

Where is Africa located?

Africa is located south of the continent of Europe, and falls in both the northern and the southern hemisphere. Three major oceans encompass the continent- the Atlantic Ocean to the west, the Southern Ocean to the south and the Indian Ocean to the east. The Mediterranean Sea lies to the north and the Red Sea lies between eastern Egypt and the Arabian Peninsula.

Desertification

Desertification is the process where fertile land becomes desert, typically as a result of drought, deforestation or inappropriate agriculture. In addition, climate change has been cited as one of the reasons why drought is occurring, due to the changes in rainfall. Civil war and conflict has led to an increase in desertification as people migrate and certain areas become overpopulated. This puts pressure on the land in terms of farming. The Sahel region is at risk.

Formation of Mt Nviragongo

Millions of years ago, magma forced its way through a weak spot in the Earth's surface. The lava cooled and turned into rock. Many years later magma forced its way up again. The process repeated over and over again. The cooled lava formed layers of rock. Over millions of years, the layers built up to form a volcano. In between, the volcano spewed out ash and steam. The ash settles on the volcano and cemented into rock.

Hot deserts

Hot, moist air rises into the atmosphere near the Equator. As the air rises, it cools and drops its moisture as heavy tropical rains. The resulting cooler, drier air mass moves away from the equator. As it approaches the tropics, the air descends and warms up again. The descending air prevents the formation of clouds, so very little rain falls on the land below. The world's largest desert is a sub-tropical desert (Sahara). It is the size of the continental USA.

What distinct features are found within Africa?

Human Features	Physical Features
Lagos, Nigeria Kibera Aswan Dam Pyramids of Giza Karnak- Valley of the Kings Nomadic Tribe Culture Nollywood	River Nile Sahara Desert Congo Rainforest Table Mountain Victoria Falls Mt Nviragongo Great Rift Valley Mt Kilimanjaro Lake Victoria

How developed is Africa as a continent?

Country	Level of Development	Evidence
Egypt	LIC	Life expectancy – 71 years
Nigeria	NEE	Life expectancy- 53.95 years
Ethiopia	LIC	Life expectancy- 65.87 years

Summary

Africa is a continent of diversity. From the physical features of the magnificent River Nile, Table Mountain and the Congo Rainforest to the megacities of Lagos and historic phenomenon that are the Pyramids of Giza, Africa is a geographer's dream.

Key Word

Definition

Development: The process of change that affects people's lives.

Development indicator: Numerical scale to measure quality of life, e.g. GDP.

Low Income Countries: The poorest countries in the world, e.g. Ethiopia.

Newly Emerging Economies: Countries whose economies are growing rapidly, e.g. Brazil.

Life Expectancy: The average number of years a person is expected to live for.

Africa's water issues

As countries in Africa are some of the most economically deprived nations in the world, water problem is a significant issue. Deaths by drinking contaminated water are high. 345 million people (roughly 5x the amount of people living in the UK) do not have access to safe drinking water.

This leads to a variety of problems including health issues, poisoned wildlife and a reduction in tourism if landmarks are polluted (River Nile).

Water borne diseases are a particular issue and include cholera, malaria and hookworm. There are a variety of solutions to reduce the issues including wells and rainwater harvesting.