

# Africa Knowledge Organiser

## Countries of Africa



Students need to know some examples of the 54 African countries, as well as know some coastal ones. For example, Somalia is located on the east coast of Africa.

## Africa's physical features



One of the physical features in Africa is deserts, for example the Sahara, in northern Africa. There is very limited plant and animal life due to the difficult living conditions.



Rainforests are also pervasive across Africa and lie in central areas, due to the slightly cooler and wetter temperatures further south from the equator. Very many plant and animal species live here, but they're under threat from deforestation.

## Perceptions of Africa

Perceptions are the way people perceive something, for example many people's perception of Africa is that it is wretchedly poor and impoverished. However, in many places in Africa this is a **misconception**.



Many parts of Africa are poor and impoverished, but many parts are not. Misconceptions are borne from a lack of information, and we must be critical about where we get our information from in whatever form of media that is.

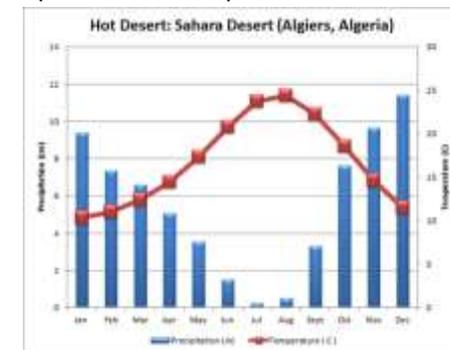
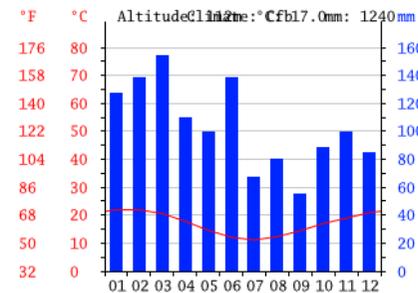
## Different ecosystems in Africa

There are 4 main ecosystems in Africa – rainforest, desert, steppe and savanna. Deserts and rainforests have been explained previously, but steppe is characterised by high temperatures and only a little rainfall. Shrubs and short grasses grow and animals such as cheetahs, lions and gazelles are found here. The savanna regions have more seasonal weather with rainy and dry seasons all year round. Many species of grass grow, and more rainfall leads to more diverse wildlife such as zebra, wildebeest, giraffe and buffalo which migrate to follow the rainfall.



## Climate of Africa

The climate in Africa is extremely varied due to the location of the place relative to its latitude. This means places in the south of the continent, such as Sutherland, South Africa (see left climate graph) is much cooler (temperature shown by red line graph) and wetter (blue bar chart) than in the Sahara Desert.



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## Nomadic tribes

Nomads are people who move from place to place to live rather than settling in a single place. Usually, this is to take advantage of crops all year round in challenging environments. Their livelihoods are often drastically different to western cultures, and they have deep rooted traditions. Sadly, these tribes' futures are at risk due to issues of desertification and political issues with national governments.



## Reducing poverty

Poverty is rife in Africa, with around 50% of Africans living in poverty and around 40% being illiterate (they cannot read or write). However, Africa is extremely rich in terms of the resources (oil, gas, crops etc.) that it has naturally. Therefore, it is confusing and complex as to why Africa is the poorest continent on Earth by far.



In order to reduce poverty, we can seek to improve education to give young children the best chance of getting well-paying jobs. Increasing tourism opportunities also opens these communities up to wages and job opportunities. Water supplies being improved can also improve health and improving the quality and quantity of hospitals and healthcare services would also help here. Improving transport links would help to allow people to move around in search of employment and living facilities more easily and would increase trade.

## National parks in Africa



There are many national parks in Africa, for example the Gorongosa national park in Mozambique, which are created and designed to conserve animals which are endangered or on the brink of becoming extinct, such as the rhino which is hunted for its horn. Rhinos can be moved to national parks in order to protect them from poachers, as national parks are government-led and state-funded which means animals are much safer here than in the wild. Animals are also endangered due to pollution/climate change damaging their habitats, overhunting from humans, habitat loss and invasive species. National parks help keep vulnerable species alive and thriving.

