

## Africa at a Glance

### Africa Location:

- Sahara—population is low because there is little access to water. People travel using a camel or by foot. People that do live in the area usually live near the Nile River or along the coast. People are usually nomads or work in mining.
- Sahel—population is low. The Sahel is a semi-arid region (some rainfall). Most people live near a water source (Nile or Niger River or the coast). People travel by foot, camel, or car. They make a living as subsistence farmers or herders.
- Savanna—population is higher. The Sahel is a grassland region. There are not many trees here, but there is decent rainfall and lots of grasses. People travel by car, foot, etc. People make a living by working in agriculture, working with wildlife/tourism, mining, etc.
- Tropical Rainforest—population is higher. There is lots of trees and rain. People travel by car in the cities but boat or four-wheel drive vehicles outside of the cities (lots of water/mud). People can work in agriculture, mining, factories, wildlife/tourism, logging, etc.

### Questions:

1. Explain why the population of the Sahara is low.
  - a. Too much oil
  - b. Too much water
  - c. Limited access to oil
  - d. Limited access to water

### Africa Environment:

The environmental issues in this region are:

- **Water pollution and unequal distribution of water**—Some regions in Africa have a lot of water (the tropical rainforest) and other regions do not have enough water (the Sahara and Sahel regions). Water pollution affects the food supply (fish and crops), the health of people (drinking dirty water or not having enough water to drink), the economy, etc. The pollution is caused by untreated sewage, agricultural runoff, and factory runoff.
- **Deforestation in Sub-Saharan Africa**—People cut down the trees so that they can build homes and factories or grow crops. They can also profit from the wood from the trees. However, where the trees are gone, nothing is left to hold the soil in place and it erodes and dries out. Then, it can no longer sustain agriculture, which then leads to desertification.
- **Desertification from the Sahel to the Rainforest**—Deforestation, overuse of ground water, overgrazing, and other things have led to desertification (fertile land turning to desert). This means there is less farmland and grazing land for animals. 1/3 of Africa's land is threatened by desertification. Desertification can also lead to famine.

### Questions:

2. In sub-Saharan Africa, less than 50% of the population has access to safe drinking water because of environmental pollution. How has this shortage of safe drinking water affected development in sub-Saharan Africa?
  - a. Slowed economic growth
  - b. Increased size of the Sahara
  - c. Increased population growth
  - d. Slowed the deforestation of the rain forest

3. What effect does poor soil and deforestation have on land in Africa?
  - a. Land is excellent archeological dig sites
  - b. Land is useless for farming and agriculture
  - c. Land becomes part of national park systems
  - d. Land becomes a better place to raise a family
4. In the Sahel, overgrazing and drought have resulted in a decrease in the grassland region. What is this called?
  - a. Deforestation
  - b. Desertification
  - c. Unequal distribution
  - d. Environmental pollution

### **African Ethnic Groups:**

- **Arab**—All Arabs speak the Arabic language. They live in the Middle East and northern Africa. Most of them practice Islam.
- **Ashanti**—They live in Ghana. They practice Islam, Christianity, and Traditional (Animist) religion. They often mix their traditional religion in with Islam or Christianity.
- **Swahili**—They live in Kenya and Tanzania in eastern Africa. They are a combination of Bantu and Arab culture. Most of them practice strict Islam, but mix traditional religion with it.
- **Bantu**—There is not one specific group today that call themselves the Bantu. Instead, almost all Africans in sub-Saharan Africa can trace their language and some traditions back to the Bantu culture. The Bantu started off in Nigeria and migrated over thousands of years all the way to southern Africa. They practice a wide variety of religions, including Islam, Christianity, and traditional (Animism).

### **Questions:**

5. Which person is a member of a religious group?
  - a. Nermal is a Kurd
  - b. Mustafa is a Muslim
  - c. Kimba is an Ashanti
  - d. Lakesha is a Nigerian
6. African religious beliefs include traditional religious beliefs that came before the introduction of Christianity and Islam to the continent. Which of these statements describes traditional African religious beliefs?
  - a. Belief in Krishna
  - b. Belief their king is a god
  - c. Belief in the importance of a divine savior
  - d. Belief in the influence of ancestors in daily life

### **African Government:**

- **Kenya's Government**—republic—federal government—had a presidential democracy until 2007—now the president and the prime minister share power—all citizens over 18 may vote in elections
- **South Africa's Government**—parliamentary democracy—their leader is called a president, not a prime minister—he is elected by the legislature. The legislature is elected by the citizens. All citizens 18 and older may vote.
- **The split of Sudan**—In 2011, Sudan was split into 2 countries (Sudan and South Sudan). The people voted to split after years of civil war and violence in the country.

### **Questions:**

7. In Nigeria's government, power is divided between central and regional authorities. This is an example of which government type?
  - a. unitary
  - b. confederation
  - c. federal
  - d. parliamentary
8. All citizens participate equally in which type of government?
  - a. oligarchy
  - b. democracy
  - c. autocracy
  - d. theocracy
9. As a Parliamentary form of government, how is the president of South Africa elected?
  - a. All citizens vote for the president
  - b. The national assembly elects the president
  - c. The president is appointed by the Prime Minister
  - d. The president is elected by the cabinet

### **Education in Africa:**

- Girls have fewer opportunities than boys for education in Kenya and Sudan. The reasons for this are traditional beliefs that girls should be married rather than educated. Many people in this area are Muslims and they do not believe in educating girls. If they do get an education, it is usually only in religious subjects.
- In Sudan, many children (boys and girls) are unable to go to school because of the many years of civil war that they have faced. Also, corrupt government has prevented education from being a priority.
- Orphans from HIV/AIDS victims has also been a problem for education

### **Famine and HIV/AIDS in Africa:**

- Because of corrupt governments and unstable governments, Africans have not been able to get the medical care/supplies that they need to combat HIV/AIDS. They need more education so that they understand how the disease spreads and how to prevent it. Poor living conditions, dirty water, a lack of food, and a lack of money have also contributed to the spread of HIV/AIDS.
- Famine is also a problem. Civil war often disrupts farming. Also, desertification has been a problem. Many Africans are very poor and cannot afford food, even if it is available.

### **Questions:**

10. In Kenya, males average 10 years of schooling and females 9 years. The literacy rate for males is 90% and females is 80%. In Sudan, the literacy rate for males is 61% and for females is 50%. What could you conclude about the opportunity for education in Sudan compared to Kenya?
  - a. Females have less opportunity for education in Kenya than in Sudan
  - b. Females in Kenya have the same opportunity for education as males in Sudan
  - c. Females have the same opportunity for education in Kenya as in Sudan
  - d. Females have more opportunity for education in Kenya than in Sudan

11. During the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Africa has had numerous civil wars. Africa has a serious AIDS/HIV crisis. Over 70% of the people world-wide infected with AIDS live in sub-Saharan Africa. One of the major consequences of the numerous civil wars affected the treatment of AIDS patients is
- Lack of medical training
  - Unsanitary drinking water
  - Overcrowded refugee camps
  - Disruption in the distribution of medicine

**Africa's Economy:**

- **South Africa's Economy:** it would fall very close to the market end of a continuum—they specialize in mining, agriculture, services, and manufacturing—mostly based on consumers and producers and supply and demand—very little government involvement—Apartheid still has effects on economy because of the uneducated adult black population
- **Nigeria's Economy:** it would fall to the market side of a continuum, but closer to command than South Africa—they specialize in oil, then agriculture—increasingly privatizing businesses

**Questions:**

12. In this country, a single or centralized government authority decides what is produced. Which term identifies this type of economic system?
- traditional
  - command
  - market
  - public
13. South African economic policy is conservative focusing on controlling inflation, maintaining a budget surplus, and using state-owned enterprises to deliver basic services to low-income areas as a means to increase job growth and household income. However, companies are freed to choose what to produce, how to produce, and for whom to produce. Where does this policy place South Africa on a continuum between pure market and pure command?
- Almost pure command
  - Pure market
  - More market than command
  - Pure command
14. Nigeria has a new industry that builds tractors for agriculture. To protect this new industry from competition by lower priced foreign built tractors, the Nigerian government would use what type of economic trade barrier to raise the price of imported tractors?
- embargo
  - quota
  - tariff
  - treaty
15. Most African nations depend on foreign trade with many nations to provide things which are not made in their country. Which of these makes foreign trade with many nations easier?
- Use of a world-wide currency
  - A system to exchange currency between countries
  - Trading only with countries that have the same currency
  - Trade of products made in their country for needed goods so currency is not needed

16. Nigeria has large deposits of oil and is currently exporting a significant quantity of oil. However, Nigeria has very few industries outside of oil and no other significant natural resources. How does this impact Nigeria's GDP?
- Makes the GDP more dependent on agriculture
  - Makes the GDP more dependence on oil production
  - Makes the GDP inaccurate because there is little industry
  - Makes the GDP inaccurate because there is only on major natural resource in the country
17. In South Africa, it is easy to start a business. In addition, private property rights are well protected. What impact does this have on the role on entrepreneurs in South Africa?
- Entrepreneurs are not affected
  - The efforts of entrepreneurs are limited because of a lack of government rules
  - Entrepreneurs will have no real impact on the economy of South Africa
  - Entrepreneurs can make a significant contribution to South Africa's economy

### Africa's History:

- **The Scramble for Africa**—Africa was colonized by Europeans for natural resources, to spread religion, cheap labor, etc. When they divided up the continent, they did not pay attention to where ethnic and religious groups live, creating **artificial political boundaries**. When they gained independence, this caused civil wars, corrupt governments, and many other problems.
- **Nationalism and Independence**—Feelings of Nationalism led to independence in Africa from the Europeans.
  - **South Africa**—They were colonized by the Dutch, then the British. Apartheid was set up in the country. They gained independence from the British through a vote. However, only the white South African's got to vote. The African National Congress was established after independence to fight for rights of black South Africans.
  - **Kenya**—fought a war against the British, but lost. Shortly after, the British gave them independence. They had an unstable government after independence, but soon became more stable.
  - **Nigeria**—they worked through political parties to gain independence from the British. There were years of corrupt government and civil war in Nigeria after independence.
- **Apartheid**—the legal separation of the races in South Africa—it started with racist laws when the Dutch colonized South Africa. Then, when the British took over, they took it further. **Nelson Mandela** led protests and was a famous political prisoner. He was elected the first black president of South Africa when apartheid finally ended. **F.W. deKlerk** was the president that freed Mandela and other political prisoners. He also repealed the apartheid laws.
- **Pan-African Movement**—The Pan-African movement began in the 1800s as a philosophy emphasizing the common bond shared by people of African descent and advocating unity among African people. It is sometimes applied to black Africans, to all black people throughout the world, and/or to all people living on the African continent. The Pan-African movement helped fuel nationalism that led to independence for many African countries. It also, later, led to the creation of the African Union. The idea of the Pan-African movement was to unite Africans and people of African descent to work together to help Africa solve their problems.

**Questions:**

18. In 1946, British colonial authorities merged southern and northern Sudan into a single administrative region. The inhabitants of southern Sudan primarily practice Christianity and Traditional African religions. Northern Sudan is inhabited by Arab Muslims. Merging the citizens in the previously separate regions led to the first Sudanese civil war and subsequent political and ethnic strife.

Based on the passage above, what contributed to civil war in Sudan?

- a. Apartheid
  - b. Pan-African movement
  - c. Artificial political borders
  - d. African nationalist movement
19. Which of these was the result of the nationalist movement in countries like Nigeria and Kenya?
- a. poverty
  - b. illiteracy
  - c. independence
  - d. the spread of AIDS
20. What role did Nelson Mandela and F.W. deKlerk play in the evolution of Apartheid in South Africa?
- a. They created apartheid
  - b. They enhanced apartheid
  - c. They helped maintain apartheid
  - d. They worked to abolish apartheid
21. The purpose of the Pan-African Movements in Africa is to
- a. Develop a unified region
  - b. Create one African language
  - c. Create one African government
  - d. Develop a unified political identity