

Lesson Plan

Regions of Africa

Book: *Africa*

Series: World Studies

Level: Voyager

Objective

To help students research and present facts about one of the regions of Africa.

Supplies

- At least 5 copies of the *Africa* book
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity

Read *Africa* as a class, or assign it to students to read on their own. Divide students into five groups. Give each group a copy of the book.

Activity

Africa can be divided into five main regions. They are North Africa, South Africa, East Africa, West Africa, and Central Africa. Turn to page 7 and display the map there to the class. Assign one region to each group. Students in the group will work together to explore that region in depth. Groups will search the book for facts about the following topics:

- plants or animals in the region
- the region's climate
- the region's economy
- the region's geography
- religions and cultures in the region

Students should write two sentences about each topic. When all the groups finish gathering information, the groups will take turns presenting their information to the class. They will share facts that make their region unique. After all groups have presented, have the whole class discuss similarities and differences among the five regions.

Evaluation

Collect each group's work and use the attached answer key to give students 1 point for each accurate fact about each topic, or up to 10 points total.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 5 (RI 5.1, 5.2), and the National Council for the Social Studies standards 1 and 3.

Answer Key

Note: several categories have more than two possible answers.

North Africa

- plants or animals: Arabian camel [p. 21]; plants with deep roots [p. 22]
- climate: hot, dry desert [p. 16]; coast of the Mediterranean Sea [p. 17]
- economy: farming [pp. 29–30]; oil and gas [pp. 32–33]; tourism and manufacturing [p. 33]
- geography: Sahara desert [pp. 15–16]; Sahel plains [p. 16]; Nile River [pp. 18–19]
- religions and cultures: influenced by the Middle East [p. 45]; religion of Islam [p. 45]

South Africa

- plants or animals: lions, elephants, and white rhinos [p. 24]; many animal reserves [p. 24]; Cape Floristic Regions with many plant species [p. 24]
- climate: cooler than other regions [pp. 15–17]
- economy: crops such as tomatoes, corn, onions, pumpkins, and carrots [pp. 29–31]; gold and diamonds [p. 32]
- geography: rocky plateaus and mountains [p. 17]
- religions and cultures: Afrikaners [p. 42]; Zulu people and religions [pp. 42–43]

East Africa

- plants or animals: quick, light animals such as the walia ibex [p. 22]; Ethiopian wolf [pp. 22–23]; Ethiopian rose [p. 23]; hippos and crocodiles [p. 24]; unique species on Madagascar [p. 25]
- climate: tropical [p. 15]; coastal [p. 16]
- economy: crops such as teff, sorghum, wheat, barley [pp. 29–30]; fishing [p. 31]
- geography: Ethiopian Plateau [p. 16, p. 22]; East African lakes [p. 16]; Great East African Rift Valley [pp. 16–17]; Swahili coast along the Indian Ocean [pp. 16–17]
- religions and cultures: Hadza people of Tanzania [p. 45]; Ganda, Iteso, and Soga peoples of Uganda [p. 42]

West Africa

- plants or animals: acacia trees, baobab trees, Senegal gerbil, and other species of the Sahel plains [p. 25]
- climate: tropical [p. 15]; coastal [p. 17]
- economy: farming [pp. 29–30]; forestry [p. 31]; fishing, including tuna, cod, sardines, and herring [p. 31]; oil and gas [pp. 32–33]
- geography: Sahel plains [p. 16]; coast of the Atlantic Ocean [p. 17]
- religions and cultures: Yoruba people of Nigeria [pp. 44–45]

Central Africa

- plants or animals: Large mammals of the savanna grasslands [p. 23]; great apes [p. 23]; birds and trees of the Ituri Forest, as well as animals such as okapis [pp. 26–27]
- climate: tropical, near equator [p. 15]
- economy: farming [pp. 29–30]; forestry, especially mahogany and okoume [p. 31]
- geography: savanna [p. 16]; rainforests [p. 16]; Serengeti [p. 23]; Ituri Forest [pp. 26–27]
- religions and cultures: Bambuti and Bila people [p. 27]