

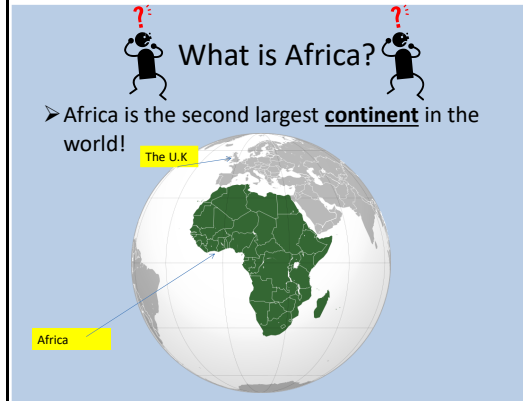
# YEAR 7 GEOGRAPHY—AFRICA

## 1 KEY VOCABULARY

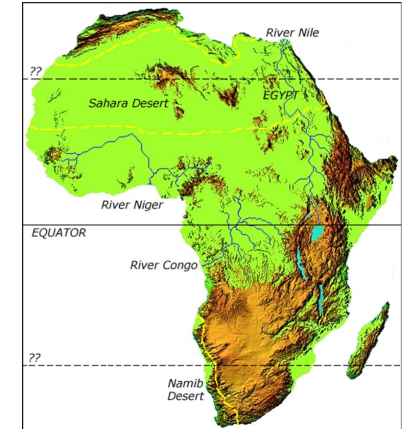
Diversity	The differences we can experience .
Continent	A group of countries.
Source	The beginning of a river.
Mouth	The end of a river.
Tributary	Small river joining the main channel.
Confluence	The point where two rivers join.
Watershed	The high ground at the edge of a drainage basin.
Birth rate	The amount of children born per 1000 people.
Death rate	The amount of people dying per 1000 people.
Life expectancy	Average number of years a person can expect to live.
Infant mortality	Number of deaths of children under one per 1000 children.
GDP per capita	A measure of amount of money per person
Literacy rate	% of people who can read and write
Slum	An area of poor homemade housing
Maasai Mara	A traditional tribe from Western Africa
Tourism	The impacts that travel has on people and places

## 2 PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Africa covers 30 Million square kilometres and contains 54 countries. The vegetation starts with Desert in the North, moving through Savannah grassland to Rainforest at the equator in Central Africa. This means the Climate is very arid (dry) in the North but Hot and Wet in the Equatorial region, with areas of tropical rainforest. There are mountainous regions including Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa, located in Tanzania at 5895 metres high.

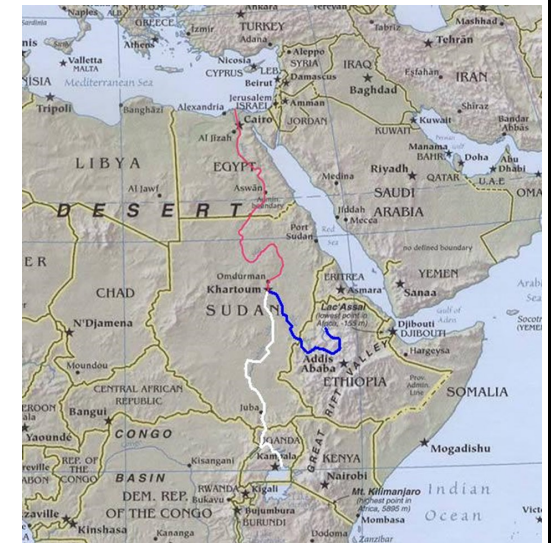


The three main rivers in Africa are the Nile, Congo and Niger.



## 3 THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RIVER NILE

- Egypt's main source of water, the Nile, is the longest river in the world, it is 6695 Kms from the source of the White Nile to the Mediterranean.
- Other sources of water in Egypt are negligible, and Without the Nile, Egypt would not have enough water for everyone.
- The Nile is formed when the White Nile (formed from Lake Victoria in Uganda) meets the Blue Nile (formed From Lake Tana in Ethiopia), and then flows all the way to the Mediterranean.
- Life in Egypt is along the Nile, 94% of the Egyptian population live on the edges of the Nile (4% of the land).
- Many farmers rely on the annual floods that bring Silt onto the land that the farmers use as a natural Fertiliser for their crops.



4

THE ASWAN DAM

Work began on the dam on January 9, 1960. It was finished in 1970. The water that is held back by the dam creates Lake Nasser, one of the world’s largest reservoirs. The lake now covers land that was occupied by 90,000 Egyptian peasants and Sudanese nomads who had to be moved to other areas. The ancient Egyptian temple complex of Abu Simbel, which would otherwise have been submerged, also had to be relocated.

The Aswan High Dam has had negative side effects as well. In addition to displacing people and artefacts, it has made the land along the river less productive.

Flooding once brought with it rich fertilizing silt, which enriched the soil. Much of the water and its silt is now confined in reservoirs and canals. The silt is no longer deposited by

the Nile’s rising waters on farmlands so the farmlands are not as fertile.

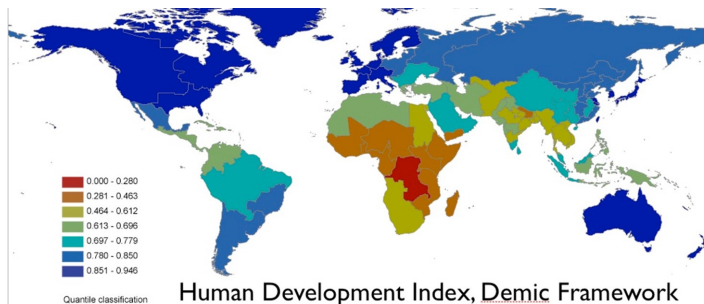
The dam was built to prevent flooding, provide water for farming and generate electricity.



5

DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA.

Africa, as a continent has struggled with its development. The map below shows the Human Development Index (a measure of money, education and healthcare) for the world. The reds and yellows show a lower level of development. Much of Central Africa is struggling due to challenging climatic conditions (Drought) or corrupt governments making poor decisions not helping the development of the country. We can explain how many central African countries remain poor by thinking about how a poor climate leads to a poor harvest so the country struggles to feed itself so it borrows money to import food, which gets it into debt. This means the government has less money to invest in hospitals, leading to a higher death rate and lower life expectancy.



6

SLUM HOUSING

A slum is a densely populated urban residential area, with poor quality or incomplete housing, inhabited primarily by very poor people. It is a part of the city where the housing quality is low quality and living conditions are poor. They are built as people migrate (move) to the cities from the countryside areas to look for better quality work to earn more money. However many of the jobs that they can get in the factories, although offering regular work, are poorly paid so they cannot afford a house. These people end up making their own house on land that doesn’t belong to them called slums. These illegal housing areas are not connected to services like water pipes and sewage systems, leading to the spread of disease. The councils would like to clear these slum areas as the slum dwellers do not pay tax and often connect to illegal electricity supplies from lampposts, which is dangerous. However slums can have over a million people and there is nowhere to put these people so many slums end up being permanent fixtures of poorer country cities. Lagos is the capital city of Nigeria where there are 9 large slum areas including Agege.



In Kenya most Maasai people live in the Maasai Mara Reserve which is a large park in the South West of Kenya. It is named after the Maasai people who live there and the Mara River which cuts through the Park.

A nomad is a person who has no permanent home but moves around with the seasons. The Maasai move around to allow their cattle (cows) to eat and drink during the hot summer dry season. When an area runs out of food and water the Maasai simply move somewhere else .

The Maasai are cattle and goat herders. Livestock such as cattle, goats and sheep are the main source of income for the Maasai. Increasingly they are working for holiday companies entertaining tourists.

The Maasai make decorative beaded jewellery including necklaces, earrings, headbands, and wrist and ankle bracelets as a hobby. Maasai are also excellent at creating wood carvings, and they increasingly produce art for tourists as a supplemental source of income.

### Tourism in Kenya: Maasai Mara National Park



The **Maasai Mara National Reserve** (also known as **Masai Mara**) is a large wildlife reserve in Kenya, continuing south into Tanzania. It is named in honour of the Maasai people (the ancestral inhabitants of the area) and their description of the area when looked at from afar: "Mara," which is Maa (Maasai language) for "spotted," an apt description for the circles of trees, scrub, savanna, and cloud shadows that mark the area. It is famous for its Safari animals

TOURISM IN THE MAASAI MARA

