

Africa – 6th Grade
6 Class Periods

I. Africa Geography

- A. **Where is it?** Students should be able to locate key boundaries (Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea), key countries (South Africa, Egypt, Liberia, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi).
- B. **What is it like there?** Students should locate and understand the importance of the Sahara Desert, Sahel, savanna, Kalahari Desert, Nile River, and Congo River.
- C. **Desertification** - Students should understand that much of Africa that is not already a desert is in danger of becoming a desert. Agriculture (farming) can only exist on arable land. Arable land is fertile and good for growing crops. Areas of greatest danger are the Sahel and Madagascar.
- 1. Causes - factors contributing to desertification:**
- a. Drought: prolonged period without rain.
 - b. Overgrazing: animals eat all vegetation.
 - c. Deforestation: cutting down trees.
 - d. Erosion (wind and water): washes away the topsoil – caused by deforestation and overgrazing.
- 2. Effects**
- a. Famine: starvation – lack of crops due to erosion of topsoil and drought.
 - b. Human and animal migration: people and animals must move or die, cities are overpopulated.
- 3. Possible solutions**
- a. Restricted grazing
 - b. Planting trees
 - c. Agricultural education: crop rotation.
- D. Natural resources – students should be able to list and locate resources in Africa.
- 1. Non-renewable resources**
- a. Gold and Diamonds (South Africa)
 - b. Oil (Eastern Africa)
- 2. Renewable resources**
- a. Trees (Central Africa)

II. Short history of Africa

The Bantu people had migrated to central Africa bringing civilization with them. They brought aspects of their culture including the Swahili language and permanent settlements. Trade developed as a result.

III. Slave trade

- A. The Portuguese established the first trading post in Africa. They first traded for resources like gold and ivory, but soon determined that slaves were the most valuable commodity to be gained in Africa. Other European nations followed in the slave trade.
- B. Triangular trade was the pattern of trade that was developed. The triangle extended from Europe to Africa to the Americas, then back to Europe. The Middle Passage was the portion of the triangle in which slaves were taken from Africa to the Americas. Many slaves never made it to the Americas due to the conditions on board the trade ships.

IV. Imperialism

- A. European countries divided up almost all of Africa during the 19th century and established colonies in an effort to gain raw materials.
- B. Tribal boundaries were not respected when European countries divided up Africa. This resulted in long term ethnic rivalries, especially among the Hutu and Tutsi in central Africa.
- C. Most of the colonies gained independence in the middle or the 20th century.
- D. Imperialism left a legacy of governmental instability. Because many nations retained their colonial borders, ethnic rivalries continue. They lack experience in self-government.

V. South Africa

South Africa gained independence in 1910 from the United Kingdom. However, this did not bring freedom to most South Africans. Only white South Africans could vote, hold offices, and live where they wanted. Black South Africans were forced to live separate from white South Africans. This policy was called Apartheid. Many black South Africans protested the policy and were led by Nelson Mandela. Mandela was jailed for his views on Apartheid. In 1991, President F.W. deKlerk (A white man) ended apartheid as a result of sanctions imposed by the U.S. and Great Britain. Nelson Mandela was released from prison and elected as the 1st black South African President in 1994.

VI. Modern day Africa

- A. Problems facing modern day Africa
 1. Disease (AIDS)
 2. Malnutrition
 3. Literacy (very low throughout Africa)
 4. Ethnic wars (tensions are high in many African countries between ethnic groups, ie... Hutu & Tutsi)
 5. Economic problems
- B. Urbanization – problems with desertification and ethnic wars have led to many Africans moving to urban centers to look for jobs and housing.

Darfur conflict: (land of the fur): Darfur is a desert region in Sudan

that has been involved in serious ethnic conflict since 2003. In 2003, a rebel group attacked government targets saying that the impoverished region was being neglected by the government in Khartoum, in favor of the Arab tribes. There are two main rebel groups: Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)

Janjaweed: (man with a gun on a horse) are members of nomadic Arab tribes that have been at odds with African farmers over land and water rights. The Janjaweed is responsible for thousands of murders. Many people believe that the Janjaweed is supported by the government.

A result of this conflict is that 100's of thousands of people have been murdered. Another result is that over 2 million people have been forced to live in refugee camps in Sudan and Chad.