

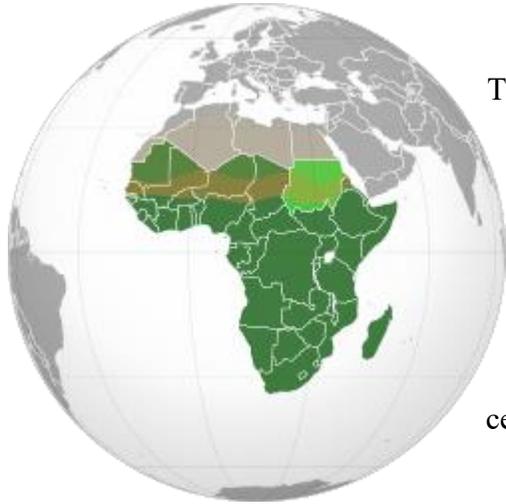
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UNIT NARRATIVE



The second largest continent in the world, Africa is a vast land of varying geographic regions, ethnic groups, language and culture. Regions including desert, rainforest, savanna, Sahel, and valley diversity the land and have greatly influenced the settlement and trade of civilizations throughout the course of history. Unfortunately, the land’s rich natural resources such as gold, salt, and diamonds made it highly desirable to European power hungry to colonize the land during a time of imperialism and expansion. First stripping the land of its resources as well as its people during trans-Atlantic slave trade and the Middle Passage, European power eventually fully partitioned the Africa into European colonizes during the Scramble for Africa. This fraught history mired by European colonization has destroyed African lives, culture, and permanently disrupted ethnic groups native to the land. Despite these crimes, Africa celebrates a rich culture of diverse languages, religions, music, and people which should all be recognized and celebrated today and forevermore.

CONTENT STANDARDS

Unit 6: Exploring Sub-Saharan Africa	
Readiness	Supporting
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6.1(A)* Trace characteristics of various contemporary societies in regions that resulted from historical events or factors such as colonization, immigration, and trade.• 6.2(B) Evaluate the social, political, economic, and cultural contributions of individuals and groups from various societies, past and present.• 6.3(A)* Identify and explain the geographic factors responsible for patterns of population in places and regions.• 6.3(C) Identify and locate major physical and human geographic features such as landforms, water bodies, and urban centers of various places and regions.• 6.3(D)* Identify the location of major world countries for each of the world regions.• 6.8(B)* Describe levels of economic development of various societies using indicators such as life expectancy, gross domestic product (GDP), GDP per capita, and literacy.• 6.9(A) Describe and compare examples of limited and unlimited governments such as constitutional (limited) and totalitarian (unlimited).• 6.13(A)* Identify and describe common traits that define cultures and culture regions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6.1(B) Analyze the historical background of various contemporary societies to evaluate relationships between past conflicts and current conditions.• 6.6(A) Describe ways in which the factors of production (natural resources, labor, capital, and entrepreneurs) influence the economies of various contemporary societies.• 6.6(B) Identify problems that may arise when one or more of the factors of production is in relatively short supply.• 6.9(C) Identify and describe examples of human rights abuses by limited or unlimited governments such as the oppression of religious, ethnic, and political groups.• 6.16(A) Explain the relationships that exist between societies and their architecture, art, music, and literature.

UNDERSTANDINGS AND QUESTIONS

Key Understandings

- **Africa** is the hottest continent in the world, however its geography is not all desert and quite diverse with various geographical areas including: desert, rainforest, savanna, sahel, and valley
- **Deforestation** is a major problem in the African rainforest. At the current rate of destruction, the world's rainforests could disappear within the next 100 years. Various human-made causes including agriculture and development cause deforestation which affects climate change, biodiversity, and natural resources.
- Early African civilizations began **trans-Saharan trade** in which camel caravans would transport natural resources, often salt, across the Sahara Desert to sub-Saharan city-states.
- During **Trans-Atlantic slave trade (the Middle Passage)**, over 12.5 million Africans were forced from their homes, enslaved by Europeans, and forced to work in the European colonies in the Americas.
- European powers' partitioning and colonization of Africa based on natural resources and personal interest had a massively disruptive impact on Africa's ethnic groups that had existed in the area for centuries.
- **Nelson Mandela** helped to lead South Africa's anti-**apartheid** movement, during which the black South African majority was legally discriminated against by the white Afrikaner minority.

- African **music** varies by region and has influenced the development of musical genres including jazz, rock-and-roll, and gospel in the United States.
- The spread of diseases such as **malaria** has and continues to be a major problem in Africa, due to poverty and lack of vaccines and medical care.

Key Questions

1. What is the physical geography of the continent of Africa like?
2. What causes deforestation and how does it impact the Earth?
3. What are the natural resources of Africa and how were they traded?
4. Why were enslaved people forced into the Middle Passage and what was this journey like?
5. Why did European powers colonize African land and what was the impact on Africa's ethnic groups?
6. What was South African apartheid and how was it similar to the United States Civil Rights movement?
7. What is African music like and how has it impacted the development of other genres?
8. Why do diseases such as malaria continue to be such a major problem in Africa today?

Unit Resources

Student Workbook
 Teacher Answer Key
 Unit Assessment
 Unit Assessment Answer Key

Unit Lesson Break-Down

Day 1 - Africa's Physical Geography

Day 2 – Rainforest and Desertification

Day 3 – Africa's Resources and Trade

Day 4 – Middle Passage

Day 5 – Scramble for Africa

Day 6 – South African Apartheid

Day 7 – African Culture

Day 8 – Teacher Flex Day

Day 9 – Teacher Flex Day

Day 10 – Unit 6 Assessment

