


# UNIT

# 6

## Africa

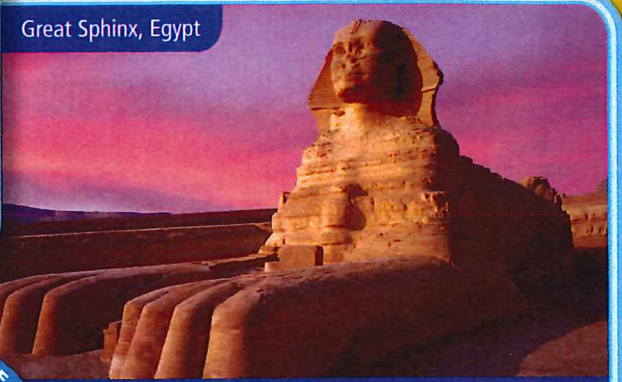
### Why It Matters:

Human life began millions of years ago in Africa. It is the second-largest continent in the world, and its resources could lead to great growth throughout the continent.



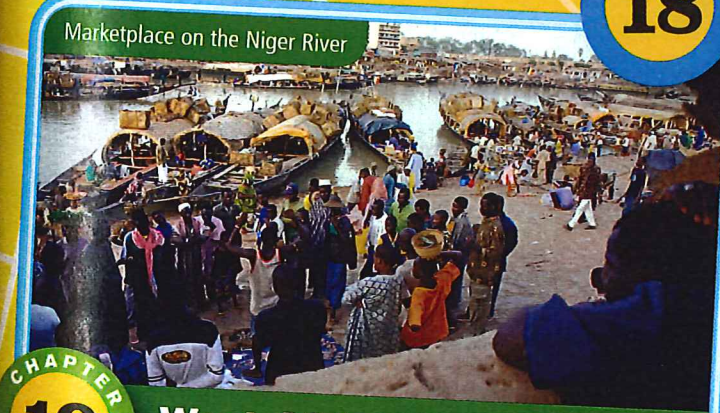
Mt. Kilimanjaro

**CHAPTER 17** Africa: Physical Geography and Early History



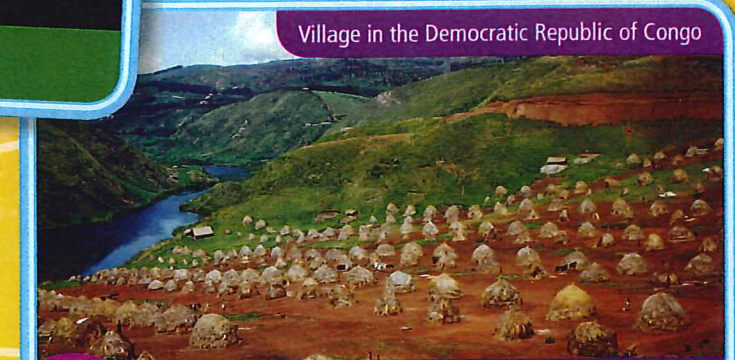
Great Sphinx, Egypt

**CHAPTER 18** Egypt and North Africa



Marketplace on the Niger River

**CHAPTER 19** West Africa



Village in the Democratic Republic of Congo

**CHAPTER 20** East, Central, and Southern Africa

Africa is the world's second-largest continent in terms of both landmass and population. The equator runs across the middle of the continent. The vast Sahara Desert dominates Africa's northern half. As you study the maps, notice geographic patterns and details about the region. Answer the questions on each map in your notebook.

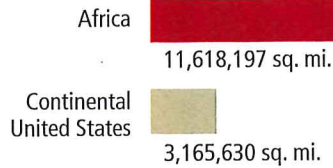
As you study the graphs on this page, compare the landmass, population, rivers, and deserts of Africa with those of the United States. Then jot down the answers to the following questions in your notebook.

## Comparing Data

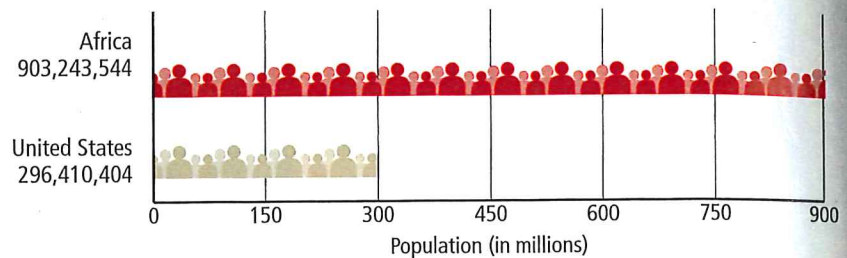
1. Compare Africa's landmass to that of the United States. About how much larger is Africa than the United States?
2. Of the rivers listed, which two are closest in length?

## Comparing Data

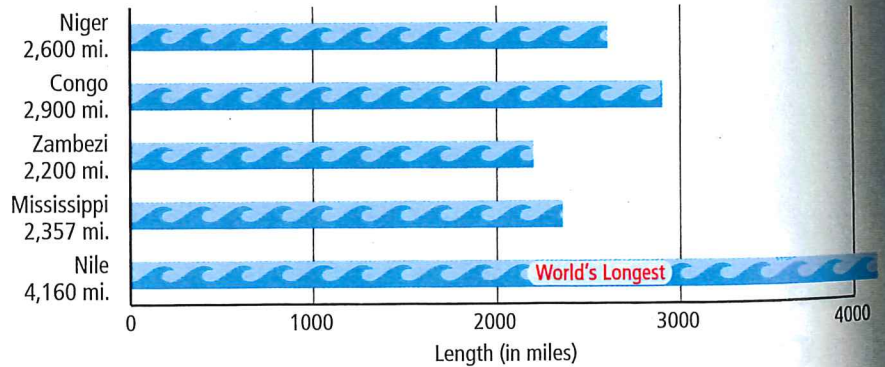
### Landmass



### Population



### Rivers



### Deserts

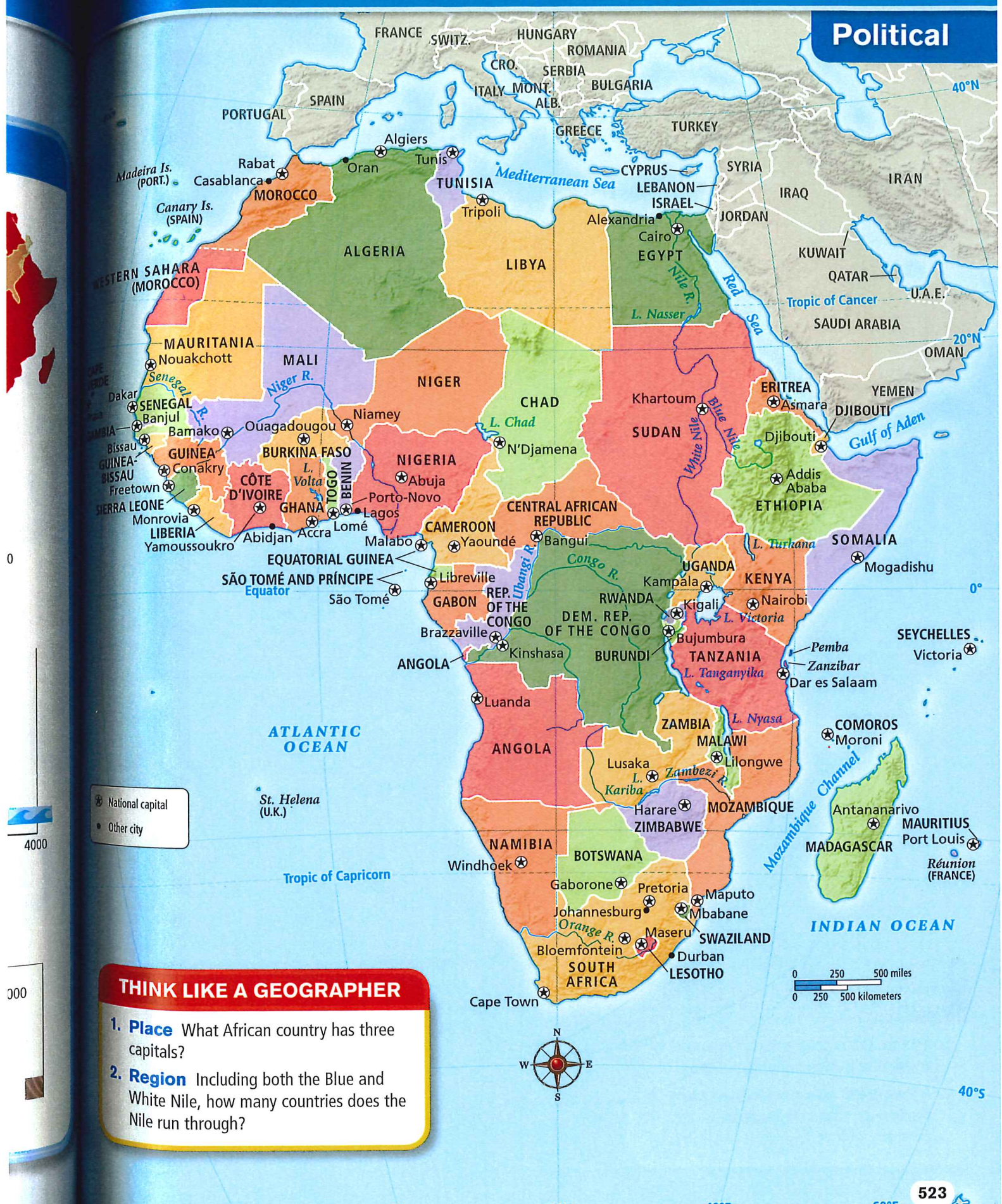
**World's Largest**  
Sahara  
Africa  
3,500,000 sq. mi.

**U.S. Largest**  
Mojave  
United States  
25,000 sq. mi.

Namib  
Africa  
102,248 sq. mi.

Kalahari  
Africa  
about 100,000 sq. mi.

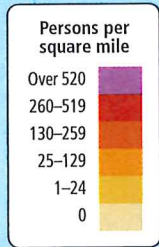




**THINK LIKE A GEOGRAPHER**

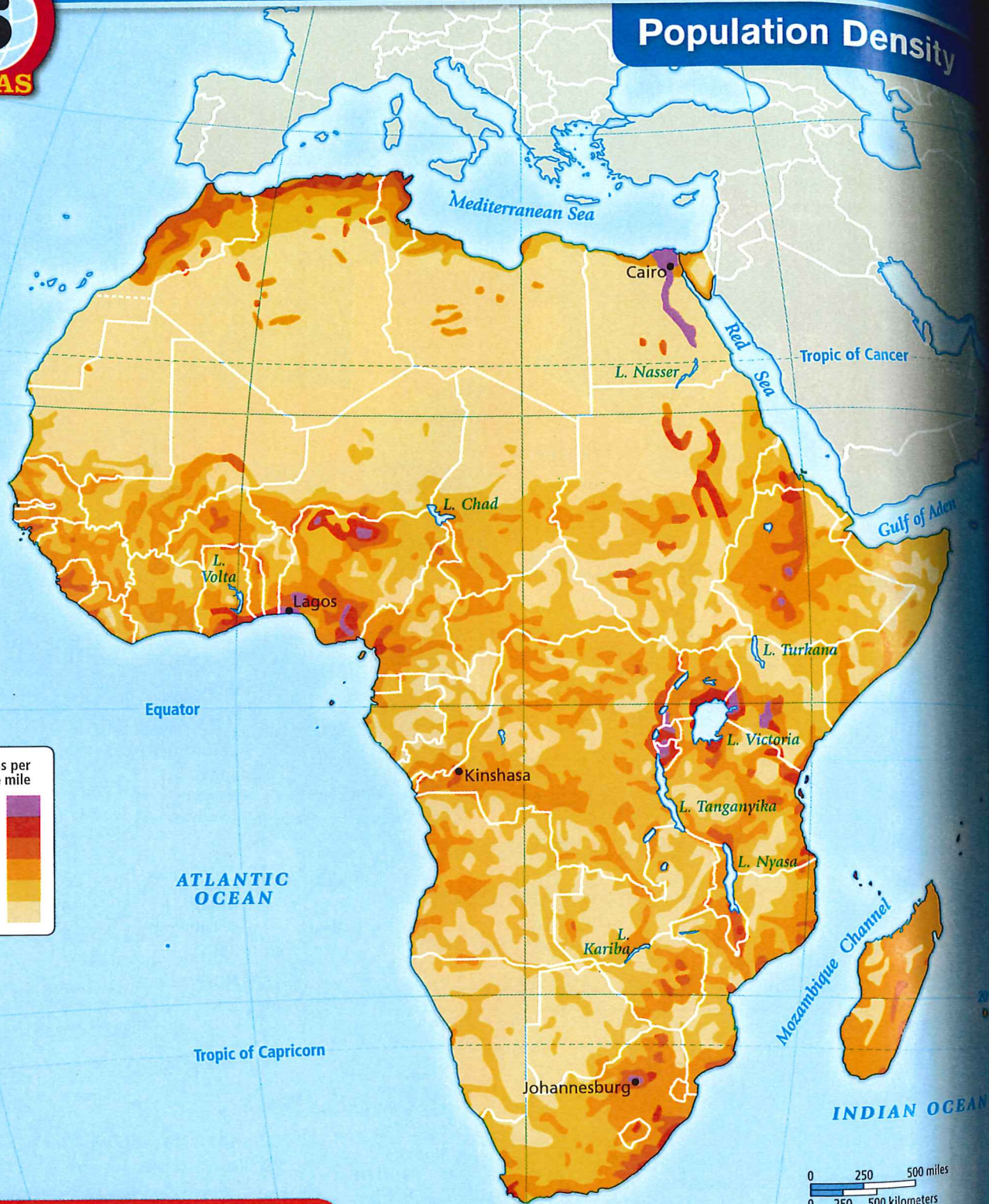
- Place** What African country has three capitals?
- Region** Including both the Blue and White Nile, how many countries does the Nile run through?

Population Density



**THINK LIKE A GEOGRAPHER**

- Place** What geographical features exist in areas with high population densities?
- Movement** What would account for the low population in large areas of northern Africa?



## Economic Activity

**Land use**

- Commercial agriculture
- Livestock raising
- Subsistence agriculture
- Nomadic herding
- Forestland
- Limited agriculture

**Major resources**

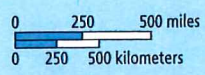
- Bauxite
- Coal
- Diamonds
- Fish
- Gold
- Iron ore
- Natural gas
- Oil
- Uranium
- Other minerals
- Manufacturing center

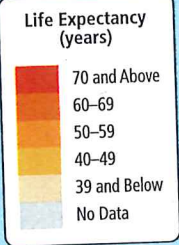
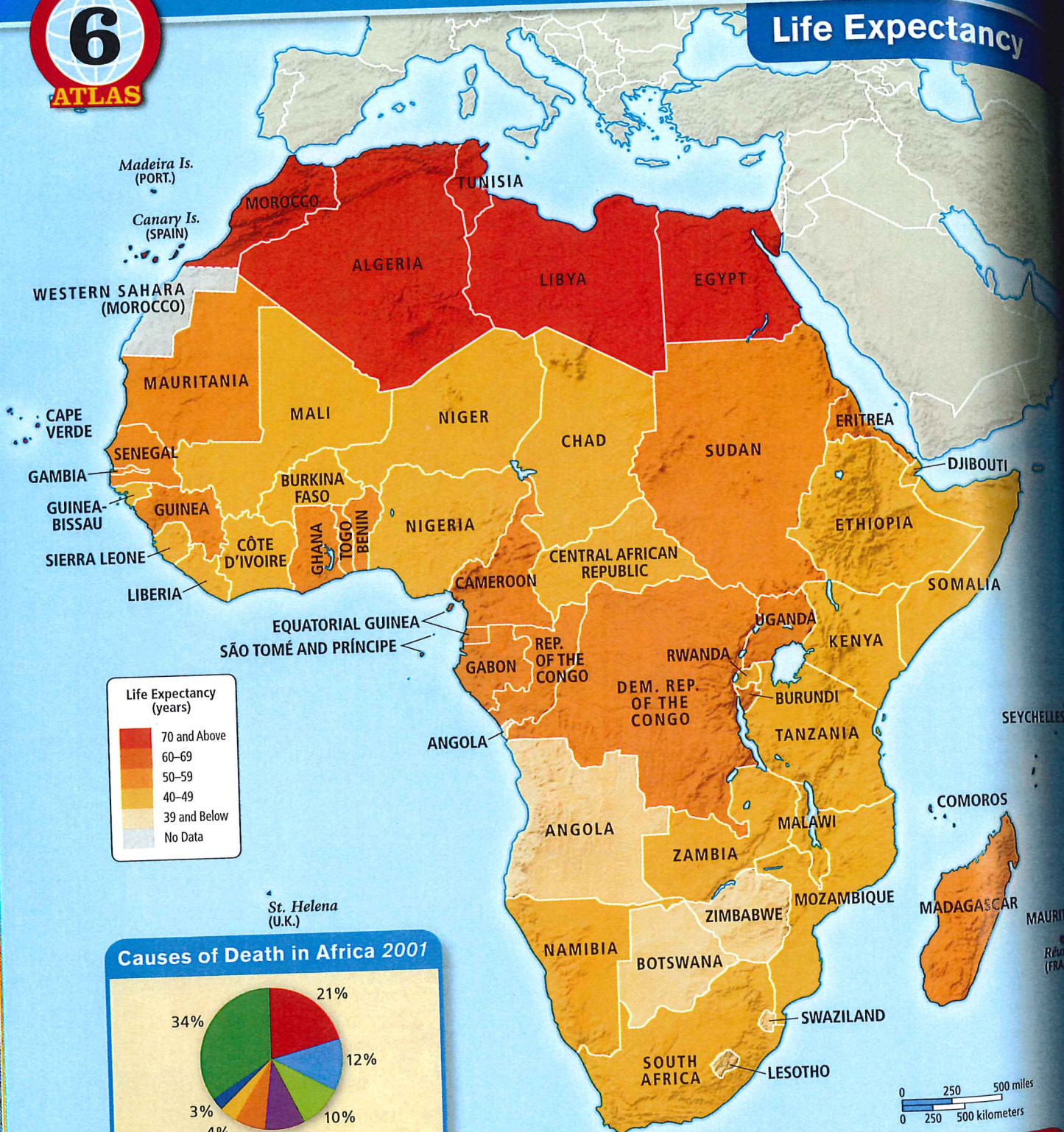


**THINK LIKE A GEOGRAPHER**

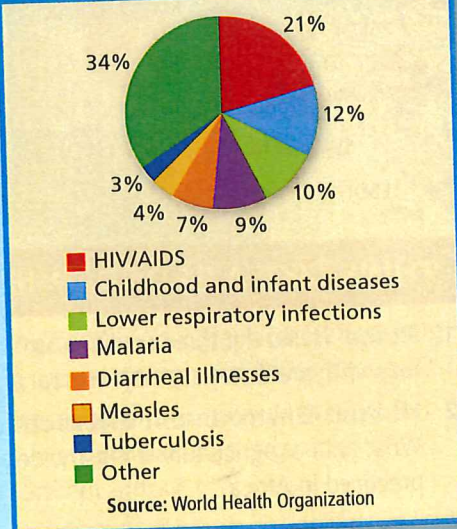
- Place** Name the three countries on the map with uranium as a major resource.
- Human-Environment Interaction** What kind of agriculture is most widely practiced in Africa?

miles  
rs





**Causes of Death in Africa 2001**



**THINK LIKE A GEOGRAPHER**

- Region** What countries have the highest life expectancy?
- Human-Environment Interaction** Malaria accounted for what percentage of deaths in Africa in 2001?

# Regional Overview

## Africa

The four chapters in this unit provide information on the geography, history, culture, government, and economics of selected African countries.



### GEOGRAPHY

Savanna covers much of Africa, with rain forests located on the equator. The vast Sahara dominates northern Africa. The world's longest river, the Nile, flows through the northeast.



### HISTORY

Great empires arose in Africa, including Egypt, Aksum, and Songhai. In the 18th and 19th centuries, European nations divided up most of Africa, creating colonies to enrich their own countries. African colonies began winning independence after World War II, but colonial history still affects Africa.



### CULTURE

Africa is home to hundreds of ethnic groups and more than 1,000 languages. Major religions in Africa include Islam, Christianity, and traditional local faiths. Soccer is popular throughout the continent. Western and African cultures have affected each other, particularly in art and music.



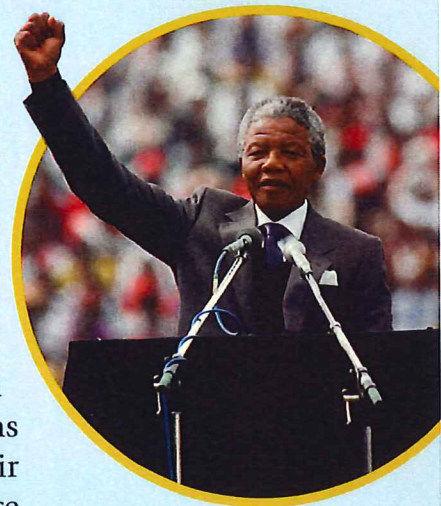
### GOVERNMENT

When African nations won independence, many kept the European colonial borders, leading some traditional ethnic enemies to clash. Some nations with young democracies are learning to share power among different groups.



### ECONOMICS

Africa has potential for great wealth. But years of instability have made it hard for some countries to improve their economies. Other nations are working to help African economies, lending aid and trying to erase debt.



**Nelson Mandela** Nelson Mandela won South Africa's first multiracial election.

## Unit Writing Project

### Music Review

Research and listen to some of the music from a region mentioned in this unit. Write a review of a CD or song. Learn what you can about the artist, and styles or instruments unique to the region.

### Think About:

- how African musical styles or instruments influence music you regularly listen to
- how American or European music influenced African music

## Africa

The country cards on these pages present information about the 53 nations in Africa.





### Benin

**GEOGRAPHY**  
Capital: Porto-Novo  
Total Area: 43,483 sq. mi.  
Population: 8,439,000

**ECONOMY**  
Imports: food; petroleum  
Exports: cotton yarn

**CULTURE**  
Language: French  
Religion: traditional beliefs 35%; Catholic 26%; Muslim 21%






### Burundi

**GEOGRAPHY**  
Capital: Bujumbura  
Total Area: 10,745 sq. mi.  
Population: 7,548,000

**ECONOMY**  
Imports: consumer and capital goods  
Exports: coffee; tea

**CULTURE**  
Language: Rundi; French  
Religion: Catholic 57%; Protestant 20%; traditional beliefs 7%






### Botswana

**GEOGRAPHY**  
Capital: Gaborone  
Total Area: 231,804 sq. mi.  
Population: 1,765,000

**ECONOMY**  
Imports: machinery; food; tobacco; wood  
Exports: diamonds; textiles; meat

**CULTURE**  
Language: English; Tswana  
Religion: traditional beliefs 39%; African Christian 31%; Protestant 11%






### Cameroon

**GEOGRAPHY**  
Capital: Yaoundé  
Total Area: 183,568 sq. mi.  
Population: 16,322,000

**ECONOMY**  
Imports: minerals; industrial equipment  
Exports: petroleum; lumber; cocoa beans

**CULTURE**  
Language: French; English  
Religion: Christian 47%; traditional beliefs 24%; Muslim 21%





### Angola

**GEOGRAPHY**  
Capital: Luanda  
Total Area: 481,354 sq. mi.  
Population: 15,941,000

**ECONOMY**  
Imports: consumer and capital goods  
Exports: petroleum; diamonds; coffee

**CULTURE**  
Language: Portuguese  
Religion: Catholic 62%; Protestant 15%; traditional beliefs 5%





### Burkina Faso

**GEOGRAPHY**  
Capital: Ouagadougou  
Total Area: 105,869 sq. mi.  
Population: 13,228,000

**ECONOMY**  
Imports: petroleum; food  
Exports: cotton; shea nuts; gold

**CULTURE**  
Language: French  
Religion: Muslim 49%; traditional beliefs 34%; Christian 17%

### Cape Verde

**GEOGRAPHY**  
Capital: Praia  
Total Area: 1,557 sq. mi.  
Population: 507,000

**ECONOMY**  
Imports: food; machinery; metals  
Exports: shoes; clothing; fish

**CULTURE**  
Language: Portuguese  
Religion: Catholic 91%; Muslim 3%







**Yellow-billed hornbill**  
found in southern Africa



## Central African Republic

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Bangui  
**Total Area:** 240,535 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 4,038,000



### ECONOMY

**Imports:** road vehicles; raw cotton; food  
**Exports:** wood; diamonds; cotton; coffee

### CULTURE

**Language:** French; Sango  
**Religion:** Catholic 18%; Muslim 16%; Protestant 14%; other Christian 35%



## Chad

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** N'Djamena  
**Total Area:** 495,755 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 9,749,000



### ECONOMY

**Imports:** petroleum  
**Exports:** cattle, sheep, and goats; cotton

### CULTURE

**Language:** Arabic; French  
**Religion:** Muslim 54%; Catholic 20%; Protestant 14%



## Comoros

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Moroni  
**Total Area:** 838 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 798,000



### ECONOMY

**Imports:** rice; meat and fish; vehicles  
**Exports:** vanilla; cloves; ylang-ylang

### CULTURE

**Language:** Comorian; Arabic; French  
**Religion:** Sunni Muslim 98%



## Democratic Republic of Congo

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Kinshasa  
**Total Area:** 905,568 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 57,549,000



### ECONOMY

**Imports:** petroleum products  
**Exports:** diamonds; cobalt; copper; gold

### CULTURE

**Language:** French; English  
**Religion:** Catholic 41%; Protestant 32%



## Republic of Congo

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Brazzaville  
**Total Area:** 132,047 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 3,999,000



### ECONOMY

**Imports:** petroleum products  
**Exports:** wood; sugar

### CULTURE

**Language:** French; Lingala; Monokutuba  
**Religion:** Catholic 49%; Protestant 17%; African Christian 13%



## Côte d'Ivoire

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Yamoussoukro  
**Total Area:** 124,503 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 18,154,000



### ECONOMY

**Imports:** petroleum; food products  
**Exports:** cocoa beans; wood; coffee beans

### CULTURE

**Language:** French  
**Religion:** Muslim 39%; Christian 30%; nonreligious 17%; animist 12%



## Djibouti

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Djibouti  
**Total Area:** 8,880 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 793,000



### ECONOMY

**Imports:** food; transport equipment  
**Exports:** hides and skins; leather

### CULTURE

**Language:** Arabic; French  
**Religion:** Sunni Muslim 97%; Christian 3%



## Egypt

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Cairo  
**Total Area:** 386,662 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 74,033,000



### ECONOMY

**Imports:** machinery; food; iron and steel  
**Exports:** petroleum; food; raw cotton

### CULTURE

**Language:** Arabic  
**Religion:** Muslim 84%; Christian 15%



## Equatorial Guinea

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Malabo  
**Total Area:** 10,831 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 504,000



### ECONOMY

**Imports:** petroleum products; machinery  
**Exports:** methanol; wood; cocoa beans

### CULTURE

**Language:** Spanish; French  
**Religion:** Catholic 80%; Muslim 4%; African Christian 4%



### Eritrea

#### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Asmara  
**Total Area:** 46,842 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 4,401,000



#### ECONOMY

**Imports:** live animals; cereals; iron  
**Exports:** raw sugar; vegetables and fruits; fish; sesame seeds

#### CULTURE

**Language:** Afar; Arabic; Tigre; Kunama  
**Religion:** Christian 51%; Muslim 45%



### Ethiopia

#### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Addis Ababa  
**Total Area:** 435,186 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 77,431,000



#### ECONOMY

**Imports:** machinery; road vehicles; iron  
**Exports:** coffee; leather; sesame seeds

#### CULTURE

**Language:** Amharic  
**Religion:** Ethiopian Orthodox 50%; Muslim 33%; Protestant 10%



### Gabon

#### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Libreville  
**Total Area:** 103,347 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 1,384,000



#### ECONOMY

**Imports:** petroleum products  
**Exports:** wood; manganese

#### CULTURE

**Language:** French  
**Religion:** Catholic 57%; Protestant 18%; Muslim 3%



### The Gambia

#### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Banjul  
**Total Area:** 4,363 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 1,517,000



#### ECONOMY

**Imports:** food; machinery; petroleum  
**Exports:** peanuts; fruits and vegetables

#### CULTURE

**Language:** English  
**Religion:** Muslim 95%; Christian 4%



### Ghana

#### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Accra  
**Total Area:** 92,456 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 22,113,000



#### ECONOMY

**Imports:** petroleum; machinery; food  
**Exports:** gold; cocoa beans; aluminum

#### CULTURE

**Language:** English  
**Religion:** traditional beliefs 24%; Muslim 20%; Protestant 17%; African Christian 14%



### Guinea

#### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Conakry  
**Total Area:** 94,926 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 9,402,000



#### ECONOMY

**Imports:** refined petroleum; food  
**Exports:** bauxite; gold; diamonds; fish

#### CULTURE

**Language:** French  
**Religion:** Muslim 85%; Christian 10%



### Guinea-Bissau

#### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Bissau  
**Total Area:** 13,946 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 1,586,000



#### ECONOMY

**Imports:** food; transport equipment  
**Exports:** cashews; cotton; logs

#### CULTURE

**Language:** Portuguese  
**Religion:** traditional beliefs 45%; Muslim 40%; Christian 13%



### Kenya

#### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Nairobi  
**Total Area:** 224,962 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 34,256,000



#### ECONOMY

**Imports:** petroleum; machinery; chemicals  
**Exports:** horticultural products; coffee

#### CULTURE

**Language:** Swahili; English  
**Religion:** Catholic 22%; African Christian 21%; Protestant 20%



### Lesotho

#### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Maseru  
**Total Area:** 11,720 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 1,795,000



#### ECONOMY

**Imports:** food products; commodities  
**Exports:** clothing; machinery

#### CULTURE

**Language:** Sotho; English  
**Religion:** Catholic 38%; Protestant 13%; African Christian 12%



## Liberia

### GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Monrovia  
Total Area: 43,000 sq. mi.  
Population: 3,283,000



### ECONOMY

Imports: food and live animals; petroleum  
Exports: logs and timber; rubber

### CULTURE

Language: English  
Religion: traditional beliefs 63%;  
Muslim 16%; Protestant 14%



## Libya

### GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Tripoli  
Total Area: 679,362 sq. mi.  
Population: 5,853,000



### ECONOMY

Imports: machinery; food; road vehicles  
Exports: crude and refined petroleum;  
natural gas

### CULTURE

Language: Arabic  
Religion: Sunni Muslim 96%



## Madagascar

### GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Antananarivo  
Total Area: 226,657 sq. mi.  
Population: 18,606,000



### ECONOMY

Imports: petroleum; machinery  
Exports: textiles; vanilla; cloves; shellfish

### CULTURE

Language: Malagasy; French  
Religion: traditional beliefs 48%;  
Protestant 23%; Catholic 20%



## Malawi

### GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Lilongwe  
Total Area: 45,745 sq. mi.  
Population: 12,884,000



### ECONOMY

Imports: food; machinery; chemicals  
Exports: tobacco; sugar; tea; clothing

### CULTURE

Language: Chichewa  
Religion: Protestant 39%; Catholic 25%;  
Muslim 15%



## Mali

### GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Bamako  
Total Area: 478,767 sq. mi.  
Population: 13,518,000



### ECONOMY

Imports: machinery; petroleum products  
Exports: gold; raw cotton; live animals

### CULTURE

Language: French  
Religion: Muslim 82%; traditional beliefs  
16%



## Mauritania

### GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Nouakchott  
Total Area: 397,955 sq. mi.  
Population: 3,069,000



### ECONOMY

Imports: food products; vehicles  
Exports: iron ore; fish

### CULTURE

Language: Arabic; Fulani; Soninke; Wolof  
Religion: Sunni Muslim 99%



## Mauritius

### GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Port Louis  
Total Area: 788 sq. mi.  
Population: 1,245,000



### ECONOMY

Imports: fabrics; yarn; food; live animals  
Exports: sugar; fabric; ships' stores

### CULTURE

Language: English  
Religion: Hindu 50%; Christian 32%;  
Muslim 17%



## Morocco

### GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Rabat  
Total Area: 172,414 sq. mi.  
Population: 31,478,000



### ECONOMY

Imports: food; tobacco; cotton fabric  
Exports: knitwear; phosphoric acid

### CULTURE

Language: Arabic  
Religion: Muslim 98%



## Mozambique

### GEOGRAPHY

Capital: Maputo  
Total Area: 309,496 sq. mi.  
Population: 19,792,000



### ECONOMY


Imports: machinery; refined petroleum  
Exports: aluminum; electricity; cotton

### CULTURE

Language: Portuguese  
Religion: traditional beliefs 50%; Catholic  
16%; Muslim 11%




**Meerkats** Meerkats, like this family in South Africa, live in groups of between 3 and 25.




**Namibia**

**GEOGRAPHY**  
Capital: Windhoek  
Total Area: 318,696 sq. mi.  
Population: 2,031,000




**ECONOMY**  
Imports: food; machinery; metals  
Exports: diamonds; metals; fish; meat

**CULTURE**  
Language: English  
Religion: Protestant 48%; Catholic 18%; African Christian 11%




**Niger**

**GEOGRAPHY**  
Capital: Niamey  
Total Area: 489,191 sq. mi.  
Population: 13,957,000




**ECONOMY**  
Imports: food; capital goods  
Exports: uranium; cattle; onions; cowpeas

**CULTURE**  
Language: French  
Religion: Sunni Muslim 91%




**Nigeria**

**GEOGRAPHY**  
Capital: Abuja  
Total Area: 356,669 sq. mi.  
Population: 131,530,000




**ECONOMY**  
Imports: machinery; chemicals; food  
Exports: crude petroleum

**CULTURE**  
Language: English  
Religion: Muslim 44%; independent Christian 15%; African indigenous 10%



**Rwanda**

**GEOGRAPHY**  
Capital: Kigali  
Total Area: 10,169 sq. mi.  
Population: 9,038,000




**ECONOMY**  
Imports: capital goods; food  
Exports: niobium and tantalum; tea; coffee

**CULTURE**  
Language: Rwanda; French; English  
Religion: Catholic 51%; Protestant 29%; traditional beliefs 9%




**São Tomé and Príncipe**

**GEOGRAPHY**  
Capital: São Tomé  
Total Area: 386 sq. mi.  
Population: 157,000




**ECONOMY**  
Imports: investment goods; agricultural products; petroleum  
Exports: cocoa beans; copra; coffee

**CULTURE**  
Language: Portuguese  
Religion: Catholic 90%




**Senegal**

**GEOGRAPHY**  
Capital: Dakar  
Total Area: 75,749 sq. mi.  
Population: 11,658,000



**ECONOMY**  
Imports: food and live animals  
Exports: petroleum; fresh crustaceans

**CULTURE**  
Language: French  
Religion: Muslim 88%; traditional beliefs 6%; Christian 6%




**Seychelles**

**GEOGRAPHY**  
Capital: Victoria  
Total Area: 176 sq. mi.  
Population: 81,188




**ECONOMY**  
Imports: food; mineral fuels; machinery  
Exports: canned tuna; fresh and frozen fish; petroleum

**CULTURE**  
Language: Creole; English; French  
Religion: Catholic 90%; Anglican 7%



**Sierra Leone**

**GEOGRAPHY**  
Capital: Freetown  
Total Area: 27,699 sq. mi.  
Population: 5,525,000



**ECONOMY**  
Imports: food and live animals; fuels  
Exports: diamonds; cacao; rutile

**CULTURE**  
Language: English  
Religion: Sunni Muslim 46%; traditional beliefs 40%; Christian 11%



**Somalia**

**GEOGRAPHY**  
Capital: Mogadishu  
Total Area: 246,201 sq. mi.  
Population: 8,228,000



**ECONOMY**  
Imports: raw sugar; cereals  
Exports: goats; sheep; bovines; camels

**CULTURE**  
Language: Somali; Arabic  
Religion: Sunni Muslim 99%



## South Africa

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Pretoria/Cape Town/Bloemfontein  
**Total Area:** 471,011 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 47,432,000

### ECONOMY

**Imports:** machinery; petroleum; chemicals  
**Exports:** diamonds; gold; iron and steel

### CULTURE

**Language:** Afrikaans; English; Xhosa; Zulu  
**Religion:** independent churches 39%; Protestant 32%; traditional beliefs 8%



## Sudan

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Khartoum  
**Total Area:** 967,499 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 36,233,000

### ECONOMY

**Imports:** machinery; food; chemicals  
**Exports:** petroleum; sesame seeds; gold

### CULTURE

**Language:** Arabic; English  
**Religion:** Sunni Muslim 70%; traditional beliefs 12%; Catholic 8%



## Swaziland

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Mbabane  
**Total Area:** 6,704 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 1,032,000

### ECONOMY

**Imports:** food; machinery; chemicals  
**Exports:** soft drink concentrates; sugar

### CULTURE

**Language:** Swati; English  
**Religion:** African indigenous Christian 46%; Protestant 15%



## Tanzania

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Dodoma  
**Total Area:** 364,900 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 36,766,356

### ECONOMY

**Imports:** food; machinery  
**Exports:** gold; diamonds; gemstones; cashews; coffee; tea

### CULTURE

**Language:** Swahili; English  
**Religion:** Christian 47%; Muslim 32%



## Togo

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Lomé  
**Total Area:** 21,925 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 6,145,000

### ECONOMY

**Imports:** food; petroleum; cement  
**Exports:** cement; phosphates; cotton

### CULTURE

**Language:** French  
**Religion:** traditional beliefs 38%; Catholic 24%; Muslim 19%



## Tunisia

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Tunis  
**Total Area:** 63,170 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 10,102,000

### ECONOMY

**Imports:** fabric; food; machinery  
**Exports:** clothing; knitwear; phosphates

### CULTURE

**Language:** Arabic  
**Religion:** Sunni Muslim 99%



## Uganda

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Kampala  
**Total Area:** 91,136 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 28,816,000

### ECONOMY

**Imports:** machinery; food  
**Exports:** fish products; tea; cereal; cotton

### CULTURE

**Language:** English  
**Religion:** Catholic 33%; Protestant 33%; traditional beliefs 18%; Muslim 16%



## Zambia

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Lusaka  
**Total Area:** 290,586 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 11,668,000

### ECONOMY

**Imports:** machinery; printed matter; cereals  
**Exports:** refined copper; base metals; food

### CULTURE

**Language:** English  
**Religion:** traditional beliefs 27%; Protestant 23%; Catholic 17%



## Zimbabwe

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Harare  
**Total Area:** 150,804 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 13,010,000

### ECONOMY

**Imports:** machinery; chemicals; food  
**Exports:** tobacco; ferroalloys; cotton lint

### CULTURE

**Language:** English  
**Religion:** animist 41%; Protestant 24%; African indigenous Christian 14%



**Hippopotamuses** Once common across the continent, hippos are now found mostly in East and Central Africa.

