



What is Africa like?

Africa is the second biggest continent in the world.

Africa is the second most populated continent.

The **economies** of some African countries are growing very fast. Many people have more **disposable income** than in the past.

Yet over 400 million people in Africa live in extreme poverty. That means they have less than \$1.90 a day to live on.

Africa is home to the world's longest river. The River Nile is over 6600km long and its drainage basin covers 11 different countries!

Africa is also home to a huge stretch of lowland and mountains, called the Rift Valley. It was formed by Earth's tectonic plates moving apart.

Africa is also home to the third largest lake in the world - Lake Victoria.

African populations

Africa has been home to many different groups and civilisations. Here are just a few:

Ancient Egyptians

15th century - Europeans started trading with Africa

20th Century- African

countries fought for, and won, their independence.

Hujambo! That's how to say hello in Swahili (also called Kiswahili), which is the most widely used African Language.

100 million people speak it.

European languages such as English and French are official languages in many African countries.



Nigeria - a country of contrasts

Nigeria is a country on the west coast of Africa. To the south, the Gulf of Guinea leads out to the Atlantic Ocean. To the north, east and west, Nigeria shares a border with four other countries. Benue and Niger are the longest rivers in Nigeria. Rivers are used as a water source (for people and farming), habitats for wildlife, transport, and to make **hydroelectric power**.

There are mountains in Nigeria too. The Jos Plateau and Mambilla Plateau are particularly high areas. Chappal Waddi is the highest mountain in Nigeria. At its peak, it is 2419 metres above sea level.

Nigeria has 4 biomes. That's because it has different climates, which bring a variety of plants and animals.

Focus on Africa

The Sahara

It covers over 9 million square kilometers. The Sahara stretches over several countries and territories. Yet this huge space of land is very sparsely populated. There are only a few cities in the Sahara. Even fewer roads pass through it.

Why do so few people live there?

It is dry. That's what makes it a desert. Some months have no rainfall at all. Annual rainfall ranges between only 2cm and 10cm.

It is hot. Average temperatures are around 37°C in summer and 25° in winter. However, at night time temperatures in the desert drop. They can get below freezing because there are few clouds to keep the heat in.

It is windy. The winds can create huge sandstorms, which are sometimes seen from space!



Opportunities in Nigeria

Nigeria's economy has grown rapidly. This very fast economic development makes Nigeria a Newly-Emerging Economy (NEE). Most of Nigeria's wealth has come from oil and agriculture. Nigeria is Africa's biggest oil exporter. Other industries have started to develop more recently, such as **telecommunications**, manufacturing and films. As these industries grow, they create jobs and tax revenue.

Challenges in Nigeria

Wealth is not spread evenly in Nigeria. 67% of people still live in poverty. Nigeria has the most poor people in the world. 70% of people work in farming. Many are subsistence farmers, so don't have many crops to sell.

There aren't enough medicine and many people don't have clean water. Around 10 million children in Nigeria do not go to school. Most of those are girls. Some **corrupt** government and business leaders have kept money instead of sharing it with Nigeria's people.

Economy – the wealth of a country

Disposable income – the amount of money left to spend on what you want, once bills have been paid

Colonies – areas controlled by another country

Official languages – languages used by the government and for legal documents

Orally – by speech

Subsistence farmers – farmers who grow only enough to feed themselves and their families, leaving little to sell

Informal work – jobs that pay cash-in-hand. Workers don't pay tax but also don't receive benefits such as sick pay

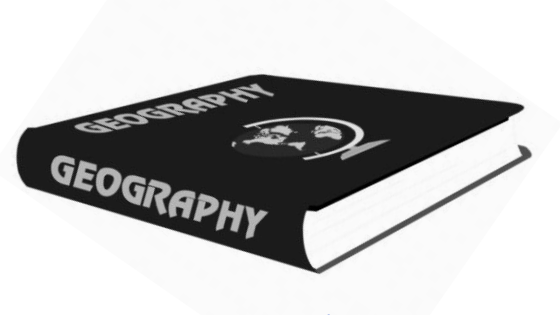
Sparsely populated – few people live there

Terrain – the physical characteristics of land, such as rocky or mountainous

Oases – places in a desert where water is found

Traditional societies – groups of people who have lived in a place for a very long time, passing down knowledge and customs through many generations

Nomads – people who move from place to place, travelling with their animals to find grazing



Semi-nomadic – nomadic people who move from place to place, but may also stay in one area for a while to grow crops

Desertification – where the land is being turned into desert, often through overuse

Overgrazing – when animals eat too many plants so the vegetation cannot recover properly

Hydroelectric power – electricity made by water flowing through turbines in a dam

Political – to do with governments and the decisions they make

Telecommunications – communication using technology, such as radio, TV and phone

Secondary data – information that someone else has collected, e.g. in a book or website

Corrupt – not honest