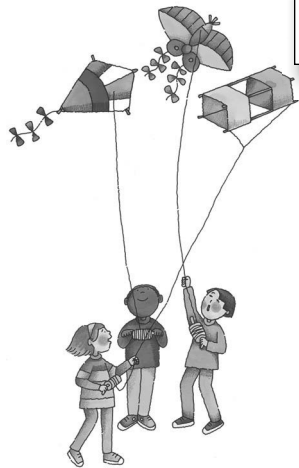
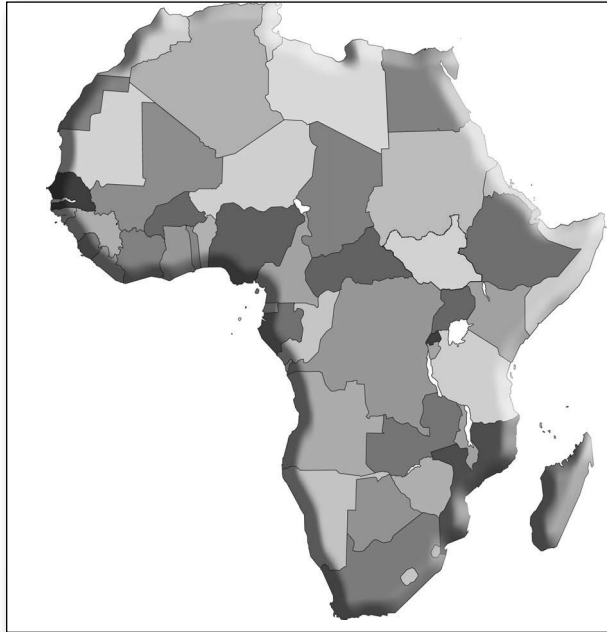


Section 1



AFRICA

Geographical Understandings

Chapter 1


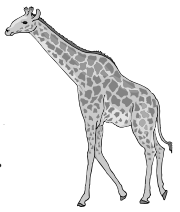

SS7G1 The student will locate selected features of Africa.

a. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map: the Sahara, Sahel, savanna, tropical rainforest, Congo River, Niger River, Nile River, , Lake Tanganyika, Lake Victoria, Atlas Mountains, and Kalahari Desert.

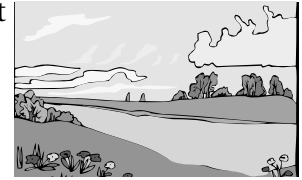
b. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map the countries of Democratic Republic of the Congo (Zaire), Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, and South Sudan.

Physical Features of Africa

The vast continent of Africa has a variety of landforms. Keep reading to learn about some of the physical features that make Africa such an interesting place!

- The **Sahara** is the world's largest hot desert, covering most of Northern Africa. It stretches from the Red Sea to the outskirts of the Atlantic Ocean. In the south, it stretches to the Sahel. 
- The **Sahel** is the transition zone south of the Sahara and north of the equator that separates the Sahara from tropical rain forests. It has become more of a desert in recent years. Djenne and Timbuktu are part of the Sahel.
- The **savanna** is the picture of Africa you see in the movies, with rolling grassland and scattered trees and shrubs. The most famous savanna is the Serengeti, straddling the borders of Kenya and Tanzania. There are 4.5 million square miles of savannas in Africa. 
- The central African **tropical rainforest** in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is the second largest rainforest in the world. About 90 percent of the African rainforests have been deforested because of logging, road building, and poor farming. 
- Flowing through west central Africa, the **Congo River** is the second longest river in Africa, and the fifth longest river in the world. It crosses the equator twice and is surrounded by rain forest.

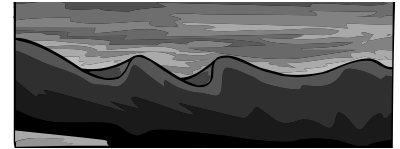
- The **Nile River** is the world's longest river (4150 miles). It flows northward out of the mountains of central Africa through eastern Africa into the Mediterranean Sea.



- The **Niger River** is the principal river of western Africa. It flows into the Atlantic Ocean. Five west African nations depend on it for their water.

- The **Atlas Mountains** are a range in northern Africa between the Mediterranean Sea and the Sahara Desert. They are located in Morocco, Northern Algeria and Tunisia.

- The **Kalahari Desert** is a large, arid to semi-arid sandy area in southern Africa covering much of Botswana and parts of Namibia and South Africa. Its dunes range from 20 to 200 feet high and can be 50 miles long.



- **Lake Tanganyika** is the longest lake as well as the second-deepest lake in the world. It lies in central Africa between Tanzania and Congo in the Great Rift Valley.

- **Lake Victoria** is a headwaters reservoir for the Nile River and the largest lake in Africa. It's the second largest freshwater lake in the world and is quite shallow. Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda border it.



Map Skills

Study the map of African landforms and answer the questions.

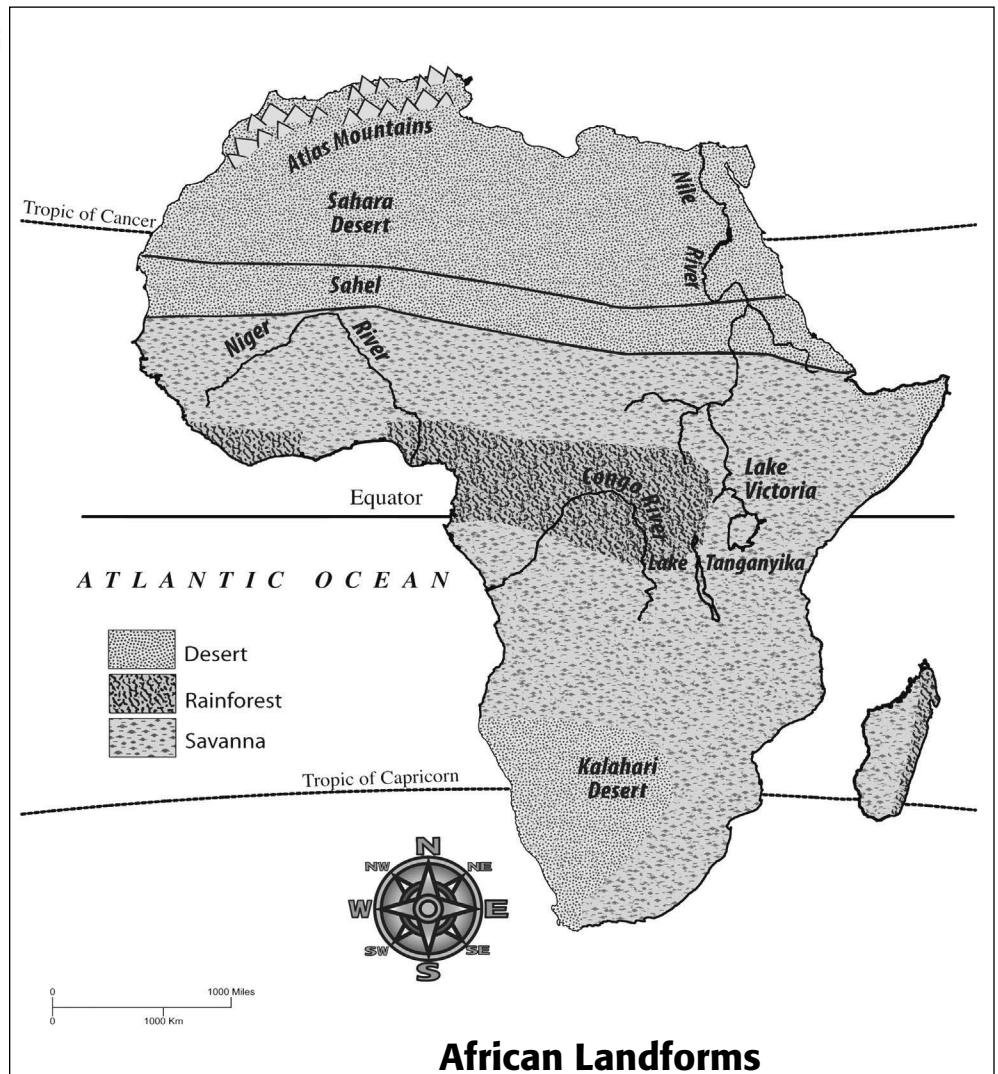
1. What is the major landform of northern Africa?

2. What landform covers most of central and southern Africa?

3. What landform lies along the Atlantic coast near the equator?

4. Use the map scale to determine about how many miles the Kalahari Desert covers from north to south.

5. Use the map scale to measure the length of Lake Tanganyika.

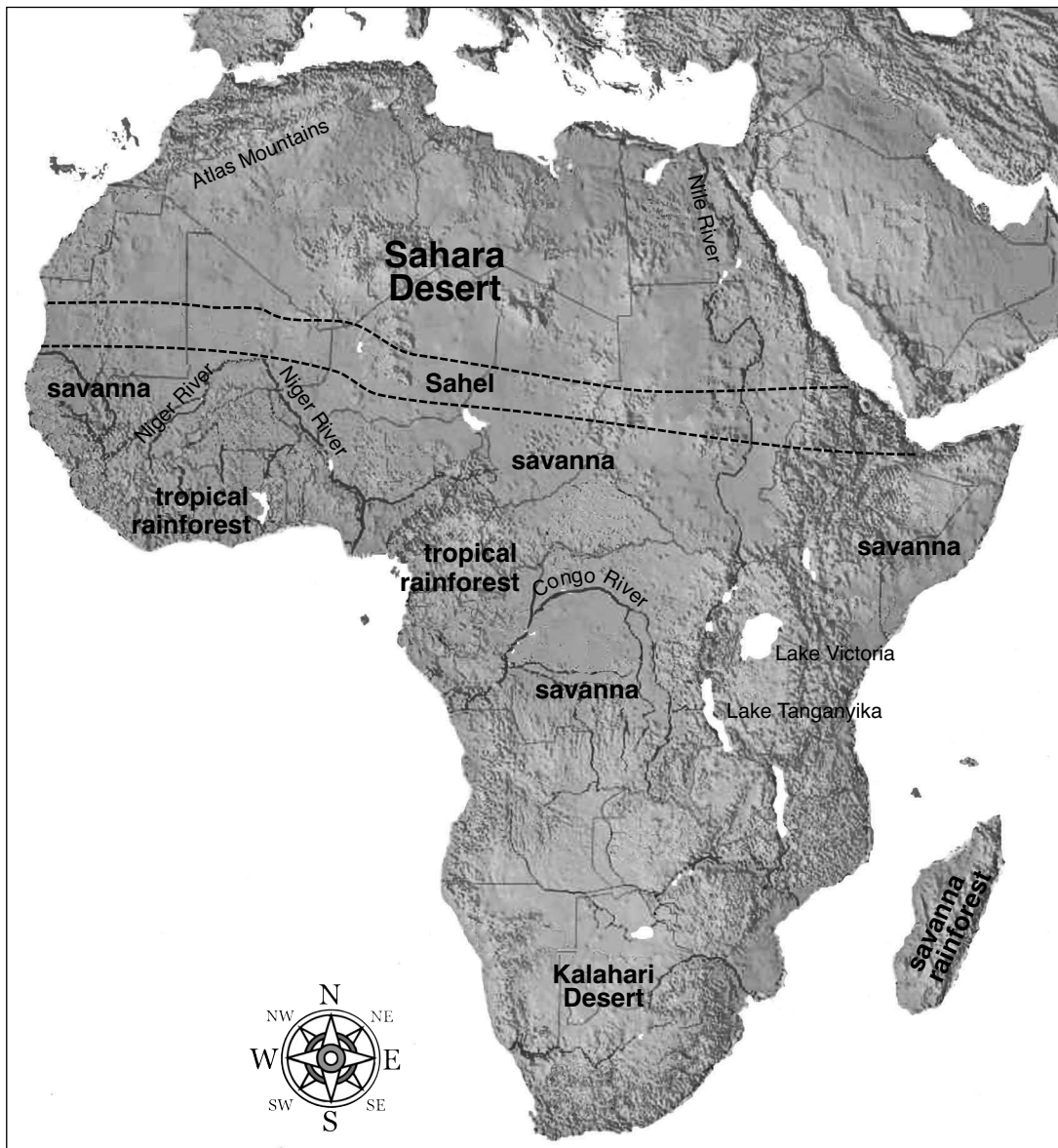




Map Skills

Look at the map of Africa with the major physical features identified. Follow the directions below.

1. Draw a brown box around the Sahara Desert and make brown dots for sand.
2. Draw an orange box around the Sahel.
3. Draw a green box around the savanna.
4. Draw both green and red boxes around the tropical rainforest.
5. Trace the Congo River in blue.
6. Trace the Nile River in blue.
7. Trace the Niger River in blue.
8. Draw purple peaks for the Atlas Mountains.
9. Draw a brown box around the Kalahari Desert and make brown dots for sand.
10. Color Lake Tanganyika blue.
11. Color Lake Victoria blue.





Map Skills

Draw and label the following physical features on the map of Africa below.

Sahara Desert
Congo River
Kalahari Desert

Sahel
Nile River
Lake Tanganyika

savanna
Niger River
Lake Victoria

tropical rainforest
Atlas Mountains





Map Skills

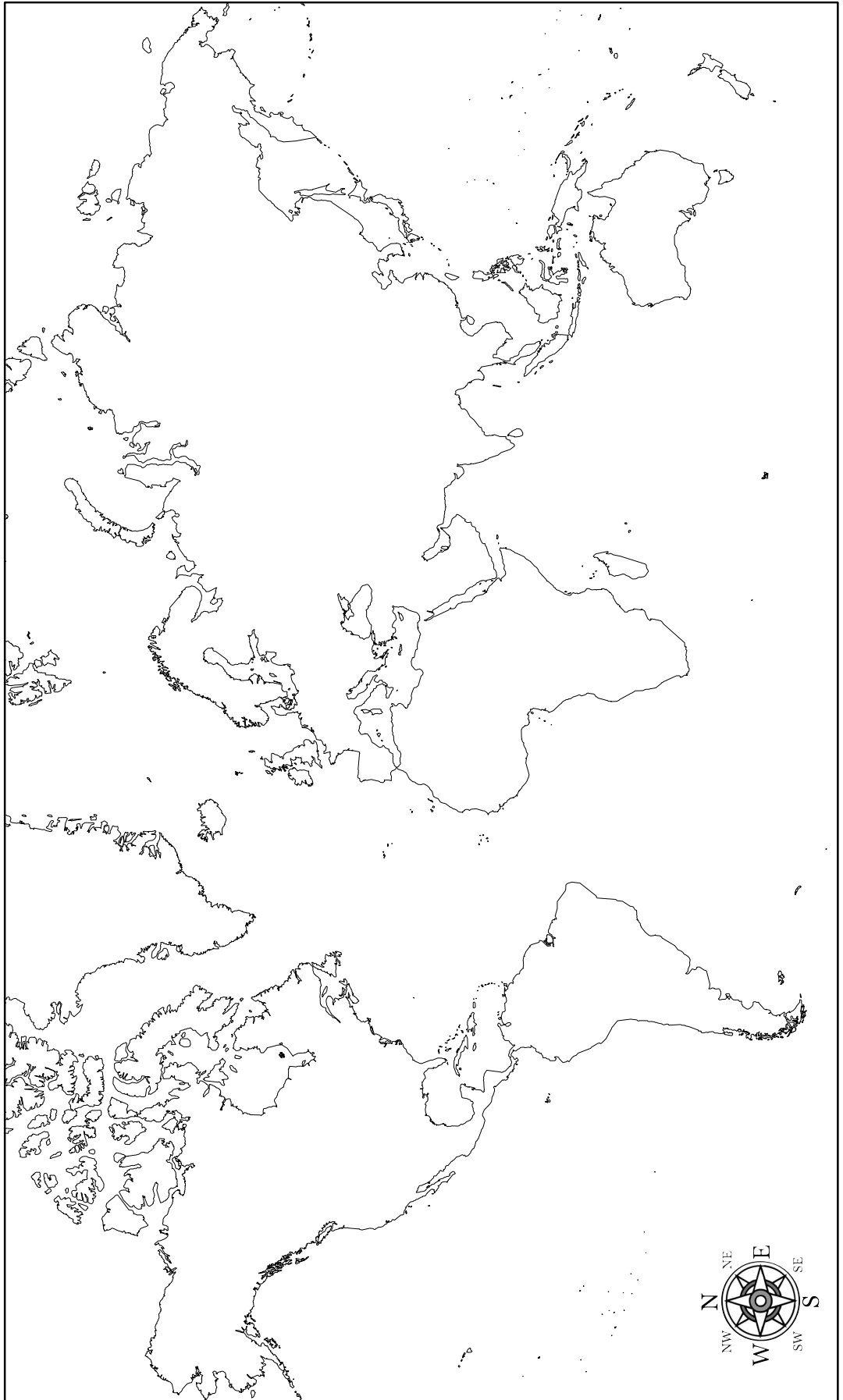
Draw and label the following physical features on the world map below.

Sahara Desert
Congo River
Kalahari Desert

Savanna
Nile River
Lake Tanganyika

Sahel
Niger River
Lake Victoria

Tropical rainforest
Atlas Mountains





Map Skills

Look at the political map of Africa with the countries identified. Follow the directions below.

1. Draw a red circle around South Africa.
2. Draw a purple box around Sudan.
3. Draw a black box around Egypt.
4. Draw a green circle around Kenya.
5. Draw a brown box around Nigeria.
6. Draw a blue circle around the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Zaire).





Map Skills

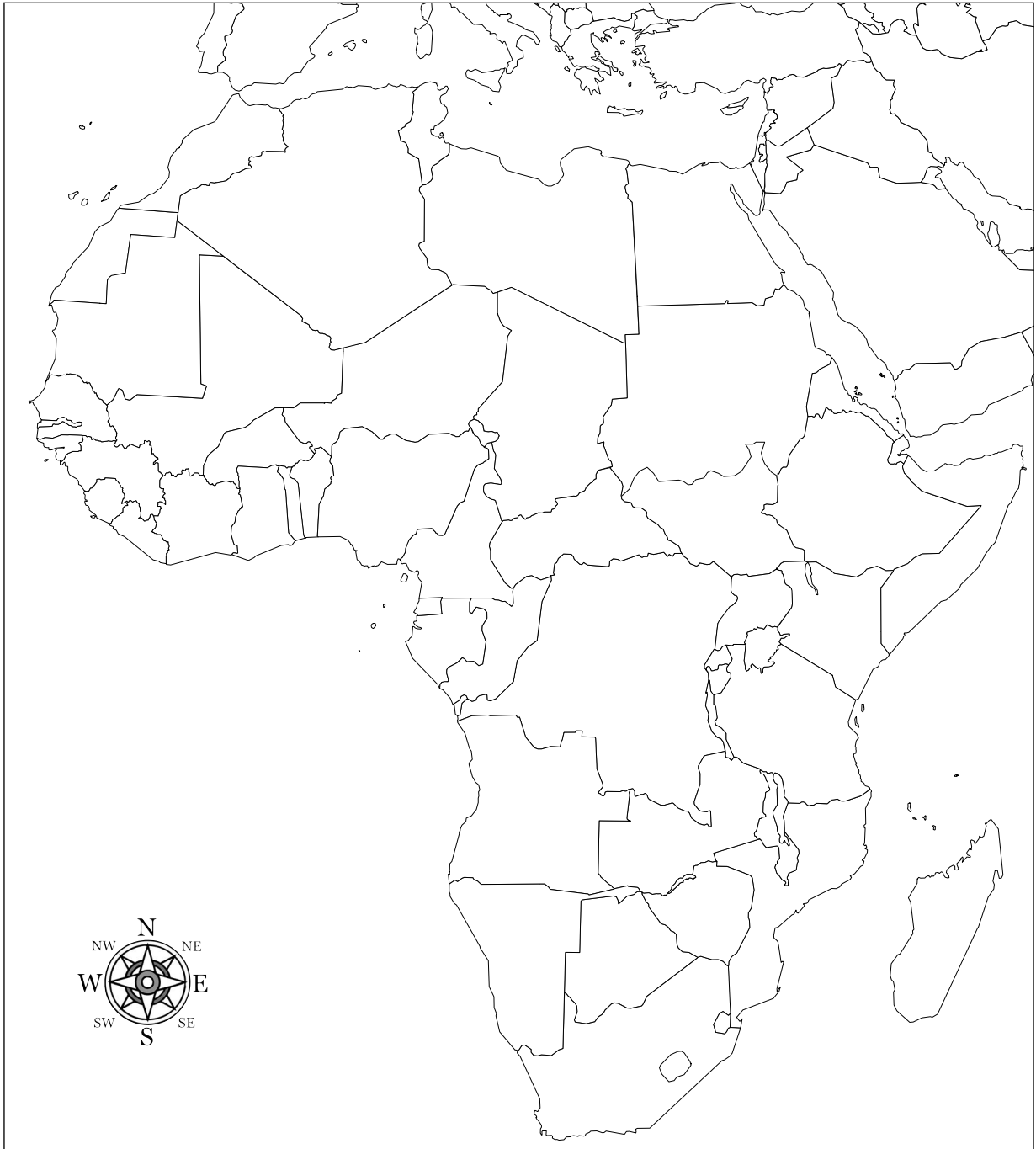
Label the following countries on the map of Africa below:

South Africa
Kenya

Sudan
Nigeria

Egypt
South Sudan

Democratic Republic of the Congo (Zaire)





Map Skills

Label the following countries on the world map below.

Egypt

Nigeria

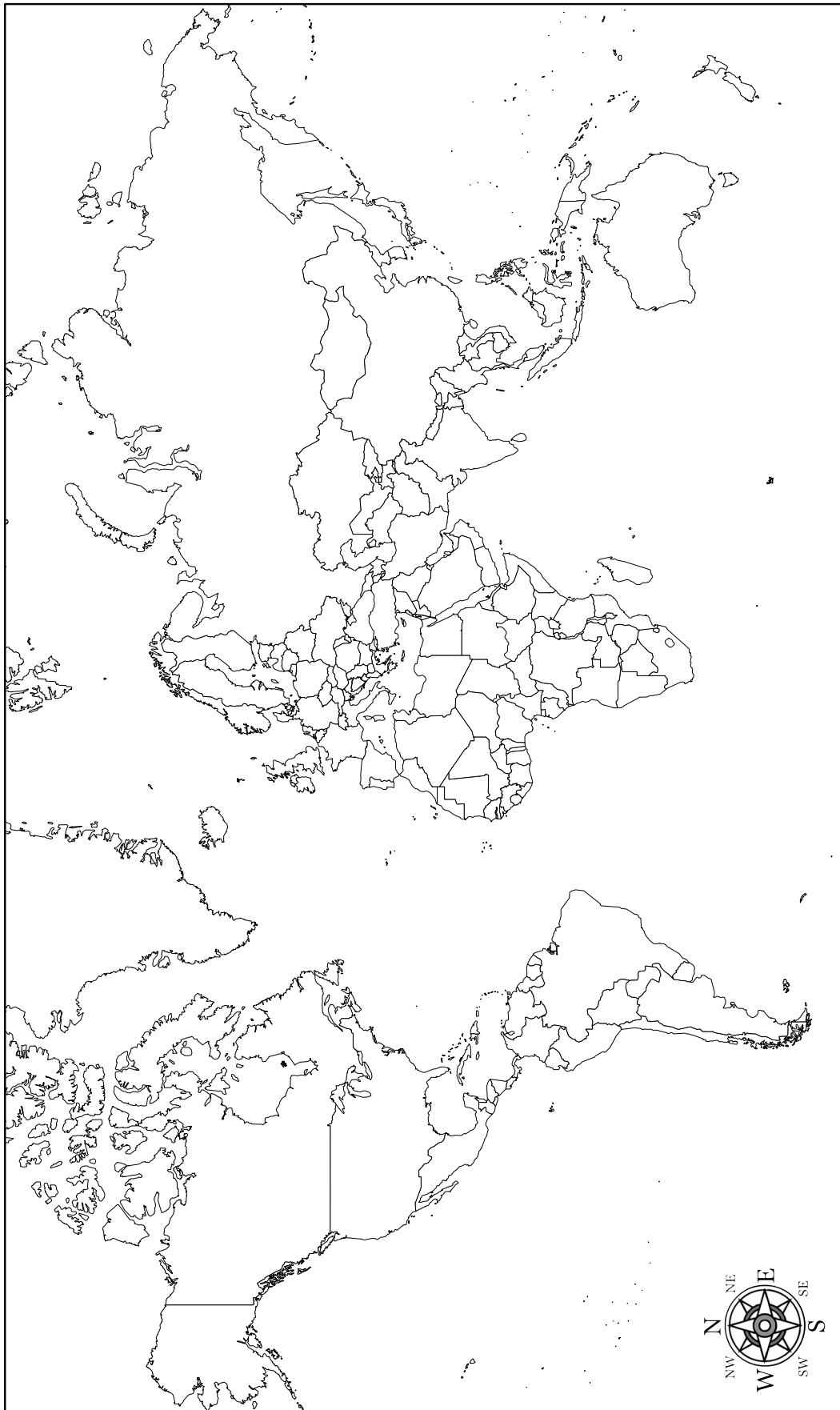
Sudan

South Sudan

Kenya

South Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo





Quick Review

Now see how much you've learned about African geography. Write the letter for the correct answer on the line beside the question.

- _____ 1. What is the southernmost country in Africa?
A. Botswana B. South Africa C. Rwanda
- _____ 2. What is the world's largest hot desert?
A. Kalahari B. Sahara C. Mohave
- _____ 3. What African lake is the longest and second-deepest in the world?
A. Lake Victoria B. Lake Chad C. Lake Tanganyika
- _____ 4. The world's longest river is:
A. Niger River B. Nile River C. Congo River

Chapter 2

SS7G2 *The student will discuss environmental issues across the continent of Africa.*

- a. Explain how water pollution and the unequal distribution of water impact irrigation, trade, industry, and drinking water.*
- b. Explain the relationship between poor soil and deforestation in Sub-Saharan Africa.*
- c. Explain the impact of desertification on the environment of Africa from the Sahel to the rainforest.*

Polluted Water—Unfit to Drink

Pesticides, fertilizers, human waste, storm water runoff, mining, and manufacturing byproducts all contribute to **water pollution** in Africa. Fully half of the patients in hospital beds are there because of unclean drinking water, impacting the economy by reducing the workforce. In rural areas, an estimated one million children die each year from contaminated water. Many humanitarian organizations provide clean water and help rebuild the infrastructure to maintain a clean water supply. However, as the population grows in some countries, the amount of clean water is actually decreasing.



Word Definition

infrastructure: the basic physical systems of a country's population, including healthcare, roads, utilities, water, and sewage

landlocked: enclosed, or nearly enclosed by land

Polluted water directly harms the fishing industry by either killing the fish or making them unfit to eat. On average, there are two oil spills a day in Nigeria. This affects trade by ruining the land for