

Name: _____ Class: _____

Physical Geography of Africa Notes

Africa

1. Africa is the world's _____ largest continent (11,700,000 miles).
2. It is home to _____ countries, _____ different languages, and _____ million people.
 - a. _____% of the world's population lives in Africa.
3. The one thing that all African nations have in common is their reliance on the land's _____, which affect where people live, work, & trade.
4. Africa can be divided into many different regions:
 - a. The _____, the Sahel, the savannahs, the tropical rain forests, the _____ Highlands, and Southern Africa.

Sahara Desert

1. The Sahara is the world's largest _____ desert (_____ miles).
 - a. It runs across the width of northern Africa.
 - b. It covers _____
2. It divides the continent into two distinct regions – _____
3. The Sahara is covered with _____, rocky _____, and stretches of gravel that continue for miles and miles.
4. Very few people live in the desert because it is considered one of the harshest places to live in the world.
 - a. The people who do live here are called _____.
 - b. They move from place to place, usually traveling by _____, looking for _____
5. Film Questions
 - a. The Sahara is the largest desert in the world. True or False
 - b. the Sahara is the most consistently hot location on Earth. True or False
 - c. How many people live in the Sahara Desert?

The Sahel

1. The Sahel is a strip of _____ that is located south of the Sahara.
 - a. The word "Sahel" means _____
 - b. It is the region between the _____ to the north and the _____ and rainforest to the south.
2. It is a dry, semi-arid region that is slowly turning into desert.
 - a. It gets more _____ than the desert, but still receives very little, ranging from _____ inches.
3. People have tried to live here but generations of overgrazing and desertification have caused _____
 - a. Vegetation is sparse here—grasses and shrubs are unevenly distributed.
4. The Sahel is relatively flat with few mountains and hills.

Savanna

1. The African savannas are hot, dry grasslands that are located near the _____ and cover _____
 - a. They actually cover the regions just north and south of the _____ that lie along the equator.
2. The African savanna is the _____ in the world.
 - a. There is a large variety of wildlife here, including lions, zebras, & elephants.
3. _____ is good here, but only if there is good _____.
 - a. Grasses and grains like _____ grown in the region.
4. The area receives enough rain to support drought resistant _____, but not enough to support forest-type _____.
 - a. Grasses are _____ and _____, while trees are short and _____.

Tropical Rainforest

1. Africa's tropical rain forest is located along the _____ coast of Africa, near the _____.
 - a. It lies in the Congo River Basin.
2. The rainforest covers _____ of the land surface of Africa and touches _____ countries.
 - a. The rain forest has a _____ climate.
 - b. The annual rainfall is over _____
 - c. There is a large variety of _____ found in this region.
3. _____ are so thick and tall that sunlight never reaches the forest _____!
 - a. The trees grow hundreds of feet tall.
4. It's the _____ Largest rainforest in the world; the Amazon rainforest is the largest.
 - a. Unfortunately, this rain forest has _____ due to _____.

Congo River

1. The Congo River is located in _____ Africa.
 - a. It begins in central Africa, near Lake _____, and flows west through the tropical rainforest.
2. The Congo River is the _____ largest river in Africa.
 - a. It's over _____ miles long.
3. Film Questions
 - a. What nations does the Congo River run through?
 - b. How far are the rapids from the sea?
 - c. What Capital city does the river run through?

Niger River

1. The Niger River is located in _____ Africa.
 - a. It flows through _____
2. The Niger River is the _____ largest river in Africa.
 - a. It runs over _____ miles.
3. The mouth of the Niger River flows through a large delta, often referred to as the " _____ " because of the _____ industry that's centered here.

Nile River

1. The Nile River is located in eastern Africa.
 - a. It starts in _____ and flows northward and empties into the Mediterranean Sea.
2. The Nile is the world's longest river at _____ miles.
3. It provides water for _____ and _____.
4. It's an important waterway for transporting _____ and _____.
5. The Nile also provides a source of _____ for _____.
6. Film Questions
 - a. What are the names of the two Nile Rivers?
 - b. Almost all of Egypt's _____ are located along the Nile.
 - c. What % of the Nile's water come from the Blue Nile?
 - d. List at least three nations that fight over the water from the Nile River:

Lake Tanganyika

1. Lake Tanganyika is located in _____ Africa.
 - a. It's divided between _____
2. Lake Tanganyika is the deepest lake in Africa and one of the _____ in the world.
3. It's also one of the largest _____ lakes in the world.
4. Film Questions:
 - a. What is the main industry here?
 - b. How many fish species can be found here?

Lake Victoria

1. Lake Victoria is the _____ lake in Africa and the second largest _____ lake in the world (Lake Superior is the largest).
2. It is located in central Africa and extends into three countries: _____
 - a. _____ Nile begins here.
3. Lake Victoria is vital in supporting the _____ of people that live nearby.
 - a. It provides a living for many _____ and attracts millions of _____ each year.

Atlas Mountains

1. The Atlas Mountains are a mountain range in _____ Africa.
2. The mountains extend from _____ to _____, between the _____ Sea and the Sahara Desert.
3. They separate the coastal regions from the _____.

Kalahari Desert

1. The Kalahari Desert is located in _____ Africa.
 - a. It covers parts of _____.
2. The region is surrounded by _____ areas that are slowly becoming more _____.
3. It is not a "true" desert because it receives _____ inches of rain per year.
4. Because of the precipitation and _____ water supplies, _____, shrubs, and wild _____ manage to live in the Kalahari Desert.