

Regions of Africa—Place and Human-Environment Interaction

Northern Africa	
Physical Place	Cultural Place
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desert, dry, arid, Sahara, largest in the world • Coast, Mediterranean, Mountainous • Nile River, longest in world • Disney movie: Aladdin :) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Islam, Muslim, mosque, prayer • Ethnically Arab, Arabic, like the Middle East • Cook with lots of olive oils, wheat (couscous) • Nomadic herders in the Sahara
Human-Environment Interaction	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil, gas, very little arable land, wheat on the Nile • 	
West Africa	
Physical Place	Cultural Place
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed vegetation: Rainforest/Grassland/Desert • Sahel, arable land, breadbasket • Sahara is growing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixture of Religion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Islam, Christianity, Tribal • Ethnically black • As a rule: farther north: Muslim, farther south: Christian • Language: Mixture of indigenous and European (French and English) • The historic center of the slave trade • food: yams, millet, native rice • Most densely populated region in Africa – pop. Explosion • Nomadic herders in the Sahara
Human-Environment Interaction	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desertification caused by humans at least in part • Oil, gas, mining for precious gems and gold, uranium • Arable land in the Sahel, 	

Equatorial Africa	
Physical Place	Cultural Place
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainforest, most rainfall • Congo Basin, valley, ringed by highlands • Disney movie: Tarzan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religiously Christian • Language: European (French) and local indigenous languages • very poor (poverty worksheet) • probably Africa's most unstable region
Human-Environment Interaction	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining: Diamonds, some oil production • Home of the Mountain Gorilla, endangered by humans • 	

East Africa	
Physical Place	Cultural Place
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugged, mountainous, plateaus • Great Rift Valley, tectonic plates, volcanic activity • Serengeti plain, wildlife, grassland • Tall peaks: Kilimanjaro, Kenya • Great Lakes • Disney movie: The Lion King 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixture of Religion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Islam, Christianity, Tribal • Mixed ethnicity: Arab in North, black in south • Diverse politically: Sudan (torn by civil war and genocide), Kenya (relatively stable), Somalia (failed state, anarchy, pirates) • Language: Arabic, European (English) and local indigenous languages (Swahili)
Human-Environment Interaction	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farming on the coastal plains • Some mining, oil in Sudan • Tourism on the great game reserves 	
Southern Africa	
Physical Place	Cultural Place
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arid, desert (Kalihari), little rain • Plateaus, non-tropical (seasons) • Cape of Good Hope • Some grassland in the east • Also home to great animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religiously Christian • Language: European (English/Dutch/Afrikaans) and Indigenous • Ethnically Black, with the only significant pop. of people with European ancestry or white Africans • Wealthiest country in sub-Saharan Africa • history: Apartheid, separation of races, racial cooperation • Disease: AIDS/HIV
Human-Environment Interaction	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism (game reserves) • Mining: world leaders in gold and diamond mining • Farming and Ranching are present in the east • Several large urban centers 	