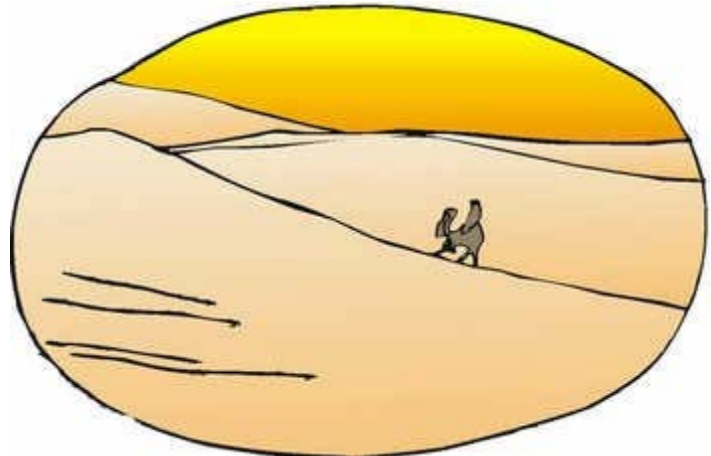


The Climate and Weather of Africa

Africa is the second largest continent next to Asia and Africa is nearly 5,000 miles long from north to south, from the Mediterranean Sea to the tip of the country of South Africa. As you travel north and south across North America the climate gets colder as you get closer to the North Pole and warmer in Florida and Mexico. But the same is not true for Africa because the equator runs east and west through the middle of Africa. The earth is the hottest at the equator.

Most people think of Africa as having a hot, steamy jungle climate but this is not true for the entire continent. Many places along the equator like the Congo do have a hot climate. The Congo rainforest receives 80 inches of rain per year.

But, for example, Kenya is also on the equator and its climate is mild and drier because there are high plateaus in Kenya. This gives just right climate for growing coffee. Can you believe that it snows in Africa and that there is snow near the equator? Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa and it sits on the border between Tanzania and Kenya near the equator. The top of Mount Kilimanjaro has a permanent glacier and snow. Nearby Mount Kenya also has snow.



The Sahara Desert, the largest desert on earth, influences the climate of Africa. The Sahara can have 5 inches of rain in a year but in other drought years there is no rain at all. While very few people live in the desert, people do live in the arid (dry) areas around the desert. These people suffer terribly when there is a period of drought because they cannot grow food. Temperatures in the desert can reach 130 degrees F in the daytime and drop to freezing at night. At one time thousands of years ago the land of the Sahara was not a desert but today the size of the Sahara Desert is expanding and influencing the lives of many Africans.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice Questions - Climate

Circle the correct answer.

1. In Africa
 - a. There are vast areas of no rainfall
 - b. There are areas of rainforest with 80 inches of rain per year
 - c. There is snow and ice
 - d. All of the above

2. Kenya is located on the equator but is not a rainforest because
 - a. The elevation is higher
 - b. It is part of the Sahara Desert
 - c. There is snow on Mount Kenya
 - d. All of the above

3. Africa can experience periods of drought. Drought means
 - a. The desert
 - b. Lack of rain
 - c. Temperature of 130 degrees F
 - d. None of the above

4. The African continent does not have a winter like Canada because
 - a. The Sahara Desert is in Africa
 - b. The Congo is a rainforest
 - c. The equator divides Africa in half
 - d. All of the above

5. Mount Kilimanjaro
 - a. The highest mountain in Africa
 - b. Is not as high as Mount Kenya
 - c. Is 5,000 miles from the equator
 - d. None of the above

6. The Sahara Desert
 - a. Was not a desert thousands of years ago
 - b. Is expanding in size today
 - c. Both a. and b. above
 - d. None of the above

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Short Answer Questions - Climate

1. Explain why Africa does not have a winter with snow and cold temperatures.
2. Why do you think so many movies show Africa as a jungle and rainforest climate?
3. Why does Mount Kilimanjaro have snow and ice?
4. Explain what a rainforest is.
5. Look up the answers to these questions. Are there any rainforest areas in the United States? If so, where are they?
6. What parts of Africa are the coldest?
7. Based on climate, what part of Africa would you like to visit? Explain why.

The Food of Africa

Food is an important aspect of the culture of a country or region of the world. What people like to eat in African countries can be very different from what people eat in Europe and North America. Read about the food people eat in Africa and answer the following questions.



1. The food eaten by people in North Africa is influenced ancient trade with Arab, Turkish and European people. A main staple of North Africa is couscous. What is couscous and how is it served? Many grocery stores in the U.S. have couscous; ask your parents to try some to learn more about Africa.
2. Nomads live in the Sahara Desert. They obtain fruit and vegetables at an oasis. What do nomads eat when they are traveling?
3. In West Africa cassava, yams, cocoyams and plantains are eaten. What are these?
Yam
4. The Nyamwezi people live in west-central Tanzania. The primary food of these people is bugalli. What is bugalli?
5. What was the traditional diet of the Maasai people who live on the border between Kenya and Tanzania? What do they eat today?
6. Do you think that you could find a cheeseburger if you visited Africa? Find out if there are any McDonald's restaurants in Africa. Hint: Try starting with the countries of South Africa and Egypt.
7. Africa is the world's poorest area. How many people in Africa do not have enough food and are starving?

Traditional African Clothing

Draw a picture of the traditional clothing worn by people in Africa. Remember that there are hundreds of tribes in Africa, each with its own style of clothing. These are some examples. Be sure to label your drawing with the name of the group whose dress it is.

Bedouin People of the Sahara – North Africa



Congo Warrior – Central Africa



Maasai People of Kenya – East Africa



Nigerian Children – West Africa

A large, empty rounded rectangular box for drawing, intended for the student to draw and label traditional African clothing.

Africa at a Glance



Africa is a vast and beautiful continent that is home to a diversity of people, cultures, scenic splendors and animals and plants that can be found nowhere else on earth. One example of the diversity in Africa is that the people speak over 2,000 languages. Unfortunately, beautiful scenery and unique animals are not enough and Africa remains the poorest region of the world. Even though there are major cities with modern conveniences, most people live in unsanitary conditions lacking in clean water and proper sanitary facilities. Rural people have little or no access to

education and healthcare while the majority of people in the cities don't fare any better as they live in terrible slums.

These living conditions lead to poor health and many young children die from preventable diseases like diarrhea. In most of the poor or politically unstable countries of Africa the life expectancy is only 40 to 45 years. Malaria, a disease carried by mosquitoes, kills about 1 million people per year and 90% of the deaths from malaria in the world occur in Africa. About 75% of the people in the world with HIV/AIDS live in Africa. In 2002, there were 11 million orphans across Africa left when both parents died from AIDS and the number is expected to reach 20 million. Some villages have only children and old people because of HIV/AIDS deaths.

When European countries established colonies in Africa, the continent was divided without considering existing tribal boundaries. As colonies were given independence in the late 1900s, tribal wars resulted. These wars make the situation in Africa worse; many people are killed or starve due to war and political problems. While there are many good things happening in Africa today, on the whole the people in Africa face major problems that are difficult to solve.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice Questions – Africa at a Glance

Circle the correct answer.

1. Africa
 - a. Is the poorest area of the world
 - b. Faces major health problems
 - c. Lacks educational opportunities in rural areas
 - d. All of the above

2. Unsanitary conditions in Africa include
 - a. Lack of clean water
 - b. Lack of sanitary facilities
 - c. Slums in the cities
 - d. All of the above

3. In Africa, HIV/AIDS
 - a. Has left millions of orphans
 - b. Is under control
 - c. Is not a problem
 - d. Does not affect children

4. Major cities in Africa
 - a. Have modern buildings and conveniences
 - b. Have terrible slums
 - c. Both a. and b. above
 - d. None of the above

5. Tribal wars are a problem right now in the 21st century because
 - a. Areas of Africa had been European colonies
 - b. European colonies in Africa has recently been given independence
 - c. The independent countries have many tribes who want to rule
 - d. All of the above

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Short Answer Questions – Africa at a Glance

1. List four major problems that people living in rural Africa face.
2. In some of the poorest areas of Africa the life expectancy is only 40 to 45 years or less. What is the life expectancy of people in the United States?
3. Name three diseases that affect many people in Africa.
4. Why are there tribal wars going on in Africa today?
5. We don't hear about malaria in the United States but there used to be mosquitoes in the U.S. that carried malaria. Find out when malaria was eradicated from the United States.
6. This report paints a sad picture of the conditions in Africa. To see some positive aspects of Africa, look up tourist information about the countries in Africa and list 10 places in Africa you would like to visit.
7. Do you think the people of Africa can solve the problems they face? Explain why or why not.
8. New York City is the largest city in the United States with a population of about 8 million people. Compare the number of orphans left from HIV/AIDS now in Africa to the population of New York City. Next compare the number of expected orphans left from HIV/AIDS in Africa to the population of New York City.

Answer Key

The Climate of Africa Multiple Choice

1. d.
2. a.
3. b.
4. c.
5. a.
6. c.

The Climate of Africa Short Answer

1. The equator divides Africa in half from north to south. Being on the equator keeps Africa from experiencing winter like North America has.
2. Individual response
3. It is the highest mountain in Africa.
4. A rainforest is an area that gets about 80 inches of rain per year.
5. There are rainforests in the U.S. in Alaska, Hawaii and Oregon.
6. Sahara desert reaches freezing at night. Top of Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya has snow and ice.
7. Individual response

Answer Key

Food of Africa

1. Couscous is a steamed, coarse-ground grain like semolina that is normally eaten with a meat or vegetable stew. Many people eat couscous every day.
2. Nomads eat once a day while traveling. They make gruel from grain and butter or sour milk or they eat cheese and yogurt. They eat meat typically at feasts.
3. Cassava came on slave ships from South America and tubers grow underground like potatoes. People boil them and pound the flesh into a white paste or make flour from them. Yams are produced mostly in Niger and are like North American sweet potatoes. Cocoyams are like cassava and yams but tastier; they need lots of rain. Plantains are a lot like bananas and are fried, boiled or dried to be made into flour.
4. Bugalli is a type of porridge made from grains and eaten with meat and vegetables.
5. The Maasai diet was once based upon milk, blood from cattle and meat. Today people no longer drink milk and blood mixed together. They eat corn and vegetables as well as milk and meat.
6. Yes there are McDonald's restaurants in Africa.
7. Impossible to count but there are millions starving.

Africa at a Glance Multiple Choice

1. d.
2. d.
3. a.
4. c.
5. d.

Answer Key

Africa at a Glance Short Answer

1. Lack of clean water; lack of sanitary facilities; lack of healthcare; lack of education.
2. About 77 years
3. Diarrhea for children, malaria and HIV/AIDS
4. Different tribes want to rule the new countries of Africa. Africa was divided into colonies by European countries without considering tribal lands.
5. 1951
6. Individual response
7. Individual response
8. 11 million orphans today/8 million = 1.37 \approx 1½
20 million expected orphans/8 million = 2.5 times population of New York City