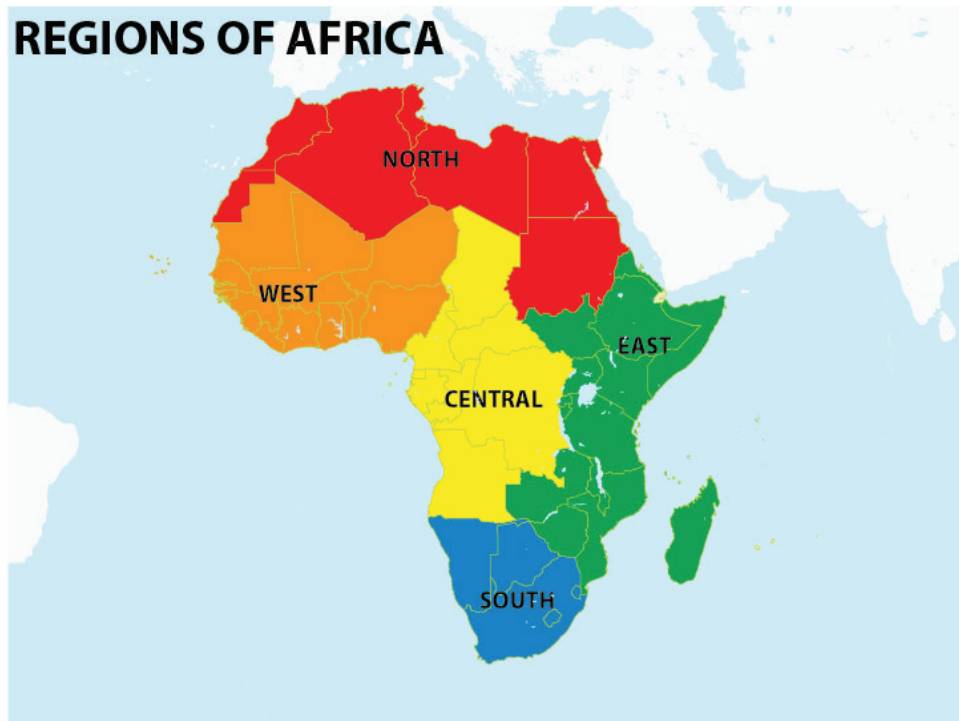


Africa at a Glance

Apes to Zebras, Algeria to Zimbabwe

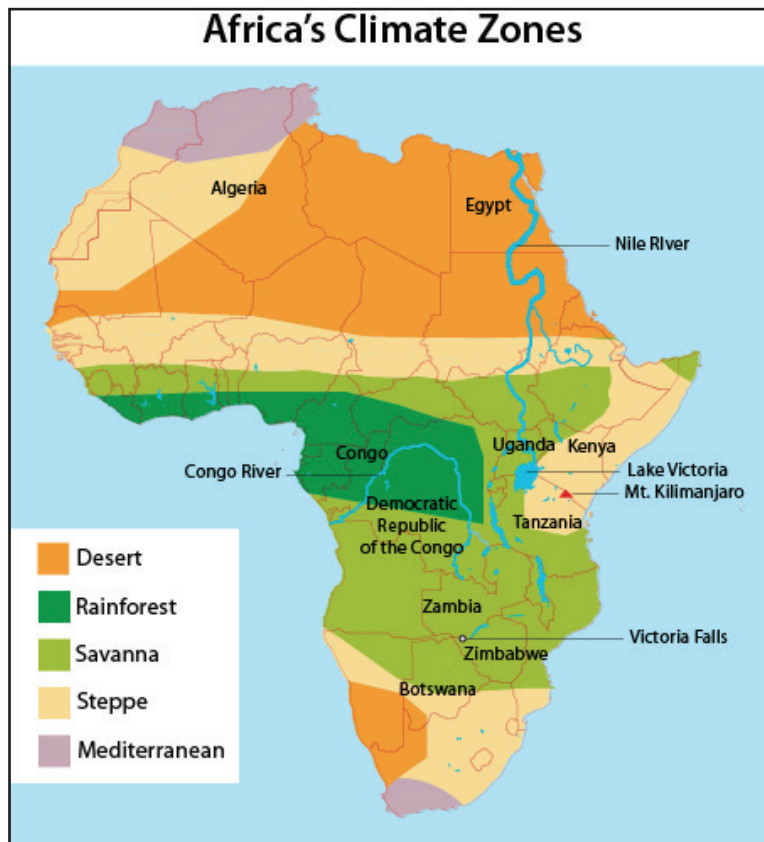


Africa is one of the seven continents that make up the world. The largest continent is Asia, which is also home to the world's largest population of people. Africa is the second-largest continent and has the second-largest population in the world.

Africa is made up of 54 different countries that are categorized into five regions: Northern Africa, Western Africa, Central Africa, Eastern Africa, and Southern Africa. Each country is unique and has its own customs, traditions, and languages. In all, more than a thousand different languages are spoken in Africa.

Africa at a Glance

Africa has many different climate zones. It is the hottest continent on the planet. More than half of Africa is made up of dry lands and desert. The Sahara Desert, covering the northern part of the continent, is the largest hot desert in the world. You may already know this, but there are cold deserts, too. A desert is a place that has very little to no rainfall. The largest deserts in the world are Antarctica and the Arctic, which are cold deserts.



Africa is known for its incredible wildlife as well as for many of its landforms. Africa's most famous wildlife lives mostly in the savannah region, but can be found anywhere south of the Sahara Desert. Famous animals of the African Savannah include lions, elephants, giraffes, rhinos, hippos, hyenas, and zebras.

Africa at a Glance

Some of Africa's best-known landforms include the Nile River, Lake Victoria, Victoria Falls, Mt. Kilimanjaro, and the rainforests of the Congo River basin. The Nile River is the longest river in the world. Unlike any other river, the waters of the Nile run from south to north (usually rivers run from north to south).

A little over 100 years ago, finding the source of the Nile River was a big deal. Several European explorers braved the jungles of Africa in order to be the first to discover it. John Hanning Speke from England was the first to discover the Nile's source in 1858. But he was apparently such a showoff about it that no one believed him for quite some time. Years later—after Speke was long dead—Lake Victoria was proven to be the true source of the Nile.

Lake Victoria is the largest lake in Africa and spreads across three countries: Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. Dangerous animals like Nile crocodile and hippos live in Lake Victoria and its surrounding wetlands.

Victoria Falls is the largest waterfall in the world. It is nowhere near Lake Victoria, however. Instead, the falls span across the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe.



Chris 73/Wikimedia Commons

Mt. Kilimanjaro

topped with three volcanic cones. It is part of Kilimanjaro National Park in Tanzania and is a popular destination for rock climbers.

Mt. Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain peak in Africa. It rises more than 16,000 feet above sea level. Kilimanjaro is a dormant volcano, which means it is no longer active. The mountain is

Africa at a Glance

Africa's rainforests are mostly located in Central Africa. The rainforests in the Congo River basin are the largest in Africa. They are home to half of Africa's wildlife. This includes gorillas and chimpanzees. As you can guess, the Congo River basin is mostly located in the Congo.

From apes to zebras and from Algeria to Zambia, Africa has a lot to offer. It has magnificent landforms, incredible wildlife, and is rich with different people and cultures. As you can see, Africa is worth more than just a glance. To find out more about Africa, search for more information online or in your library.