

Chapter 18 Study Guide
"Physical Geography of Africa"

Name _____

"Unit 6 Atlas" (pages 402-413)

1. Approximately how much larger is Africa than the continental United States in terms of size and population?
2. How does the size of the Sahara Desert compare to the landmass of the continental United States?
3. Describe the general pattern of landforms in Africa.
4. Which European country dominated East Africa during the colonial era?
5. Which part of Africa was dominated by France during the colonial era?
6. Which African countries remained independent during the colonial era?
7. Which modern countries were known by the following names during the colonial era?
The Gold Coast _____
German Southwest Africa _____
Bechuanaland _____
Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland _____
Southern Rhodesia _____
German East Africa _____
British East Africa _____
8. Which parts of Africa have higher population densities?
9. Which two language groups are the most widespread in Africa?
10. What does the language map suggest about historical migration patterns to the island of Madagascar?

11. According to the notes included with the Regional Data File, what is happening to life expectancy in Africa and why?

Section 1--"Landforms and Resources" (pages 414-418)

12. Why is Africa called the "plateau continent?"

13. Why are Africa's rivers difficult to navigate? What effect might this have on African economies?

14. How are rift valleys formed and in what part of Africa is the Great Rift Valley located?

15. What is an escarpment and where is the Great Escarpment?

16. Why do the people of Chad and Cameroon view their new oil pipeline with both hope and worry? (See Connect to the Issues" on page 417.)

17. Why have Africa's mineral and oil wealth not brought economic prosperity for most of its population?

18. What are two profitable African commodities besides oil?

19. How do most Africans earn their living?

20. Compare the economic activity map to the climate map on page 421. In which climate zone is subsistence farming the dominant economic activity?

Section 2--"Climate and Vegetation" (pages 420-423)

21. What accounts for Africa's warm climates?

22. What is an oasis?

23. Where are Africa's moderate climate zones located?

24. Africa's climate and vegetation are almost mirrored on either side of _____.

25. Where is the Serengeti Plain located and what type of vegetation is found there?

26. What is the canopy of the rain forest?

27. Why does slash-and-burn farming pose a danger to the rain forest?

Section 3--"Human-Environment Interaction" (pages 424-427)

28. What is the Sahel?

29. What human activities are causing desertification in the Sahel?

30. Why has Nigeria's economy not benefitted from its oil resources?

31. How has Nigeria's oil industry affected its environment?

32. How has Egypt benefitted from the building of the Aswan Dam?

33. What problems have resulted from the building of the Aswan Dam?