**Chapter 17: Africa**

**Section 1 Vocabulary**

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| **New Word** | **Definition** |
| basin | a region drained by a river system |
| escarpment | a steep slope separating two flat areas of different heights |
| Mount Kilimanjaro | the highest mountain in Africa, in northeast Tanzania |
| Sahara | the world’s largest desert |
| Victoria Falls | a 355-foot waterfall on the Zambezi River in South Central Africa |
| Nile River | the longest river in the world, which empties into the Mediterranean Sea |
| canopy | the highest layer in a forest, formed by the treetops |
| Sahel | a semiarid region just south of the Sahara |
| desertification | the change of fertile land to desert |

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| tectonic plates | a large rigid section of the Earth’s crust that is in constant motion |
| savanna | a grassland in the tropics or subtropics |