

NAME: KEY

Africa: POPULATION DISTRIBUTION & TRADE

INTRODUCTION

- Location, climate, and physical characteristics have a huge impact on where people live and how they trade in Africa.
- Africa has four main regions: the Sahara, the Sahel, the savanna, and the tropical rainforest.
- Life in Africa is very different from one region to the next.
- Fresh water is a scarce and valuable resource in Africa.
- Most of Africa's cities are located near major rivers and lakes, or along the coastline.
- People depend on these water sources for drinking, farming, bathing, washing, trading, etc.

	SAHARA	SAHEL
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sahara desert stretches across the width of <u>Northern</u> Africa for <u>3.5 million</u> square miles. • It covers <u>1/3</u> of the continent. • The Sahara is covered with sand <u>dunes</u>, rocky hills, and stretches of <u>gravel</u> that continue for miles and miles. • There is very little <u>water</u> or <u>vegetation</u> in this region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sahel is a strip of dry <u>grassland</u> that is located <u>south</u> of the Sahara. • The Sahel is relatively <u>flat</u> with few mountains and hills. • Vegetation is <u>sparse</u> here—grasses and shrubs are <u>unevenly</u> distributed.
CLIMATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The climate is arid and very <u>hot</u>, with very little <u>rainfall</u>. • The average daily temperature is over <u>100</u> degrees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a dry, <u>semi-arid</u> region that is slowly turning into <u>desert</u>. • Averages only <u>7</u> inches of rainfall per <u>year</u>.
POPULATION DISTRIBUTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very <u>few</u> people live in the Sahara region because it is too <u>hot</u> and there is no <u>water</u>. • It has roughly <u>1</u> person per square mile, making it one of the lowest <u>population densities</u> on Earth. • The population is very low, except in northern Morocco, Algeria, and Egypt along the <u>Mediterranean</u> coast. • You cannot <u>farm</u> in the Sahara because of the lack of vegetation and <u>water</u>. • The majority of the people in the region are <u>nomadic herders</u>, who walk through the desert looking for an <u>oasis</u> for their livestock. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like the Sahara, the Sahel has a <u>low</u> population density. • People have tried to live here but generations of overgrazing and <u>desertification</u> have caused soil <u>erosion</u>. • Most people in the Sahel are subsistence <u>farmer</u> or livestock <u>herders</u>, although both occupations are becoming more and more difficult because of <u>desertification</u>. • Some people also work in the iron ore and <u>uranium</u> mines located here. • Since food and water are so hard to find, more and more tribes on the Sahel are moving south to the <u>savanna</u> region.
TRADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade is very <u>difficult</u> because of the extreme <u>heat</u>. • Nomads use <u>camels</u>, but the majority of people cross the Sahara by <u>plane</u>. • Trucks specially equipped to handle <u>sand</u> are also starting to become more common. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trading is difficult as the primary mode of <u>transportation</u> is <u>walking</u>, followed by bicycling. People have to walk for many <u>miles</u> just to get water. • Some people still live in trade areas along the eastern <u>Atlantic</u> coast and along the <u>Nile</u> River.

	SAVANNA	TROPICAL RAINFOREST
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The African savanna is located near the <u>Equator</u> and covers almost <u>half</u> of central Africa. <u>Grasses</u> are tall and thick, while <u>trees</u> are short and scattered. <u>Farming</u> is good here, but only when there is good <u>rainfall</u>. Grasses and grains like wheat, oats, and sorghum grow in the region. The soil is <u>fertile</u>, but disease carrying <u>insects</u> like the tsetse fly often make farming difficult. <u>Mining</u> and raising livestock are also important <u>jobs</u> in the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Africa's tropical rain forest is located along the central <u>coast</u> of Africa, near the <u>Equator</u>. It lies in the <u>Congo River Basin</u>. It touches <u>37</u> countries in Africa. Trees are so thick and tall that <u>sunlight</u> never reaches the forest floor. The rain forest is also home to a wide variety of plants and <u>animals</u>. The rain forest provides <u>food</u> and water for over <u>75</u> million people.
CLIMATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The savanna is a <u>hot</u> and dry grassland, that has both <u>dry</u> and rainy seasons. The area receives enough <u>rain</u> to support drought resistant undergrowth, but not enough to support forest-type <u>vegetation</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rain forest has a stifling <u>hot</u>, humid climate and receives over <u>90</u> inches of rain annually.
POPULATION DISTRIBUTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most areas of the savanna are <u>rural</u> with low to moderate <u>populations</u>. The people live in traditional African <u>villages</u> scattered across the savanna. The savanna is also home to some of Africa's most populated <u>cities</u>, such as Nairobi, Kenya, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and <u>Cape Town</u>, South Africa. Many large towns and cities have developed along the <u>coasts</u>, around Lake <u>Victoria</u>, and around the Congo River and <u>Niger</u> River. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very few <u>people</u> live in the rainforest itself because the jungle is too thick. <u>Economic</u> activities within the rainforest have allowed <u>large</u> populations to grow in surrounding African countries. Many people live around Lake Tanganyika to enjoy access to <u>water</u>.
TRADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking and riding bicycles are the <u>primary</u> modes of transportation for <u>trade</u>. Some use animal-drawn <u>carriage</u> and cars. <u>Roads</u> are being built to connect the major <u>urban</u> areas in the region. Unfortunately, this is <u>destroying</u> the natural habitat of the wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the biggest <u>industries</u> in the rainforest is <u>logging</u>. Another growing industry is agriculture. Many countries in the region depend on growing <u>cash crops</u> like rubber, gum, <u>coffee</u>, and palm oil. African companies harvest rare and valuable <u>wood</u> in the rainforest and export it to North America, Asia, and <u>Europe</u>. The Congo River provides the necessary <u>transportation</u> for carrying workers and supplies into the rainforest and for <u>shipping</u> the resources out.