white, Indian, black, and mixed between all of them.



8. The “Afro” haircut diffused from southern Africa.

- False, the Afro originated in the U.S. in the 1960’s as a symbol of black pride.



It is actually difficult to wear an Afro in the tropical climates in Africa.



9. There are conflicts all over Africa because of ethnic fighting going back thousands of years.

- False, while there is fighting in many places (Sudan, D.R.C., Sierra Leone, Rwanda), these conflicts are much more complex than “these groups have hated each other forever, and they always will.”



10. Africa is the poorest continent due to lack of resources.

- False, Africa is the poorest, but has an abundance of resources.



70% of the world's diamonds, 60% of gold, 40% of water power.

However, it is poor in infrastructure and stability.

IMPORTANT: There are plenty of resources, but they are unevenly distributed.

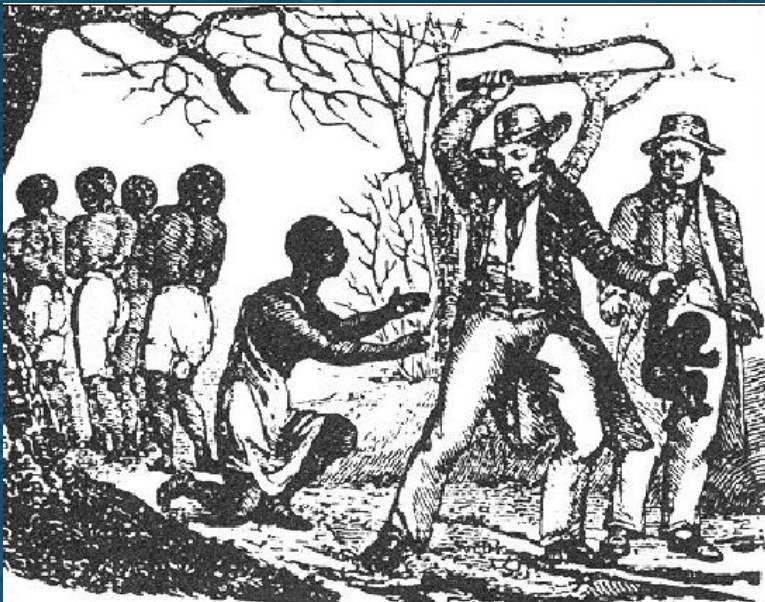
11. Slavery started in 16th century Africa.

- False, slavery was practiced in many societies well before this time. (Arab, Roman, Spanish, Chinese)



12. Africans sold themselves into slavery during the Atlantic slave trade.

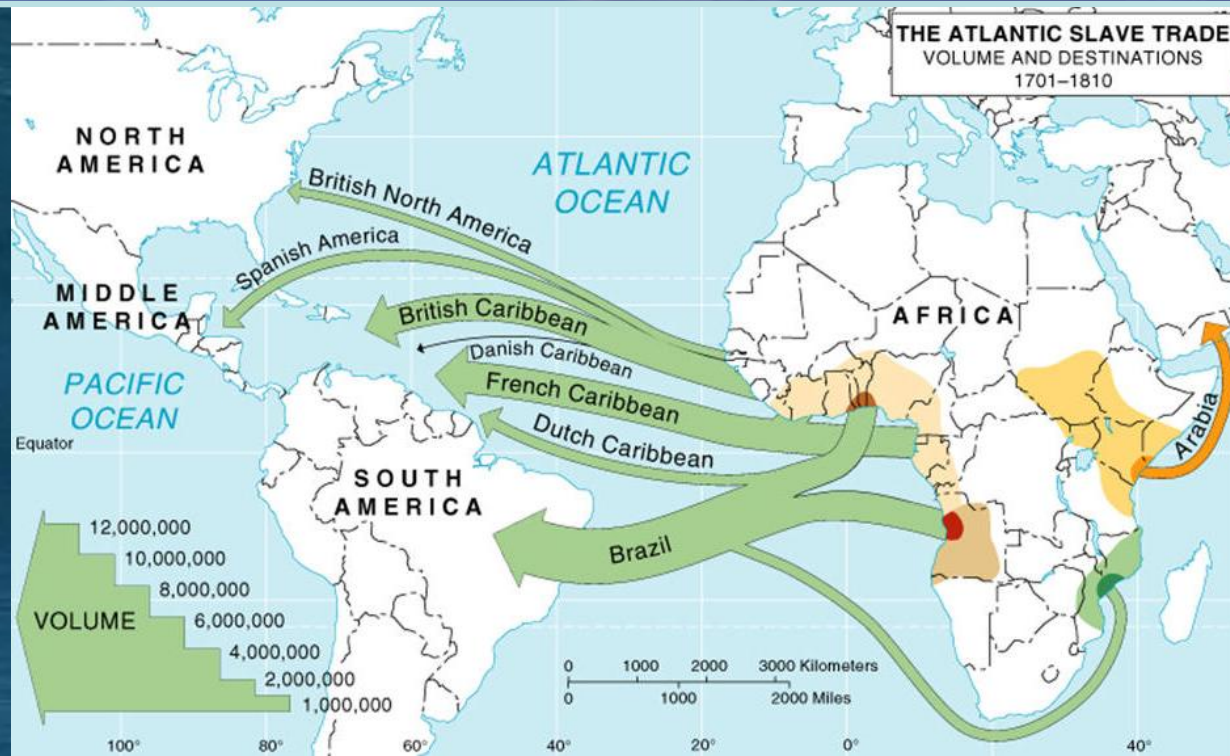
- False, at the time of the Atlantic slave trade, there was no concept of “Africa” for the people there. They were selling others into slavery just as the Europeans were.



Europeans also raided the African coast to collect slaves.

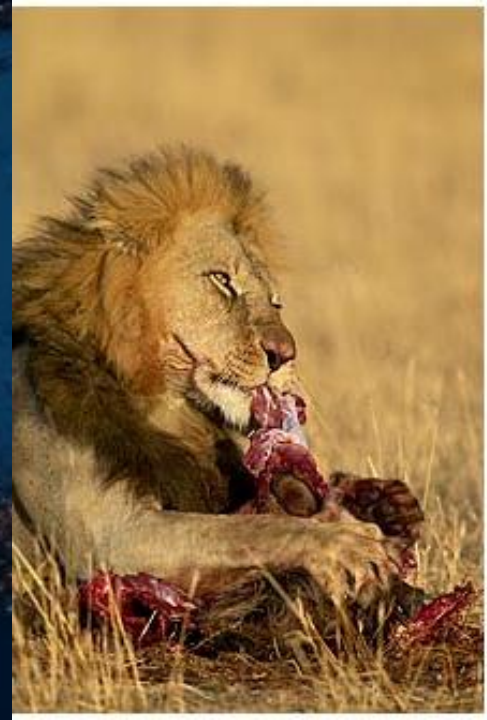
13. Most slaves from Africa did not end up in the southern U.S.

- True, of the 10-12 million slaves transported during this time, most ended up in Brazil and the Caribbean.



15. Male lions are considered to be the best hunters of all big cats.

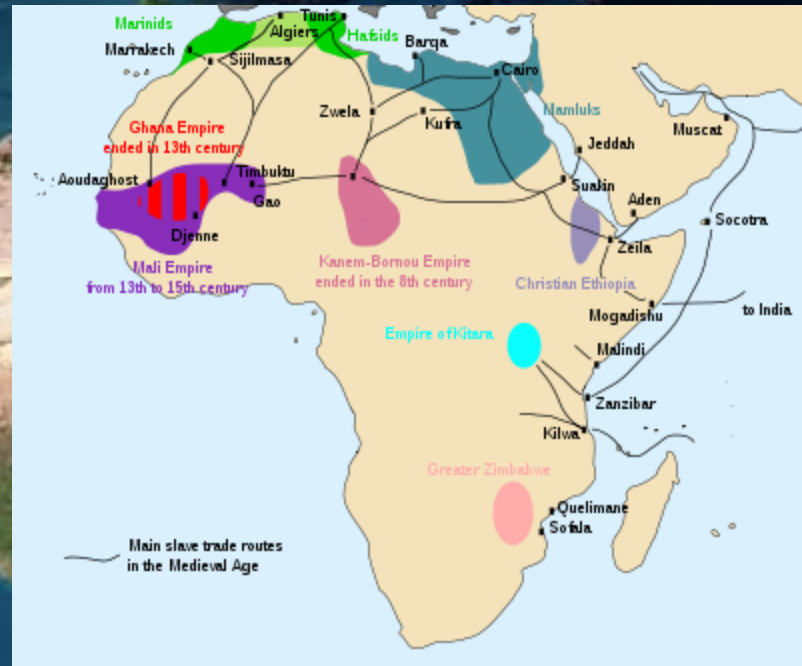
- False, male lions are just smart. The females do the hunting, then get the leftovers after the male is done eating.



16. Africa's history is one of small nomadic tribes that never developed.

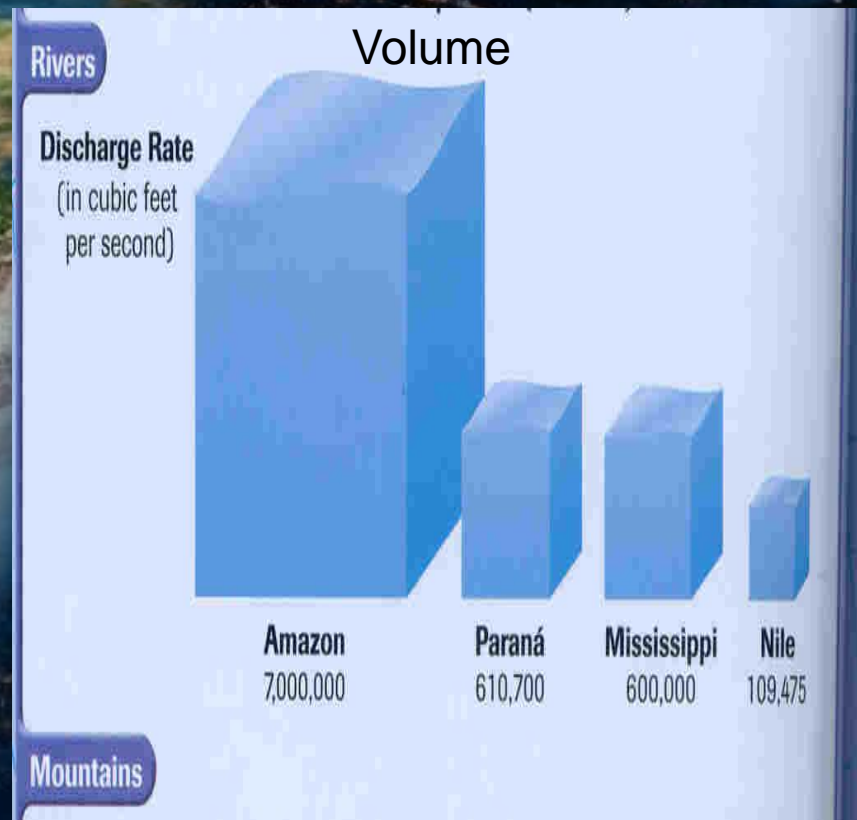
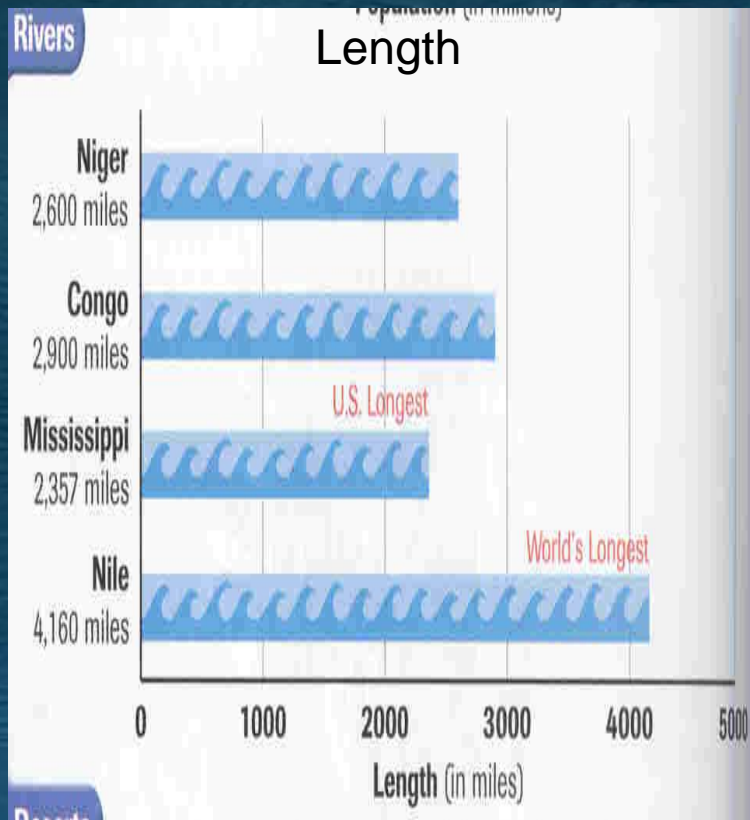
- False, Africa has a vast history, however, much of it was suppressed by Europeans to justify colonialism.

Few written records remain, and much of African knowledge was passed on orally.



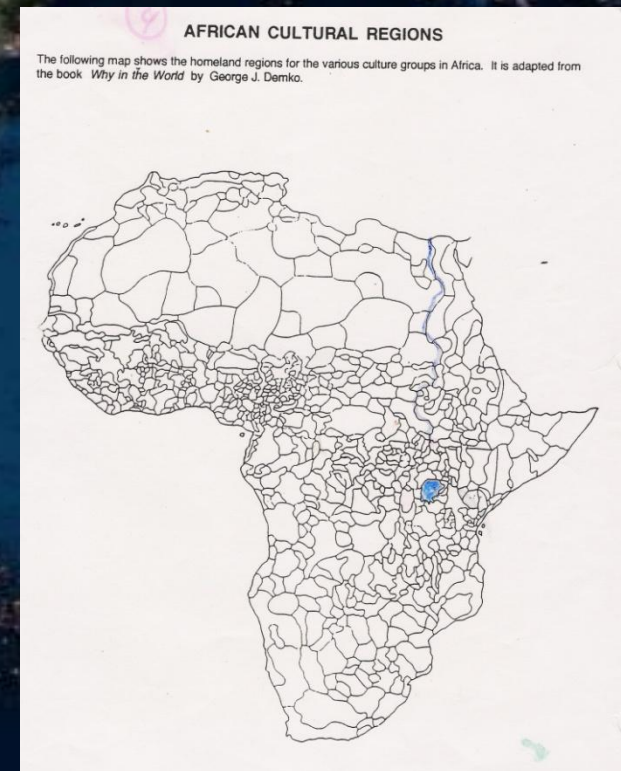
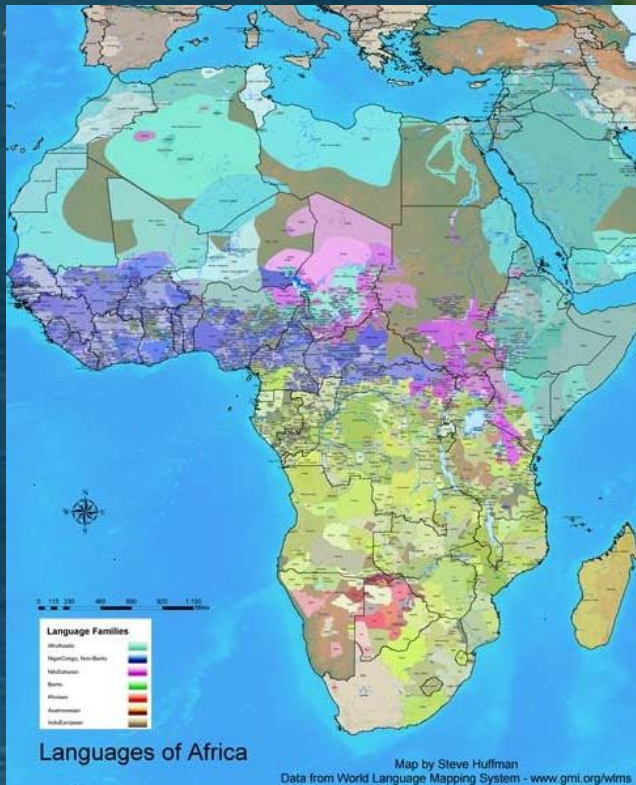
17. The Nile River is the largest in the world.

- False, it is the LONGEST.



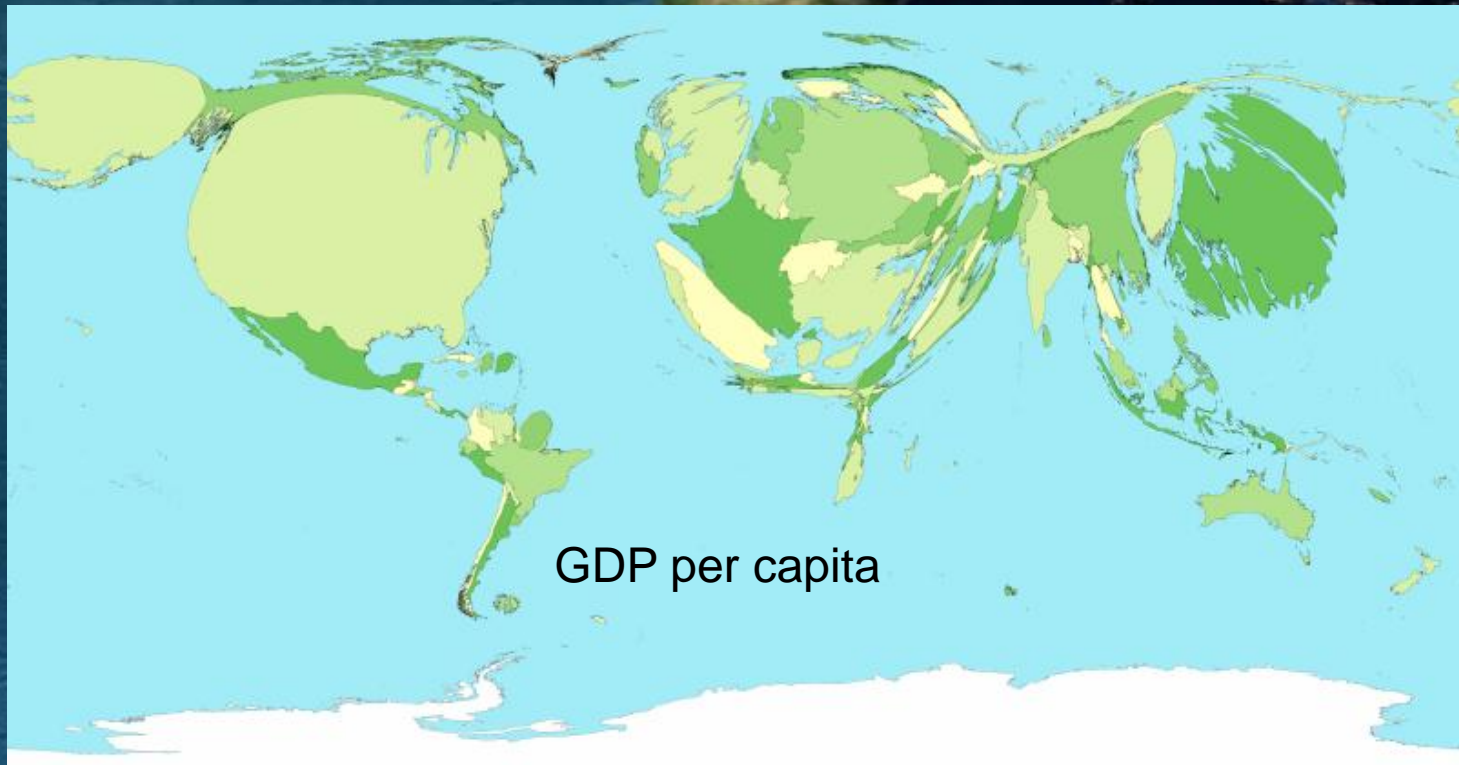
18. There are over 1000 languages in Africa.

- True, remember there are over 700 different ethnic groups there.



19. There are zero countries in Africa that are considered developed.

- True, while South Africa is wealthy by African standards, NONE are “developed.”



A satellite view of Earth from space, showing the African continent on the left and the European continent on the right. The African continent is highlighted with a bright, circular spotlight effect. The ocean is a deep blue, and the landmasses show various colors representing vegetation and terrain. A black rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing the title text.

Africa: An Introduction

Perceptions of Africa

- The Dark Continent
- from Conrad's book, "Heart of Darkness".
- A mysterious place where they practice the darkest of customs.

- Wise Africa
- Africa is a noble, simpler life, free from the stress of our life styles.
- Equally wrong.

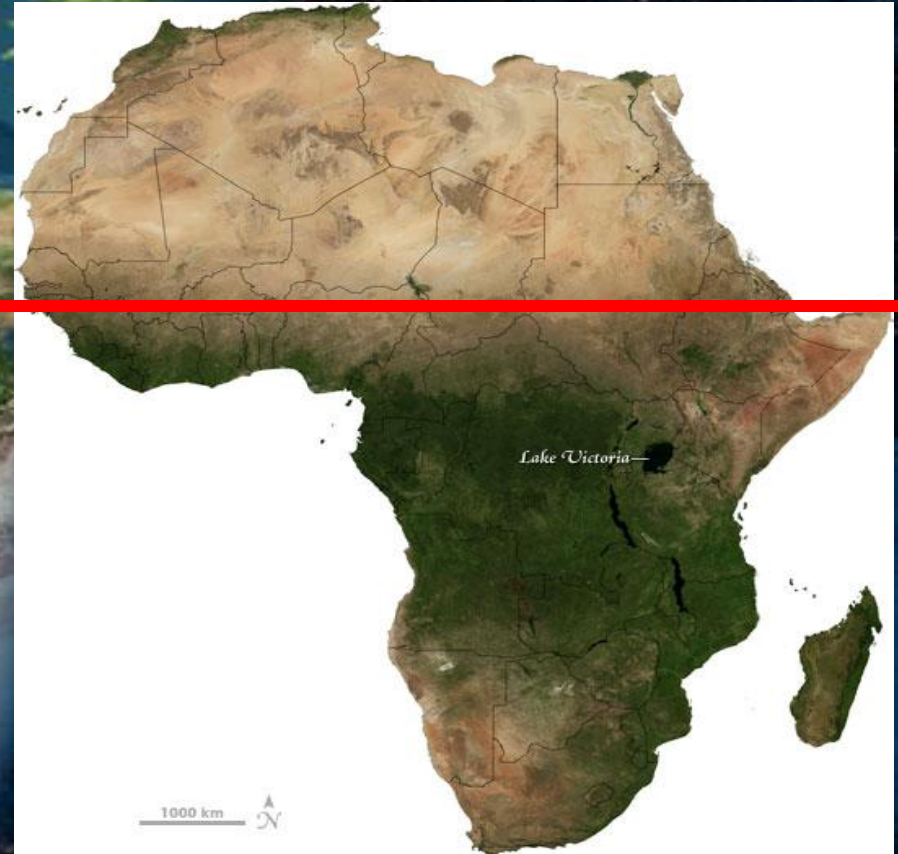
Perceptions of Africa

- The key points:
- Africa is large and diverse.
- It is not static.



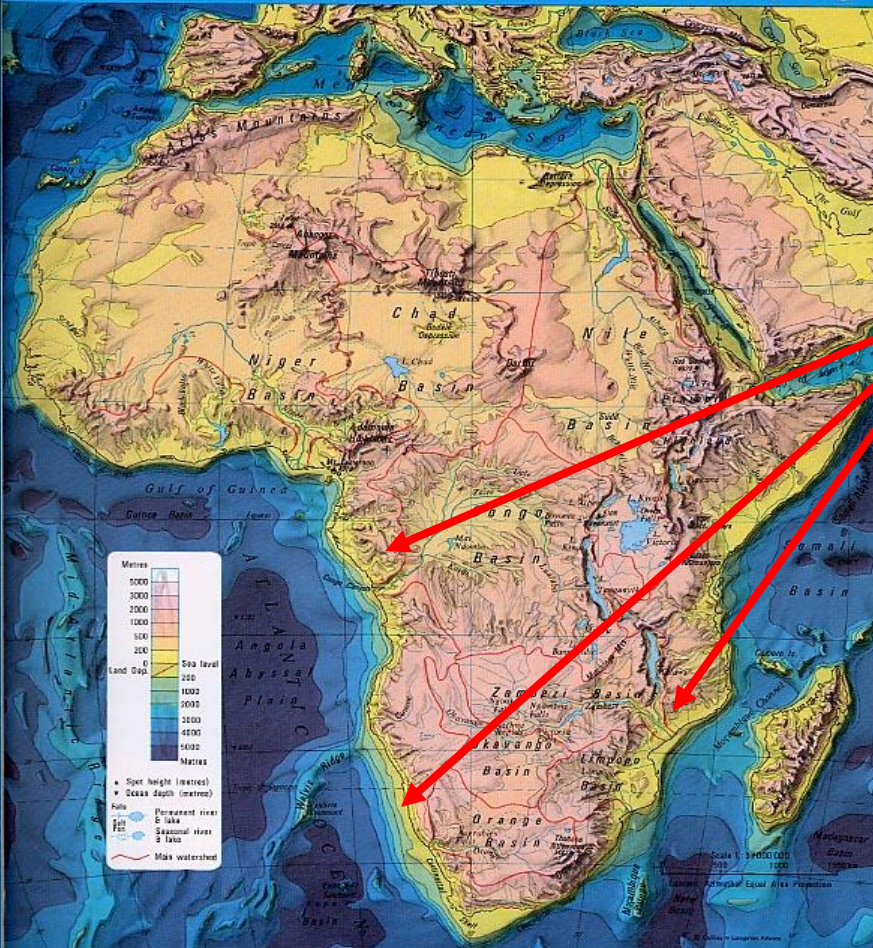
Geography

- Geography is largely responsible for Africa's isolation.
- The Sahara desert creates a physical barrier separating most of Africa from Europe.



Geography

AFRICA Relief and Drainage 5



- Most of Africa is a plateau.
- Narrow coastline and rapidly rising plateau made it difficult to explore.
- This limited diffusion.

Geography



- The Atlantic currents also made travel along the African coast difficult.
- Notice how the currents made travel between Europe and North America easy.

Geography

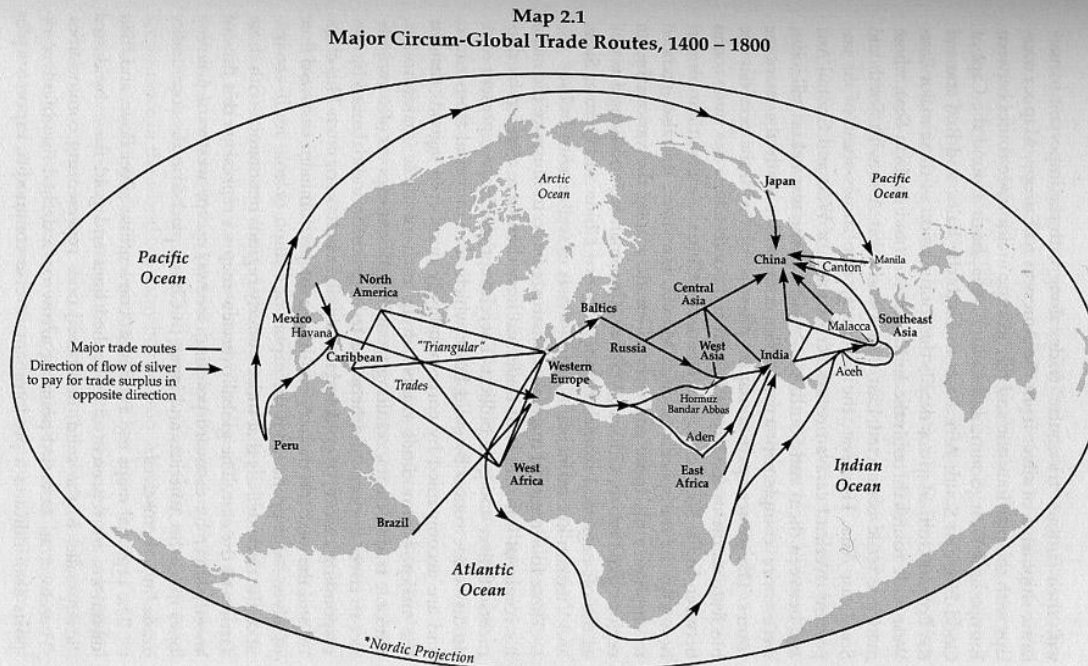
- Europe's irregular coastline created natural harbors that were perfect for trade.
- The coastline of Africa (like Texas) is smooth and has few natural harbors.
- Why the difference?



Glaciers covered much of Europe.

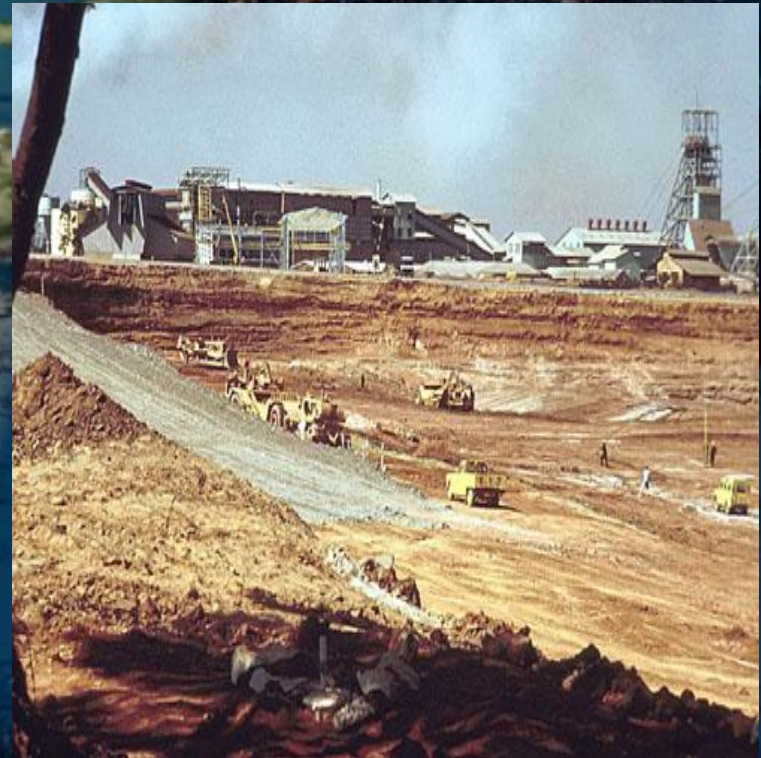
Geography

- Most of Africa is off the major trade routes of the world.



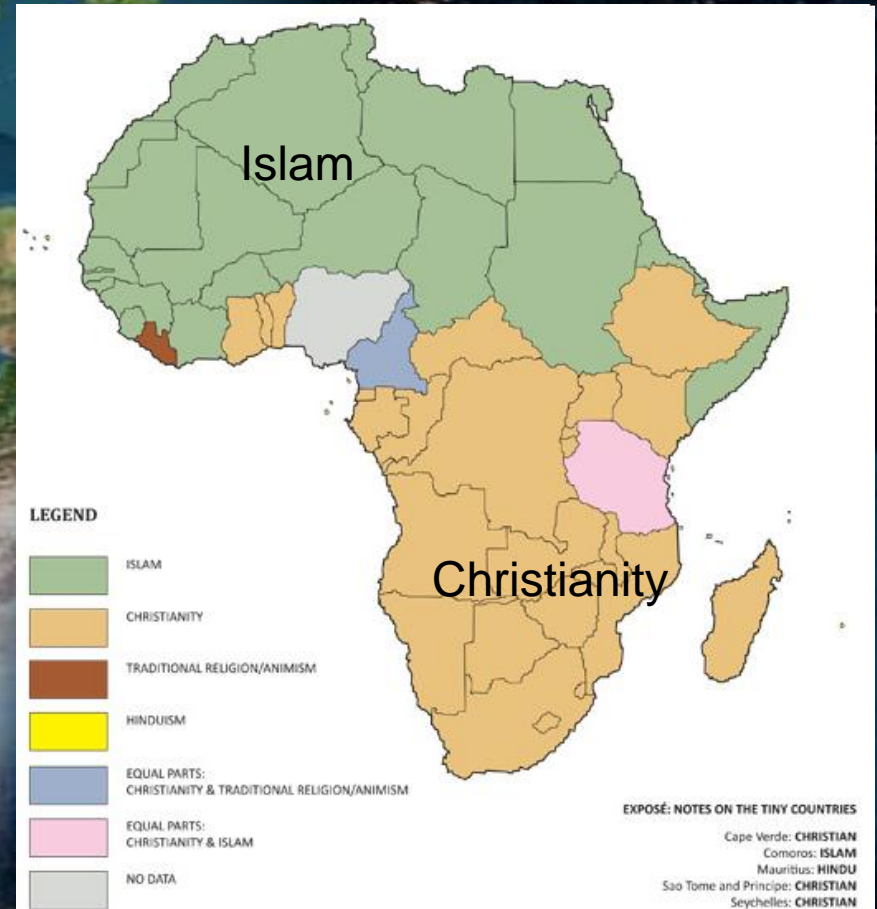
Primary Sector

- Most of Africa's economy is in the primary sector.
- What problems does this create?
- Most primary resources are shipped to other countries to manufacture goods.



A Desert Divide

- Geography divides Africa.
- North Africa, cut off from the rest by the Sahara, is dominated by deserts, Arabs, and Islam.



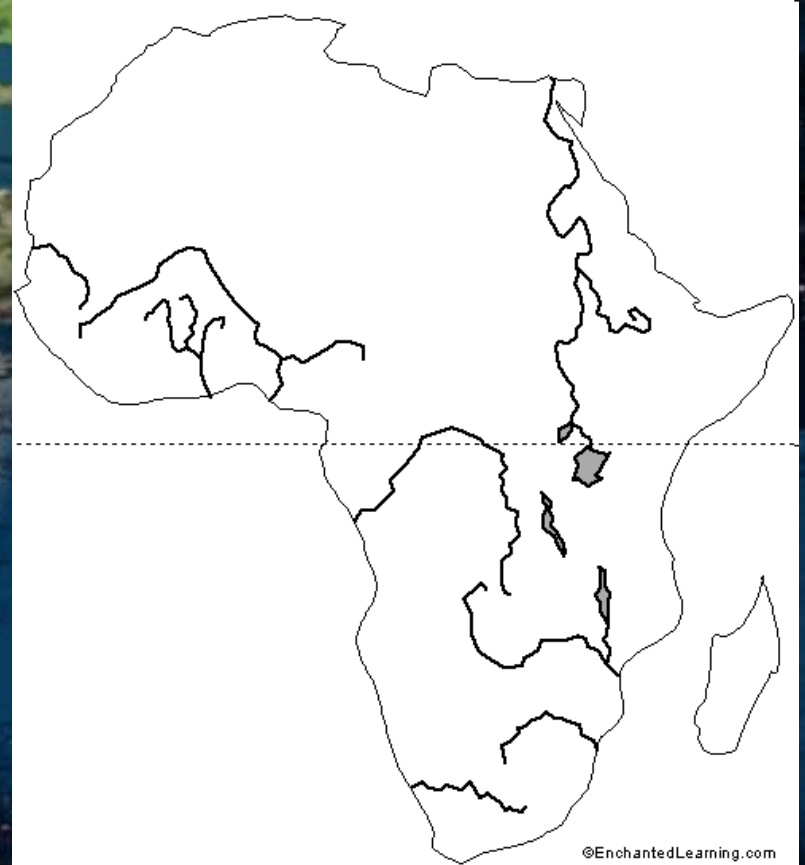
Sub-Saharan Africa

- North Africa is often studied as part of the Middle East.



Rivers

- Rivers usually mean transportation and diffusion.
- Africa has many rivers similar to the ones in Europe and North America.
- However...



Rivers



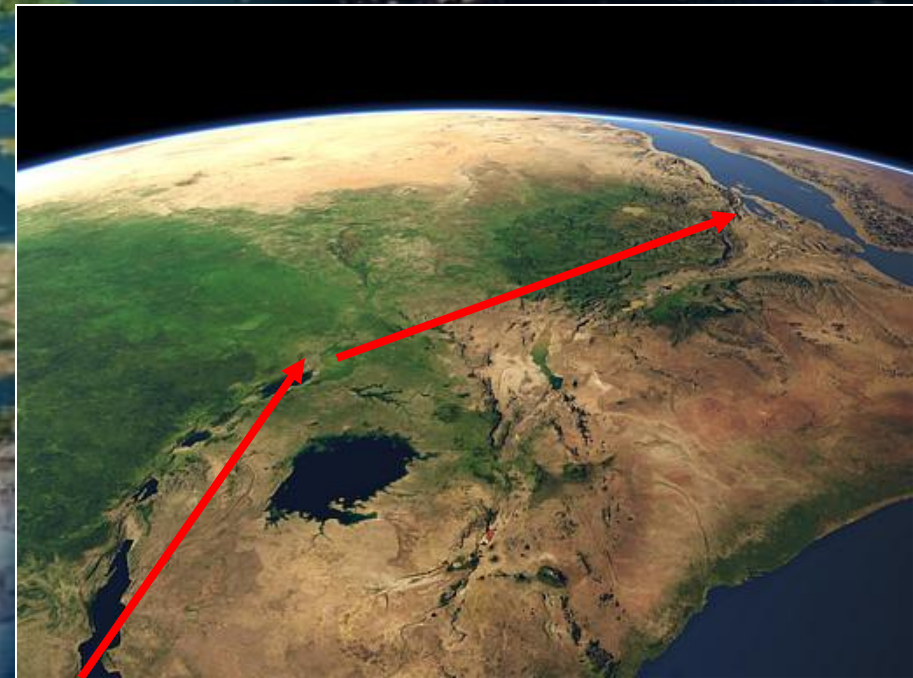
- ...because much of Africa is a plateau, the rivers have waterfalls and “cataracts” (rapids) that prohibit travel by large ships.
- Where is the fall line in the United States?

Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River



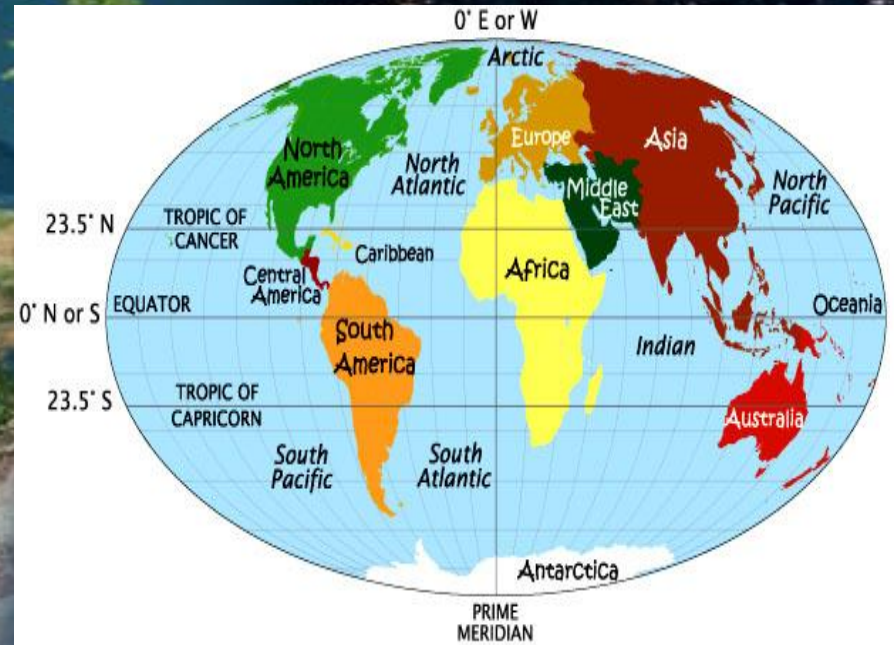
The Great Rift Valley

- The Great Rift Valley is evidence that Eastern Africa is actually splitting off from the rest of Africa.



Climate

- Much of Africa lies between the tropics.
- What does this tell you about the climate?



It's HOT!

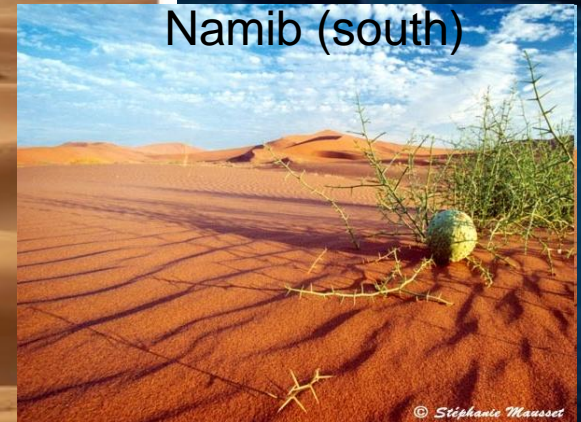
Deserts

- 3 of the world's largest deserts are in Africa.

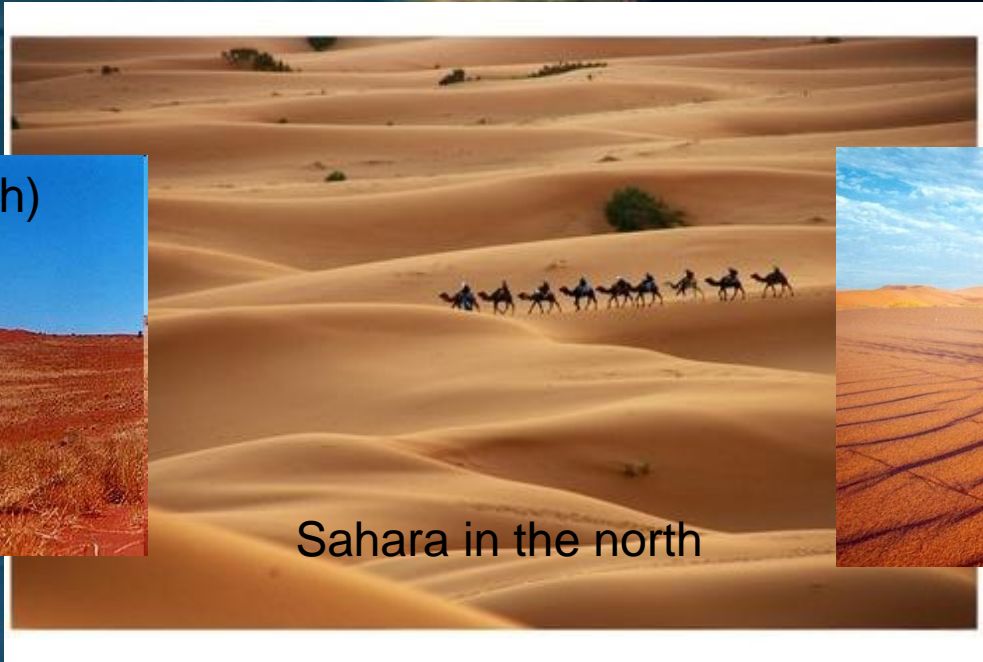
Kalahari (south)



Namib (south)



Sahara in the north



Sahel



AFRICA

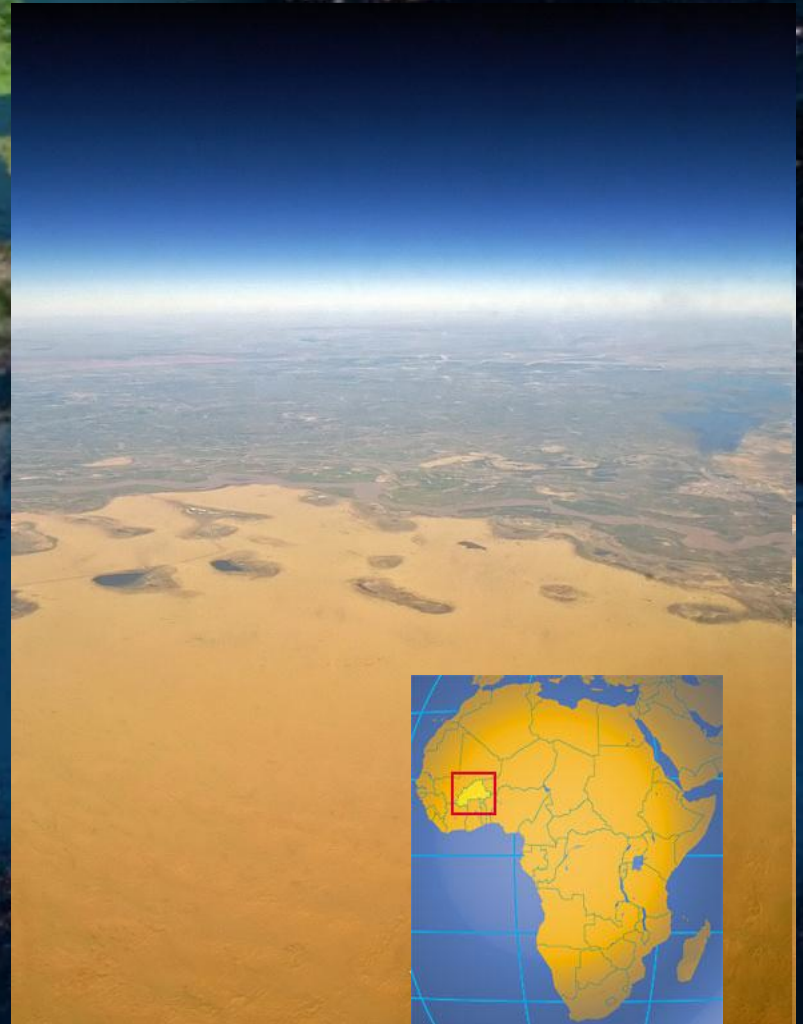


- The Sahel is a band that borders the Sahara Desert.
- A combination of drought and human development is turning weak grassland into desert.

DESERTIFICATION

Burkina Faso (“land of the upright men”)

- A great example of somewhere you DO NOT want to be from.
- In the Sahel (desertification) and on the “shatterbelt” between Islam and Christianity.



African history

Remains of Great Zimbabwe



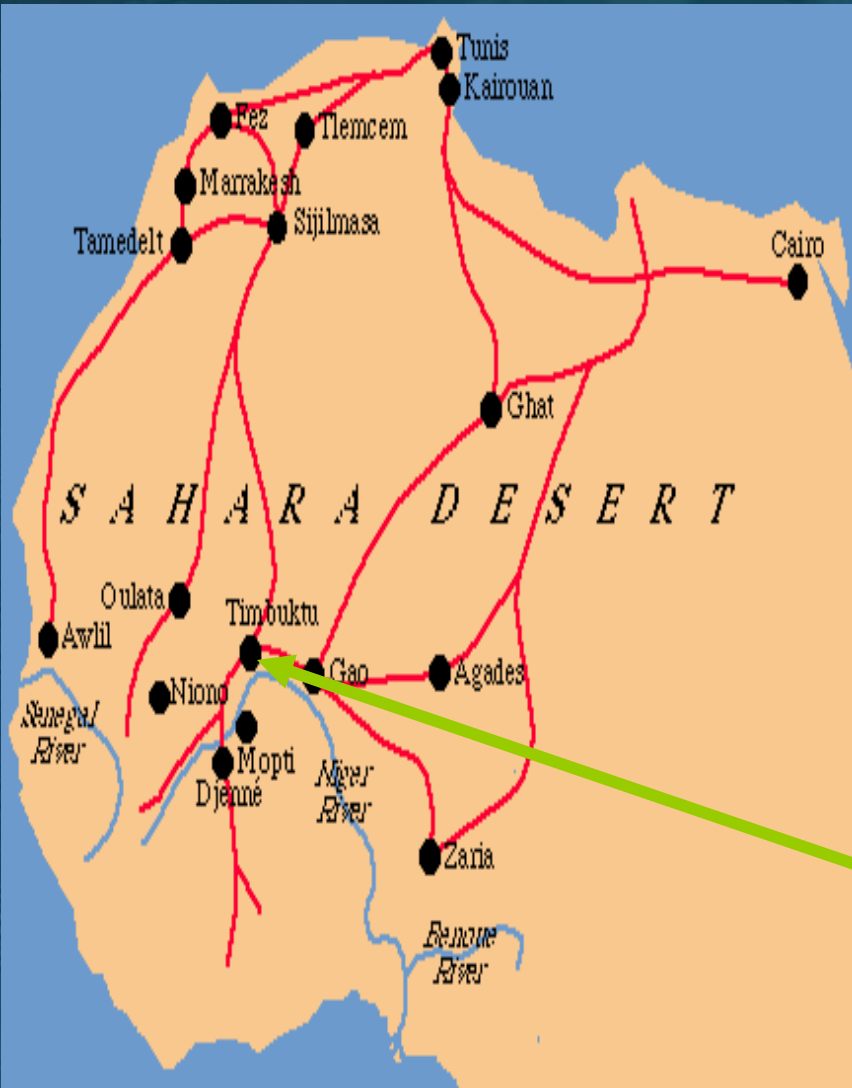
- There were many great African empires, but we know little about them. Why?
- They left little written history. Knowledge passed through oral traditions.

African history

- For thousands of years, much of Africa's internal trade has been conducted at markets where many groups meet and trade.



African history



- Ancient trade routes through West and North Africa promoted diffusion.
- Gold and ivory from the south was traded for salt and good from the north.
- This created great trading cities. The most famous of which was...
- Timbuktu

Timbuktu

- Still exists in Mali today. The trade routes moved and the climate became hotter. The city lost its function (a trading center).



Why were the buildings made of these materials?

Little stone or wood available.

Africans live in tribes don't they?

- What is a tribe?
- A political group that comprises one or more subgroups that have integrating factors, usually organized through kinship and occupying a distinct territory.



Copyright © 2004-2007

Vadim Onishchenko - www.wildlife-photo.org

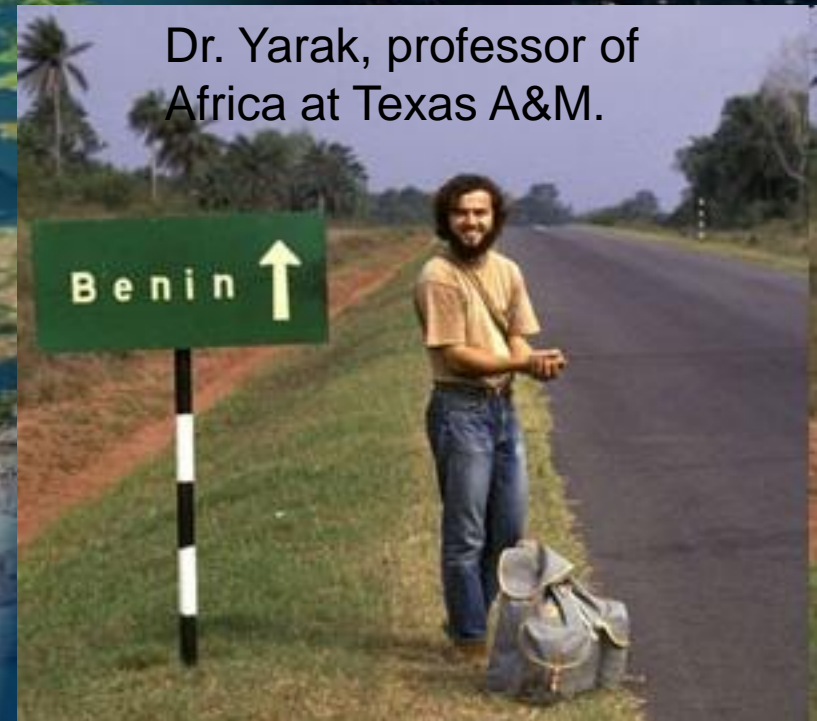
Africans live in tribes don't they?



- Tribe is a problematic word.
 - Often associated with unthinking, primal attachments to kin.
- Africans understand “tribe” much differently than we do.

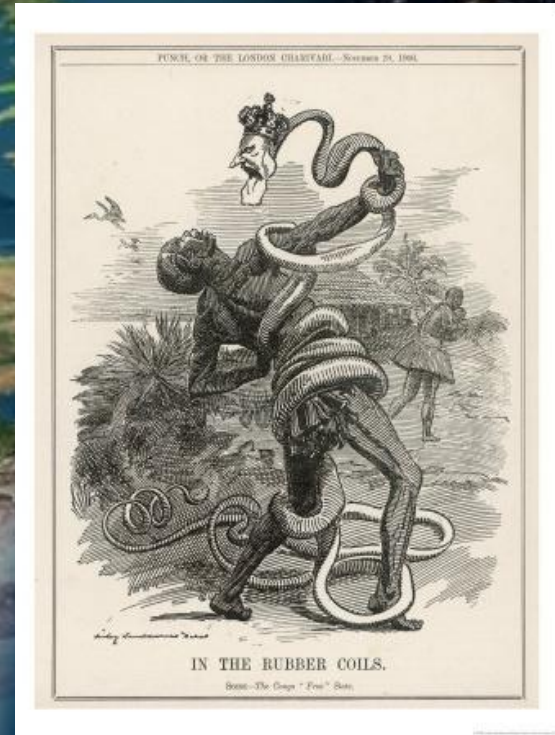
Africans live in tribes don't they?

- The answer...
- No.
- According to its technical definition there are no tribes in Africa.
 - They all belong to modern states.
- Scholars have abandoned the word because it brings about the wrong images for Westerners.



Africans live in tribes don't they?

- A more accurate word: “Ethnic groups”
- Africans have attachments to kin, but they have other loyalties also.
- Tribalism was developed during the outside threat of colonialism (19th-20th century).



Igbo

Yoruba

Masai

Zulu

Ashante

Basanga

Tutsi

Hutu

Kikuyu

Conclusion

- There is no easy way to talk about Africa or what is African. This is the second largest continent, full of complexity and contrast.

