

Contents

1. Introduction	34. Morocco
2. Some Beginner Notes	35. Mozambique
3. Some Notes on Country Names	36. Namibia
4. Countries, Capitals and Currencies	37. Niger
5. Top 10 Countries with Largest Population	38. Nigeria
6. Top 10 Countries with Highest GDP Per capita	39. Rwanda
7. Algeria	40. Seychelles
8. Angola	41. Sierra Leone
9. Benin	42. Somalia
10. Botswana	43. South Africa
11. Burkina Faso	44. Sudan
12. Burundi	45. Swaziland
13. Cameroon	46. Tanzania
14. Cape Verde	47. Top 10 Mountains of Africa and their location
15. Chad	48. Human Geography of Africa
16. Côte d'Ivoire	49. Human Races: Going unreal
17. Democratic Republic of Congo	50. Unrealistic Classical Classification
18. Egypt	51. Tribes & Ethnic groups
19. Equatorial Guinea	52. Akan People
20. Ethiopia	53. Bantu people
21. Gabon	54. Zulu People
22. Ghana	55. Bubi people
23. Guinea	56. Dogon people
24. Guinea-Bissau	57. Grebo People
25. Kenya	58. Herero people
26. Lesotho	59. Igbo people
27. Liberia	60. Kongo people
28. Libya	61. Krumen People
29. Madagaskar	62. Maasai people
30. Malawi	63. Nilotic people
31. Mali	64. Sahrawi people
32. Mauritania	65. Hausa people
33. Mauritius	66. Other tribes of Africa

Introduction

Africa is the largest continent on Earth after Asia, with an area of 30,368,609 km² including adjacent islands. It comprises 62 political territories. It is separated from Europe by the Mediterranean Sea and much of Asia by Red Sea.



The Major bodies of water that border Africa are the Mediterranean Sea on the north, the Red Sea on the northeast, the Indian Ocean on the southeast, and the Atlantic Ocean on the west. Arms of the oceans include the Gulf of Aden, the Mozambique Channel, and the Gulf of Guinea. Africa lies on Equator (0° latitude) as well as Prime Meridian (0° longitude), and thus is the only continent occupying part of all four hemispheres of earth. Coastline of Africa is nearly everywhere regular.

✓ Isthmus of Suez which is transected by the Suez Canal joins it with Asia.

- ✓ The Sinai Peninsula of Egypt, which is the east of Suez Canal, is a part of Africa.
- ✓ Ras ben Sakka in Tunisia is the northern most point of Africa.
- ✓ Cape Agulhus in South Africa is the most southern point of Africa.

-: About this document:-

- ✓ Distance between Ras ben Sakka and Cape Agulhus is around 8000 kilometers.
- ✓ Cape Verde is the westernmost point of Africa and Ras hafun in Somalia is the easternmost point of Africa. The distance between Cape Verde and Ras Hafun is 7400 kilometers.
- ✓ Coastline of Africa is 26000 kilometers.

The extreme points of the Africa Mainland are as follows:

- ✓ Northernmost Point — Ras ben Sakka (Ra's al Abyad) (Cape Blanc), Tunisia
- ✓ Southernmost Point — Cape Agulhas, South Africa
- ✓ Westernmost Point — Pointe des Almadies, Cap Vert Peninsula, Senegal
- ✓ Easternmost Point — Ras Hafun (Raas Xaafuun), Somalia

Some Beginner Notes

- ✓ There are 53 (plus Southern Sudan) sovereign countries in Africa and a few disputed territories such as Western Sahara and Somaliland.
- ✓ The newest country of Africa is South Sudan, which is to be born on July 9, 2011 officially.
- ✓ Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania is the tallest mountain of Africa with a height of 19,340 feet (5895 meters).
- ✓ Lake Assal in Djibouti which lies at 515 feet below sea level is the lowest point in Africa.
- ✓ Sahara Desert which spans almost 9,000,000 square kilometers is the largest desert of Africa and makes part of 12 countries.
- ✓ Nile, which is the longest river in world is the longest river of Africa, runs from Uganda to Egypt for 6650 kilometers.
- ✓ Lake Victoria is the largest lake of Africa and borders three countries viz. Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. Lake Victoria is the second largest lake in world, and is the main source of Nile River.
- ✓ Madagascar off the East coast of Africa in the Indian Ocean is the largest island in Africa and the 4th largest island in the world.
- ✓ The Victoria Falls on the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe is the largest fall of Africa.
- ✓ Equator runs in Africa for almost 3500 kilometers, passing through 6 countries viz. Gabon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya and Somalia.

Some Notes on Country Names

- ✓ It's worth note that in West Africa there **3 countries called Guinea**. One is Republic of **Guinea**; another is **Republic of Guinea-Bissau** and third is **Equatorial Guinea**. Equatorial Guinea does not lie on Equator 😊
- ✓ Similarly, there are two countries with similar names viz. Mali and Malawi. Malawi is a landlocked country nestled between Tanzania, Zambia and Mozambique. Mali is a huge desert country with a rich cultural heritage in West Africa. The fabled town of Timbuktu is located in Mali. The fascinating **Dogon people** who have been discussed below in this module live in Mali.
- ✓ The **Republic of Congo** and the **Democratic Republic of Congo** (DRC) are two distinct countries. The DRC was formerly known as *Congo Free State, Belgian Congo, Congo-Léopoldville, Congo-Kinshasa, and Zaire*. The Republic of Congo in neighborhood is much smaller than the DRC. Capitals of both DRC and RC viz. Kinshasa and Brazzaville are situated on the Congo River directly across from one another.

- ✓ The **Zambia** and **Gambia** are two different countries with similar names. Zambia is in Southern Africa and home to the great Victoria falls while the Republic of Gambia is located on the western coast and is a tourist place.
- ✓ The two countries Niger and Nigeria are linked by Niger river so share the name almost. The major difference is the Niger is a drought prone country and prominently Islamic, while Nigeria is one of the most prosperous African nations, home to more than 250 ethnic groups.

Countries, Capitals and Currencies










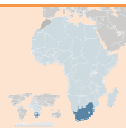



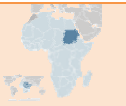





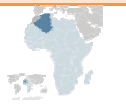




Following 54 countries are the sovereign countries of Africa.

No.	Name (official name)	Capital	Currency	Official languages
1	Algeria (People's Democratic Republic of Algeria)	Algiers	Algerian dinar	Arabic
2	Angola (Republic of Angola)	Luanda	Kwanza	Portuguese
3	Benin (Republic of Benin)	Porto Novo	West African CFA franc	French
4	Botswana (Republic of Botswana)	Gaborone	Pula	English, Setswana
5	Burkina Faso	Ouagadougou	West African CFA franc	French
6	Burundi (Republic of Burundi)	Bujumbura	Burundi franc	Kirundi, French
7	Cameroon (Republic of Cameroon)	Yaoundé	Central African CFA franc	French, English
8	Cape Verde (Republic of Cape Verde)	Praia	Cape Verdean escudo	Portuguese
9	Central African Republic (Central African Republic)	Bangui	Central African CFA franc	Sango, French
10	Chad (Republic of Chad)	N'Djamena	Central African CFA franc	French, Arabic
11	Comoros (Union of the Comoros)	Moroni	Comorian franc	Arabic, French
12	Côte d'Ivoire (Republic of Côte d'Ivoire)	Yamoussoukro	West African CFA franc	French
13	Democratic Republic of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo)	Kinshasa	Congolese franc	French
14	Djibouti (Republic of Djibouti)	Djibouti	Djiboutian Franc	Arabic, French
15	Egypt (Arab Republic of Egypt)	Cairo	Egyptian Pound	Arabic
16	Equatorial Guinea (Republic of Equatorial Guinea)	Malabo	Central African CFA franc	Spanish, French
17	Eritrea (State of Eritrea)	Asmara	Nakfa	Tigrinya, Arabic
18	Ethiopia (Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia)	Addis Ababa	Ethiopian birr	Amharic
19	Gabon (Gabonese Republic)	Libreville	Central African CFA franc	French
20	Gambia (Republic of The Gambia)	Banjul	Dalasi	English
21	Ghana (Republic of Ghana)	Accra	Ghanaian cedi	English
22	Guinea (Republic of Guinea)	Conakry	Guinean franc	French
23	Guinea-Bissau (Republic of Guinea-Bissau)	Bissau	West African CFA franc	Portuguese
24	Kenya (Republic of Kenya)	Nairobi	Kenyan shilling	Swahili, English
25	Lesotho (Kingdom of Lesotho)	Maseru	Loti	Southern Sotho, English
26	Liberia (Republic of Liberia)	Monrovia	Liberian dollar	English
27	Libya (Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab	Tripoli	Libyan dinar	Arabic

	Jamahiriya)			
28	Madagascar (Republic of Madagascar)	Antananarivo	Malagasy Ariary	Malagasy, French, English
29	Malawi (Republic of Malawi)	Lilongwe	Malawian kwacha	English, Chichewa
30	Mali (Republic of Mali)	Bamako	West African CFA franc	French
31	Mauritania (Islamic Republic of Mauritania)	Nouakchott	Mauritanian ouguiya	Arabic
32	Mauritius (Republic of Mauritius)	Port Louis	Mauritian rupee	English
33	Morocco (Kingdom of Morocco)	Rabat	Moroccan dirham	Arabic
34	Mozambique (Republic of Mozambique)	Maputo	Mozambican metical	Portuguese
35	Namibia (Republic of Namibia)	Windhoek	Namibian dollar	English
36	Niger (Republic of Niger)	Niamey	West African CFA franc	French
37	Nigeria (Federal Republic of Nigeria)	Abuja	Nigerian naira	English
38	Republic of the Congo (Republic of the Congo)	Brazzaville	Central African CFA franc	French
39	Rwanda (Republic of Rwanda)	Kigali	Rwandan franc	Kinyarwanda, French, English
40	São Tomé and Príncipe (Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe)	São Tomé	São Tomé and Príncipe Dobra	Portuguese
41	Senegal (Republic of Senegal)	Dakar	West African CFA franc	French
42	Seychelles (Republic of Seychelles)	Victoria	Seychellois rupee	English, Seychellois Creole
43	Sierra Leone (Republic of Sierra Leone)	Freetown	Leone	English
44	Somalia (Somali Republic)	Mogadishu	Somali shilling	Somali, Arabic
45	South Africa (Republic of South Africa)	Bloemfontein, Cape Town, and Pretoria	South African rand	Afrikaans, English, Southern Ndebele, Northern Sotho, Sotho, Swati, Tsonga, Tswana, Venda, Xhosa, Zulu
46	Sudan (Republic of Sudan)	Khartoum	Sudanese pound	Arabic, English
47	Swaziland (Kingdom of Swaziland)	Lobamba (royal and legislative) Mbabane (administrative)	Lilangeni	English, Swati
48	Tanzania (United Republic of Tanzania)	Dodoma	Tanzanian shilling	Swahili, English
49	Togo (Togolese Republic)	Lomé	West African CFA franc	French
50	Tunisia (Tunisian Republic)	Tunis	Tunisian dinar	Arabic
51	Uganda (Republic of Uganda)	Kampala	Ugandan shilling	English, Swahili
52	Zambia (Republic of Zambia)	Lusaka	Zambian kwacha	English
53	Zimbabwe (Republic of Zimbabwe)	Harare	Zimbabwean dollar	Shona, Ndebele, English
54	South Sudan (Republic of South Sudan)	Juba	South Sudanese Pound	English

Top 10 Countries with Largest Population

Top 10 countries with largest population are as follows:

Name	Flag	Capital	Currency	Area (km ²)	Population	Map
<u>Nigeria</u>		<u>Abuja</u>	<u>Nigerian naira</u>	923,768	154,729,000	
<u>Ethiopia</u>		<u>Addis Ababa</u>	<u>Ethiopian birr</u>	1,104,300	85,237,338	
<u>Egypt</u>		<u>Cairo</u>	<u>Egyptian Pound</u>	1,001,449	80,335,036	
<u>Democratic Republic of the Congo</u>		<u>Kinshasa</u>	<u>Congolese franc</u>	2,344,858	71,712,867	
<u>South Africa</u>		<u>Bloemfontein, Cape Town, and Pretoria</u>	<u>South African rand</u>	1,221,037	47,432,000	
<u>Tanzania</u>		<u>Dodoma</u>	<u>Tanzanian shilling</u>	945,087	37,849,133	
<u>Sudan</u>		<u>Khartoum</u>	<u>Sudanese pound</u>	1,861,484	36,787,012	
<u>Morocco</u>		<u>Rabat</u>	<u>Moroccan dirham</u>	710,850 (claimed), 446,550 (internationally recognized)	35,757,175	
<u>Kenya</u>		<u>Nairobi</u>	<u>Kenyan shilling</u>	580,367	34,707,817	
<u>Algeria</u>		<u>Algiers</u>	<u>Algerian dinar</u>	2,381,740	33,333,216	
<u>Uganda</u>		<u>Kampala</u>	<u>Ugandan shilling</u>	236,040	27,616,000	
<u>Ghana</u>		<u>Accra</u>	<u>Ghanaian cedi</u>	238,534	23,000,000	

Top 10 Countries with Highest GDP Per capita

The top 10 Countries with Highest GDP per capita are as follows:

Name (Official Name)	Capital	GDP Per Capita US\$
Equatorial Guinea (Republic of Equatorial Guinea)	Malabo	16,312
Mauritius (Republic of Mauritius)	Port Louis	13,703
Libya (Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)	Tripoli	12,700
South Africa (Republic of South Africa)	Bloemfontein, Cape Town, and Pretoria	12,161
Seychelles (Republic of Seychelles)	Victoria	11,818
Botswana (Republic of Botswana)	Gaborone	11,400
Tunisia (Tunisian Republic)	Tunis	8,800
Namibia (Republic of Namibia)	Windhoek	7,478
Algeria (People's Democratic Republic of Algeria)	Algiers	7,124
Gabon (Gabonese Republic)	Libreville	7,055

Two countries viz. Somaliland (Republic of Somaliland) and Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic have though established themselves, yet they are not sovereign.

Algeria

- ✓ Capital (and largest city): Algiers
- ✓ Official language: Arabic
- ✓ National languages: Berber
- ✓ Currency Algerian dinar (DZD)
- ✓ Algeria is the largest country on the Mediterranean Sea, the largest in the Arab world and second-largest on the African continent after Sudan.
- ✓ So once Southern Sudan comes into existence on July 9, 2011, it will be the largest African country.
- ✓ The backbone of Algeria's economy is Petroleum accounting for roughly 60% of budget revenues, 30% of GDP, and over 95% of export earnings. The country ranks 14th in petroleum reserves, containing 11.8 billion barrels of proven oil reserves.



Angola

- ✓ Capital (and largest city): Luanda
- ✓ Official language: Portuguese
- ✓ National languages: Bantu
- ✓ Currency Kwanza
- ✓ Angola is bordered by Namibia on the south, Democratic Republic of the Congo on the north, and Zambia on the east; its west coast is on the Atlantic Ocean with Luanda as its capital city.
- ✓ Angola should be noted for the exclave of Cabinda. Exclave is a territory which is though legally or politically attached to another territory with which it is not physically contiguous.
- ✓ Cabinda is one of the provinces of Angola and is separated from the rest of Angola by a narrow strip of territory belonging to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The territory is disputed.



-: About this document:-

- ✓ Angola whose economy is dominated by petroleum, get 65% of the petroleum from Cabinda only.
- ✓ Till 1975, Angola was territory of Portugal. Diamonds and oil make up 60 percent of Angola's economy, and is known for the notorious blood diamonds.

Benin

- ✓ Official name: Republic of Benin
- ✓ Capital : Porto Novo
- ✓ Currency: West African CFA franc
- ✓ Official Language: French
- ✓ Area: 1,12,622
- ✓ Population: 84,39,000
- ✓ Percapita Income: 1,176
- ✓ Benin was earlier known as **Kingdom of Dahomey**.
- ✓ Along with Togo and parts of western Nigeria, it made the Slave Coast of the medieval world history, and was the most important export centre for the Atlantic Slave trade from the early 16th century to 19th century.



Botswana

- ✓ Official Name: Republic of Botswana
- ✓ Capital : Gaborone
- ✓ Currency : Pula
- ✓ Official Language: English, Setswana
- ✓ Population: 18,39,833
- ✓ GDP per Capita: 11,400
- ✓ Its former name is British protectorate of Bechuanaland.
- ✓ Its a small landlocked country with population of less than 2 million people.
- ✓ 70% of Botswana is covered by the Kalahari Desert and was one of the poorest countries of the world when got independence from Britain in 1966.
- ✓ Now it is one of the fastest growing economies of the world and within a short span of time, it has promoted itself from a LDC country to middle income country.
- ✓ The economy is dependent upon the diamonds and beef.



Burkina Faso

- ✓ Capital: Ouagadougou
- ✓ Currency: West African CFA franc
- ✓ Official language: French
- ✓ Population: 1,32,28,000
- ✓ GDP Per capita: 1,284
- ✓ Meaning of Burkina Faso is "the land of upright people".
- ✓ It was earlier known as Republic of Upper Volta and was renamed in 1984 by its president.



-: About this document:-

- ✓ The country owes its former name of Upper Volta to three rivers which cross it: the Black Volta (or Mouhoun), the White Volta (Nakambé) and the Red Volta (Nazinon).
- ✓ The country is one of the poorest countries of the world and depends mainly upon agriculture.

Burundi

- ✓ Official Name: Republic of Burundi
- ✓ Capital : Bujumbura
- ✓ Currency: Burundi franc
- ✓ Official Languages: Kirundi, French
- ✓ Population: 75,48,000
- ✓ Per capita Income: 739
- ✓ Burundi was politically dominated by Twa, Tutsi, and Hutu peoples since ages, out of which the Tutsi people ruled it as a Kingdom before the Germans and Belgians made it a colony named Ruanda-Urundi, which is again now spitted into two countries viz. Rwanda and Burundi.
- ✓ One of the poorest countries of the world and has the lowest per capita income in the world.
- ✓ It has been dogged by several civil wars, corruption and problems of AIDs.
- ✓ The country, geographically makes the part of the Albertine Rift, the western extension of the Great Rift Valley.



Cameroon

- ✓ Official Name: Republic of Cameroon
- ✓ Capital Yaoundé
- ✓ Currency: Central African CFA franc
- ✓ Official Language: French, English
- ✓ Population: 1,77,95,000
- ✓ GDP Per Capita : 2,421
- ✓ Cameroon is called "Africa in miniature" for its geological and cultural diversity.
- ✓ It has several beaches, deserts, mountains, rainforests, and savannas and is home to over 200 different linguistic groups.
- ✓ Its national football team is most successful team of Africa in FIFA world cup and has qualified for the FIFA World Cup six times. It also won four Africa Cup of Nations and a gold medal at the 2000 Summer Olympics.



Cape Verde

- ✓ Official Name: Republic of Cape Verde
- ✓ Capital: Praia
- ✓ Currency: Cape Verdean escudo
- ✓ Official Language: Portuguese
- ✓ Population: 4,20,979
- ✓ Per capita GDP : 6,418



-: About this document:-

- ✓ Cape Verde is an archipelago of 10 islands located in the central Atlantic Ocean, 570 kilometers off the coast of Western Africa.
- ✓ These uninhabited islands were discovered by the Portuguese, who made it an important point in the Atlantic slaves trade.
- ✓ The economy of Cape Verde is service-oriented, with commerce, transport, and public services accounting for more than 70% of GDP.
- ✓ Cape Verde is famous for wave sailing.

Chad

- ✓ Official Name: Republic of Chad
- ✓ Capital : N'Djamena
- ✓ Currency: Central African CFA franc
- ✓ Official Language: French, Arabic
- ✓ Population: 1,01,46,000
- ✓ Per capita GDP: 1,519
- ✓ Due to the adverse (desert) climatic conditions, Chad is known as "Dead heart of Africa".
- ✓ The country is named after Lake Chad, which makes its largest wetland.
- ✓ The country is ruled by a party called Patriotic Salvation Movement and has been often dogged by the violence, and frequent attempts of coups d'état.
- ✓ Chad is one of the poorest and most corrupt countries in the world.
- ✓ Economy is dependent upon farming and herding.



Côte d'Ivoire

- ✓ Official Name: Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- ✓ Capital: Yamoussoukro
- ✓ Currency: West African CFA franc
- ✓ Official Language: French
- ✓ Population: 1,76,54,843
- ✓ Per Capita GDP: 1,600
- ✓ Côte d'Ivoire or Ivory Coast is a former French Colony and was once the economic power house of Africa due to its substantial production of Coffee and Cacao. It is largest producer of Cacao in world.
- ✓ In 1980s and 1990s its economy was in turmoil. In September, 2002 Ivory Coast was marred by a Civil war that continued till 2004.
- ✓ In 2003 a peace agreement was signed but it could be implemented.
- ✓ To facilitate the implementation by the Ivorian parties of the peace agreement signed by them in January 2003, the UN launched a United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire or UNCOI.
- ✓ However, it was ended in 2007 due to false allegations on the UN peacekeeping forces of sexual abuse out there.



- ✓ During the Civil War, the French armies were expected to bring peace, but they worsened the situation. With the UN mission, the French launched Operation Unicorn or Opération Licorne in Ivory Coast.

Democratic Republic of Congo

- ✓ Official Name: Democratic Republic of the Congo
- ✓ Capital : Kinshasa
- ✓ Currency: Congolese franc
- ✓ official language: French
- ✓ Population: 6,36,55,000
- ✓ Per capita GDP : 774
- ✓ The former name of Democratic Republic of the Congo is Zaire.
- ✓ Name was changed from Zaire to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1997.
- ✓ It is third largest country after Sudan and Algeria.
- ✓ Its located in the Central Africa but is NOT a landlocked country due to its very little coastline of 37 kilometers.
- ✓ It is the country where largest speakers of French language live, even more than France itself. (Congo, France, Canada, Madagascar, Cameroon and Ivory Coast are largest Francophone countries).
- ✓ This is second poorest of the poor nations of the world, but is considered to be one of the richest due to its natural resources.
- ✓ The AFRICOM Agricultural Initiative of the United States African Command and the Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture was launched in DRC in 2009.
- ✓ AFRICOM refers to Unified Combatant Commands of the United States military and its hq is in Stuttgart, Germany. It is responsible for U.S. military operations and military relations with 53 African nations of Africa except Egypt.
- ✓ This country contains great biodiversity, including many rare and endemic species, such as the common chimpanzee and the bonobo (Pygmy Chimpanzee).
- ✓ Five of its national parks are World Heritage sites.



Egypt

- ✓ Official Name: Arab Republic of Egypt
- ✓ Capital : Cairo
- ✓ Currency: Egyptian Pound
- ✓ Language: Arabic
- ✓ Population: 8,03,35,036
- ✓ Per capita GDP: 4,836
- ✓ Arab Republic of Egypt is a transcontinental country and one of the major powers in Africa, the Mediterranean region, the Middle East and the Islamic world.
- ✓ The land of Giza pyramid complex and its Great Sphinx was recently in news for its White Revolution, in which its ruler Hosni Mubarak was removed.



- ✓ Majority of Egypt's landscape is desert.
- ✓ Winds create prolific sand dunes that peak at more than 100 feet.
- ✓ Egypt includes parts of the Sahara Desert and of the Libyan Desert.
- ✓ The country is divided into 29 Governorates.
- ✓ Economy is based upon agriculture, media, petroleum exports, and tourism.
- ✓ The country had created Aswan Dam, an embankment dam situated across the Nile River in 1970, and after creation of the this dam, the *annual floods of Nile River has been checked*.
- ✓ The project was not easy to be initiated and there was much dispute with Sudan. The project was initiated by former president Gamal Abdel Nasser and that is why the lake which was created as a result of the construction of the Aswan High Dam across the waters of the Nile between 1958 and 1970, has been named Nasser Lake.

Equatorial Guinea

- ✓ Official Name: Republic of Equatorial Guinea
- ✓ Capital : Malabo
- ✓ Currency: Central African CFA franc
- ✓ Official languages: Spanish, French
- ✓ Population: 5,04,000
- ✓ Per capita GDP: 16,312
- ✓ Equatorial Guinea is located north of Gabon. The Equator passes thru Gabon but NOT thru Equatorial Guinea.
- ✓ Equatorial Guinea has the largest GDP per capita (PPP) in Africa worth US\$ 16312 , making it 28th country in the world with highest GDP per capita but 70% of the population is living under the United Nations Poverty Threshold of \$2/day.
- ✓ This is because of the fact that its considerable oil wealth actually lies in the hands of only a few people.
- ✓ Earlier, its economy was good mainly on the account of cocoa production.
- ✓ It had its own currency too called ekwele, but later it was abandoned and EG became the first no francophone country to adopt the CFA Franc as its currency.
- ✓ The Oil discovery in 1996 has remarkably increased the Government revenue in EG.



Ethiopia

- ✓ Official Name: Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- ✓ Capital: Addis Ababa
- ✓ Currency: Ethiopian birr
- ✓ Official language: Amharic
- ✓ Population: 8,52,37,338
- ✓ Per Capita Income: 823
- ✓ Ethiopia is the second-most populous nation in Africa.
- ✓ It was able to maintain its freedom except that during 1936-41, it was



-: About this document:-

under Italian occupation.

- ✓ This landlocked country was the one of the only four African members of the League of Nations. The other three were Liberia, Union of South Africa and Egypt.
- ✓ Ethiopia is home to largest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Africa.
- ✓ Ethiopia is the original source of the coffee bean, and coffee beans are the country's largest export commodity.

Gabon

- ✓ Official Name: Gabonese Republic
- ✓ Capital: Libreville
- ✓ Currency: Central African CFA franc
- ✓ Language: French
- ✓ Population: 13,84,000
- ✓ Per capita GDP: 7,055
- ✓ Gabon is the most prosperous country of the Sab-Saharan Africa and maintains highest Human Development Index.
- ✓ At present it is a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2010-2011 term.
- ✓ It is located on the equator, between latitudes 3°N and 4°S, and longitudes 8° and 15°E.
- ✓ Gabon's largest river is the Ogooué, 1200 km long.
- ✓ Only two autocratic presidents have ruled Gabon since independence from France in 1960 and the last president was Omar Bongo who ruled from 1967 till his death in 2009, one of the largest autocratic reigns in the world. Now his son, Ali Bongo rules the country.



Ghana

- ✓ Ghana is the country of ancient Ghana Empire. The meaning of word Ghana is "Warrior King " and refers to the ancient empire.
- ✓ It is mainly inhabited by the Akan people since ages.
- ✓ The British occupied it in 1874 and established the Gold Coast Crown Colony in 1874, thus it was known as Gold Coast.
- ✓ It was known for its Gold in medieval times and was one of the top producers of Gold. It became the first Sub-Saharan country to get independence from British in 1957.
- ✓ Ghana is second largest producer of Cacao after Ivory Coast. The top 5 producers of Cacao are Ivory Coast, Ghana, Indonesia, Cameroon and Nigeria.



- ✓ Lake Volta, the largest artificial lake in the world by surface area is located in Ghana.
- ✓ In 1965, the Akosombo Dam, was built on the Volta River. It provides hydro-electricity (1020 MW) for Ghana as well as its neighboring countries.
- ✓ Cape Coast Castle and Elmina Castle are the two important world Heritage sites of Ghana.

Guinea

- ✓ Official name: Republic of Guinea
- ✓ Capital: Conakry
- ✓ Currency: Guinean franc
- ✓ Language: French
- ✓ Population: 94,02,000
- ✓ Per capita GDP: 2,035
- ✓ Republic of Guinea is distinguished from Republic of Guinea-Bissau by their capitals.
- ✓ Bissau is the capital of the later and Conakry is the capital of the former.
- ✓ So, Republic of Guinea is also known as Guinea-Conakry.
- ✓ It is home to Fula, Mandinka and Susu people.
- ✓ Guinea is richly endowed with large Bauxite reserves. Bauxite mining and alumina operations in Guinea historically provide about 80% of Guinea's foreign exchange.
- ✓ However, 80% of the nation's labor force is engaged in agriculture.



Guinea-Bissau

- ✓ Official Name: Republic of Guinea-Bissau
- ✓ Capital: Bissau
- ✓ Currency: West African CFA franc
- ✓ Official language: Portuguese
- ✓ Population: 15,86,000
- ✓ Percapita GDP: 736
- ✓ Guinea-Bissau is another African country, which has one of the lowest per-capita gross domestic product.
- ✓ It's a small country which was once part of the Mali Empire. The country's capital Bissau's name had been added to its name so that it can make distinction with the Republic of Guinea. After the Mali Empire, it went into the hands of the Portuguese and became part of the notorious Slave Coast of the medieval world.
- ✓ We must note Guinea-Bissau for its military unrest of 2010, when in the month of April, its Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Junior (who is famous as Cadogo) was placed under house arrest by soldiers.



Kenya

- ✓ The name of Kenya is derived from Mount Kenya which is second highest peak of Africa after Mount Kilimanjaro.
- ✓ This country has a diversity of geography, culture, wildlife and economy. A large number of wildlife reserves are the specialty of Kenya.
- ✓ Fossils found in East Africa suggest that protohumans roamed the area more than 20 million years ago.



- ✓ Recent findings near Kenya's Lake Turkana indicate that hominids lived in the area 2.6 million years ago. It has been found by the archeologists that modern man appeared first in Kenya and that is why it is called cradle of mankind. It is one of the emerging economies of Africa and an upcoming centre of horticultural activities.
- ✓ The famous Masai Mara National Reserve is one of the reserves of Western Kenya , continuous with the Serengeti National Park game reserve of Tanzania. The famous BBC show "Big Cat Diary" was filmed in both the Reserve and Conservation areas of the Maasai Mara only.
- ✓ Kenya is currently divided into 47 semi-autonomous counties each having it own semi-autonomous government headed by an elected governor.
- ✓ Kenya's services sector, which contributes about 63 percent of GDP, is dominated by tourism. Agriculture is the second largest contributor to Kenya's GDP.
- ✓ Lake Turkana, which was earlier known as Lake Rudolf, is located mainly in Kenya, though also partly located in Ethiopia is the world's largest permanent desert lake and the world's largest alkaline lake.
- ✓ The Lake Turkana National Parks are the UNESCO world Heritage sites.

Lesotho

- ✓ Official Name: Kingdom of Lesotho
- ✓ Capital: Maseru
- ✓ Currency: Loti
- ✓ Official Language: Southern Sotho, English
- ✓ Population: 17,95,000
- ✓ Per capita GDP: 2,113
- ✓ The people who speak the Sesotho language live in Lesotho. Lesotho is again one of the poorest countries of the world.
- ✓ The two rivers of Lesotho viz. Orange and Makhalleng Rivers are at an elevation of 1400 meters. Along with them, the entire Lesotho is located at an elevation above 1400 meters. So in Lesotho, the lowest point is highest among all the countries.
- ✓ Thus Lesotho is the only sovereign country in the world, whose lowest point is highest among all countries.
- ✓ Further, Lesotho is also the Southernmost Landlocked country of the world, entirely surrounded by South Africa.



Liberia

- ✓ Official Name: Republic of Liberia
- ✓ Capital : Monrovia
- ✓ Currency: Liberian dollar
- ✓ Official language: English
- ✓ Population: 32,83,000
- ✓ Per capita GDP: 1,003



- ✓ Liberia is located on the west Coast of the Africa.
- ✓ When the whole of Europe was racing for invasion, attack, occupation, and annexation of African territories between 1881 and World War I in 1914, it was Liberia and Ethiopia only which were able to maintain their independence, not because they were strong but because they were almost isolated.
- ✓ It was colonized by the American Slaves in search of some more freedom. It became independent in 1847 and from that time has been subject to several civil wars and disturbances.
- ✓ Since 1847, it kept itself under the self imposed isolation till 1920s and only after the WWII, it was able to open some of its economy for development.
- ✓ Please note that Liberia has 40% of West Africa's rain forests. 70% of its economy is based upon agriculture.

Libya



- ✓ Official Name: Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
- ✓ Capital : Tripoli
- ✓ Currency: Libyan dinar
- ✓ Language: Arabic
- ✓ Population: 60,36,914
- ✓ Per capita GDP: 12,700
- ✓ The country is under the spell of the Libyan uprising right now and has almost split into two parts one under the regime of Muammar Gaddafi and another under the National Transitional Council of the Libyan Republic, led by Mustafa Abdul Jalil.
- ✓ Two countries viz. France and Portugal have officially recognized the Council as the official government of Libya.
- ✓ This country is one of the top 10 oil rich countries of the world.
- ✓ Its coastline is longest among the countries of Africa that border Mediterranean sea.
- ✓ The dust laden Sirocco, one of the southern winds of Africa is known as Gibli in Libya.
- ✓ There are numerous oasis scattered in the Libyan Desert out of which the Ghademes and Kufra are important.

Madagaskar



- ✓ Official Name: Republic of Madagascar
- ✓ Capital: Antananarivo
- ✓ Currency: Malagasy Ariary
- ✓ Official Languages: Malagasy, French,



- ✓ Population: 1,86,06,000
- ✓ Per capita GDP: 905
- ✓ This is one of the island nations of the African continent and the main island Madagaskar is the fourth-largest island in the world. First three are Greenland, New Guinea and Borneo.
- ✓ Madagaskar is known for its rich biodiversity. It is home to 12000 of world's plant species and 80% of flora and fauna of this wonderful island is endemic.
- ✓ The Elephant birds which got extinct in the 17th century was found only on the island of Madagaskar.
- ✓ The economy is based upon agriculture, fishing and forestry and major exports are coffee and vanilla.
- ✓ Its official languages are Malagasy and French. English too was its official language but was removed from the constitution in November 2010.
- ✓ Madagaskar is known as Red Island sometimes because of the abundance of the Red Laterite soil.

Malawi



- ✓ Official Name: Republic of Malawi
- ✓ Capital : Lilongwe
- ✓ Currency: Malawian kwacha
- ✓ Languages: English, Chichewa
- ✓ Population: 1,28,84,000



- ✓ GDP Per capita: 596
- ✓ Malwai's old name is Republic of Nyasaland and the new name is after the Lake Malawi which separates it from Tanzania and Mozambique.
- ✓ The old name Nyasaland was derived from the Nyanja people, who were also known as Maravi people.
- ✓ The nick name of Malawi is "warm heart of Africa", has very good diplomatic relations with many countries of the world.
- ✓ Whenever there is any disturbance in Mozambique or Tanzania, hordes of refugees influx into Malawi, often putting pressure on its economy.
- ✓ Lake Malawi National Park and Chongoni Rock Art Area are its world heritage sites.
- ✓ The economy is based upon agriculture and Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world. The farmers over there produce Tobacco, tea, sugarcane cotton etc.

Mali



- ✓ Official Name: Republic of Mali
- ✓ Capital: Bamako
- ✓ Currency: West African CFA franc
- ✓ Language: French
- ✓ Population: 1,35,18,000
- ✓ GDP Per Capita: 1,154



- ✓ Mali is located in western Africa and is a naturally rich country with Gold, phosphate, kaolin, salt, and limestone currently being mined.
- ✓ During 12th to 13th century, Mali was under a Mali empire which extended into almost half of the western Africa.
- ✓ The fabled town Timbuktu flourished first as a part of Mali Empire and then as a part of Ghana Empire. In mid of 18th century, half of the population of this town was wiped out by a disastrous famine.
- ✓ During colonial era, Mali came under French rule and French is its official language now.

Mauritania



- ✓ Official Name: Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- ✓ Capital: Nouakchott
- ✓ Currency: Mauritanian ouguiya
- ✓ Language: Arabic
- ✓ Mauritania lies in the west of Mali and its capital is Nouakchott.



Mauritius

- ✓ Republic of Mauritius
- ✓ Capital: Port Louis
- ✓ Currency: Mauritian rupee
- ✓ Language: English
- ✓ Population: 12,19,220
- ✓ Per Capita GDP: 13,703
- ✓ The island country of Mauritius is made up of Island of Mauritius, the islands of Cargados Carajos, Rodrigues and the Agalega Islands.
- ✓ The people out there speak Creole, French as well as English and the nearby Reunion is a French territory and even most television programmes are in French, yet the official language is only English. But even Constitution of Mauritius does not mention that English is the official language. Actually, English has been kept the official language only in the parliament, but still if a member wishes to speak in French or Creole, he/she is free to do so.
- ✓ The country was the home of the extinct Dodo, which was wiped out by the early settlers, hungry of its tasty meat.



- ✓ Mauritius got its independence from UK in 1968 and became a republic only in 1992. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, of Bihar descent is the current prime minister.
- ✓ There are many interesting things to be noted about Mauritius. It is one of the few countries in the world which have NO standing armies. It's worth noting that there are as many as 21 countries in the world which have NO standing armies. Out of them it was Costa Rica, which first of all abolished its armies. Costa Rica's constitution forbade raising of an army and that is why it was chosen as headquarters of the United Nations University of Peace. Other notable countries / territories which have no standing armies are Haiti, Panama, Iceland (but it is in NATO and has a defense agreement with US), Monaco, whose defense is looked after by France, Vatican City which maintains a Gendarmerie corps as internal police, Samoa which is defended by New Zealand.
- ✓ There is a command of Commissioner of Police which carries out all the functions of the army, police and navy. It has also raised two paramilitary forces viz. Special Mobile Force and National Coast Guard. India provides necessary support as well as advice for the SMF as well as NCG.
- ✓ The islands of Carriacou and Petit Carriacou are dependencies of Mauritius and are also known as Saint Brandon islands.
- ✓ Another notable thing about Mauritius is its Economy. Its economy is based upon sugar plantations, which were brought to here by the Dutch people and for which many Indian indentured laborers were taken in the 19th century from India.
- ✓ 90% of the cultivable land of the country grows sugarcane and export of sugarcane earns a quarter of Mauritius's foreign income. The people produce as well as enjoy rum a lot out there.
- ✓ Next industry is tourism and services. The economy has developed recently due to the offshore banking units in Mauritius, for which the red carpets were rolled out to attract business from India as well as South Africa. But for India, this has given rise to the problem of round tripping.
- ✓ It's worth noting that India receives maximum FDI inflows through the Mauritius Route. During the 2000-2010 periods Mauritius pumped in \$47.24 billion into the country constituting 43 per cent of the total FDI inflow.
- ✓ Indian government suspects that it is losing revenue due to the Round Tripping. Though, India and Mauritius have signed the double tax avoidance agreement (DTAA) but India has signed the same treaty with many other countries as well. Then, why are we suffering loss from Mauritius investments?
- ✓ This is because of the Round tripping. Round tripping refers to money from one country going out through unofficial channels and being invested back into the same country from outside to avail of tax benefits under the double tax avoidance agreement (DTAA). Round Tripping makes the government lose a large amount of revenue because the domestic firms route the investment through Mauritius. Last year, CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes) proposed that the Domestic companies routing their investments through Mauritius would soon have to pay capital gains tax.
- ✓ People in Mauritius are from all kinds of Ethnicity and Hindus make up 52% of the total population. Next are Roman Catholic 27.5 %, other Christians 8.6%, Muslims 16.6%.

Morocco



- ✓ Official Name : Kingdom of Morocco
- ✓ Capital : Rabat
- ✓ Currency: Moroccan dirham
- ✓ Language: Arabic



- ✓ Population: 3,37,57,175
- ✓ Per capita GDP: 4,600
- ✓ The first thing you should note about Morocco is that its capital is Rabat and NOT Marakkesh which is famous for the Marakkesh Accords that gave birth to the World Trade Organization.
- ✓ Sometimes, Morocco itself is called Marakkesh, mostly in Arabic and Urdu usage.
- ✓ Morocco is located in Western Africa and shares a long border on the Atlantic coastline, that reaches past the Strait of Gibraltar into the Mediterranean Sea.
- ✓ It got independence from France in 1956. Some territories were controlled by UK and Spain too. Such one notable territory is the city of Tangier, which was made an International zone in 1925 following the Tangier Protocol between France, Spain and UK. However, later it was reintegrated with Morocco in 1956.
- ✓ The Highest peak of the Atlas Mountains which spread in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia is located in Morocco. Atlas ranges separate the Mediterranean and Atlantic coastlines from the Sahara Desert.

Mozambique



- ✓ Official Name: Republic of Mozambique
- ✓ Capital : Maputo
- ✓ Currency: Mozambican metical
- ✓ Language: Portuguese
- ✓ Population: 2,03,66,795
- ✓ GDP Per capita: 1,389



- ✓ Mussa Ben Mbiki was an Arab trader who visited Mozambique first and that is why the country was named so.
- ✓ Among Europeans, it was Vasco da Gama who discovered it in 1498, the year in which he discovered India and after that it became a Portuguese colony.
- ✓ It got independence in 1975 from Portugal and after that remained busy in a Civil war from 1977 till 1992.
- ✓ Its largest river Zambezi divides the country into two parts.

Namibia



- ✓ Official Name: Republic of Namibia
- ✓ Capital: Windhoek
- ✓ Currency : Namibian dollar
- ✓ Language: English
- ✓ Population: 20,31,000



- ✓ GDP Per capita: 7,478
- ✓ Namibia was inhabited by the pygmies of Africa till 14th century and after that the Bantu people took it over. In 1884, it became a German protectorate and remained as a German Colony till 1920. After that it was given to Union of South Africa which imposed its own laws on it and from 1948, it was under the apartheid policy of South Africa, thus still ruled by the whites only and blacks were deprived of citizenship.
- ✓ After long spell of independence struggles, in 1985, Namibia was kept under an interim administration. In 1990, it gained its independence from South Africa.
- ✓ Namibia is located on the Tropic of Capricorn , which cuts it into two parts.
- ✓ The area of Namibia is 8.25 Lakh square kilometers and the population here is 21 Lakh. Thus the population density is 2.5 per square kilometers and that is why Namibia is second least dense country of the world after Mongolia.
- ✓ The vast area is geographically diverse divided into a central plateau, Namib Desert, Kalahari Desert , Great escarpment and Bushveld.
- ✓ Out of them, the Kalahari desert is the best known geographical feature. The Kalahari Desert is spread in Namibia, South Africa as well as Botswana.
- ✓ Its ecoregion Succulent Karoo extends in South Africa and Namibia and is known for world's richest flora of the succulent plants, as home to 33% of succulent plants of the world.
- ✓ The succulent Karoo is also home to maximum number of species of Geophytes, i.e. the plants that have an underground storage organ.
- ✓ The Namib Desert is spread in Angola as well as Namibia. The Namib Desert as well as the coastal desert of Namibia are one of the richest sources of diamonds in the world.
- ✓ The Economy is diverse, 10% of GDP is by mining, 13% by Manufacturing and service industry. Half of population lives below International Poverty Line.
- ✓ Half of population depends upon agriculture.
- ✓ Mining contributes to 25% of country's revenue.
- ✓ Namibia is among the top 10 largest producers of Uranium. Top five producers of Uranium are Canada (20.1%), Australia (15.7%), Namibia (9.1%), Russia (7.0%), and Niger (6.4%).

Niger



- ✓ Official name: Republic of Niger
- ✓ Capital: Niamey
- ✓ Currency: West African CFA franc
- ✓ Official Language: French
- ✓ Population: 1,39,57,000



- ✓ GDP Per capita: 872
- ✓ Niger and Nigeria both share the Niger River, so the names are alike.
- ✓ Nigeria is southern neighbor of Niger.
- ✓ This republic country is almost (80%) covered by the Sahara Desert and is one of the lowest HDI country in the world. It is yet another landlocked country of Western Africa.
- ✓ The economy is predominantly agriculture based and 14% of its GDP is by livestock.
- ✓ It is fifth largest producer of Uranium in the world and Uranium is its largest export, which accounts for more than 70% of its forex earnings.
- ✓ France has largest interest in Niger's uranium mines (not China)

Nigeria

- ✓ Official Name: Federal Republic of Nigeria
- ✓ Capital : Abuja
- ✓ Currency: Nigerian naira
- ✓ Language: English
- ✓ Population: 15,47,29,000
- ✓ GDP Per capita: 1,188
- ✓ Nigeria is India's largest trade partner among all the African Countries.
- ✓ It is the most populous country of Africa (17th in world) and most populous black majority country of the world too.
- ✓ After the Goldman Sachs created the BRIC nations as world's largest economies of the 21th century, the bank created another category of "high potential economies" of the world and named them as Next 11. Nigeria was one of these Next 11 countries. The Next 11 are Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, South Korea, Turkey and Vietnam.
- ✓ Similarly the Citigroup analysts also created a group of 3G countries (3G refers to Global Growth Generators) in which they placed Bangladesh, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Mongolia, Nigeria, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.
- ✓ Thus we see that Both Egypt and Nigeria are kept in Next 11 as well as 3G groups created by Goldman Sachs and Citigroup respectively.
- ✓ Apart from the Niger River, Benue River is another important river of Nigeria. Both these rivers make the Niger delta which is one of the largest deltas of the world. This Niger Delta was named "Oil



Rivers" once upon a time, as it was once a major producer of palm oil. However, now it is Indonesia, which produces maximum Oil palm in the world.

- ✓ Nigeria is a middle income country with mixed economy. It is 12th largest Petroleum producer country in the world and petroleum accounts for its 40% GDP.
- ✓ In the India Nigeria trade, the trade balance has always been in favor of Nigeria as we import petroleum products from it. In last year India imported worth US\$ 2,921 million from Nigeria, out of total trade of US\$ 3,373 million.
- ✓ Still 60% of the workforce of Nigeria is engaged in agriculture.
- ✓ In 2003, the country , with the help of Russia was able to send its first satellite Nigeriasat-1 in the space.
- ✓ Being most populous African nation, it is also one of the most diverse nations and is home to 250 ethnic groups. 521 Languages are spoken in the country, yet the official language is English.
- ✓ Wole Soyinka, the playwright who is best known for 1986 Nobel Prize in Literature was not only first Nigerian but also first African to win a Nobel Prize in literature.

Rwanda



- ✓ Official Name: Republic of Rwanda
- ✓ Capital: Kigali
- ✓ Currency: Rwandan franc
- ✓ Languages: Kinyarwanda, French, English
- ✓ Population: 76,00,000

- ✓ Per Capita GDP: 1,300
- ✓ Rwanda is known for its 1994 genocide in which around 10 lakh Hutus were killed by the Tutsis.
- ✓ It was earlier , a part of the German protectorate of Rwanda-Urundi, the Germans were defeated by Belgians in WWI and Rwanda-Urundi came under Belgium in 1916.
- ✓ Later the League of Nations made it a territory of Belgium, and it remained so till the end of WWII. By that time, the Hutu and Tutsi tribes had become extremely envious to each other.
- ✓ In 1959, there was revolution in which Tutsis were killed in thousands by the Hutus.
- ✓ In 1962, Rwanda was separated from Burundi and got independence. From that time onwards Rwanda has been under long spells of civil wars, conflicts, coups and killings.
- ✓ In 2003, a new constitution was adopted. The economy is based upon agriculture and 90% of the workforce in involved in it.



Seychelles

- ✓ The island country of Seychelles is an archipelago of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean, 1500 kilometers away from the Mainland Africa. It is smallest populated country of Africa.

Sierra Leone

Official Name: Republic of Sierra Leone

- ✓ Capital: Freetown
- ✓ Currency: Leone
- ✓ Language: English
- ✓ Population: 61,44,562
- ✓ Per Capita GDP: 903
- ✓ This west African country is rich in diamonds, which make its economic base. It is counted among the top producers of Diamond.

**Somalia**

- ✓ Official Name: Somali Republic
- ✓ Capital: Mogadishu
- ✓ Currency: Somali shilling
- ✓ Language: Somali, Arabic
- ✓ Population: 98,32,017
- ✓ Per capita GDP: 600
- ✓ Somalia is best known for Somali pirates. The Civil war which started in 1991 left no party to control the country and there is a Transitional Federal Government which controls it. This is among the poorest and most violent countries of the world. It was once upon a time known as Land of Punt, which produced and exported gold, aromatic resins, African Blackwood, ebony, ivory, slaves and wild animals. Xeer is Somali customary law, which is followed in Somalia since ages.

**South Africa**

- ✓ Official Name: Republic of South Africa
- ✓ Capitals: Bloemfontein, Cape Town, and Pretoria
- ✓ Currency: South African rand
- ✓ Languages: Afrikaans, English, Southern Ndebele, Northern Sotho, Sotho, Swati, Tsonga, Tswana, Venda, Xhosa, Zulu
- ✓ Population: 4,74,32,000
- ✓ Per capita GDP: 12,161
- ✓ This parliamentary democracy with 9 states is known for its diversity culture and languages, it has 11 Official languages. It is also the country with the largest ratio of the population of Europeans, Asians and other people. Largest number of Indian origin people live in the province of Natal.
- ✓ South Africa has 3 capitals viz. Pretoria (executive), Bloemfontein (judicial) and Cape Town (legislative). The seat of the government is Pretoria, while the Union parliament has its seat at Cape Town. Of the European population 58 per cent are Afrikaners or Afrikaners, also known as Boers, of Dutch origin; their language is Afrikaans, a branch of Dutch evolved in South Africa. The other whites are British.
- ✓ After the South African or Boer War (1899-1902) Britain annexed the Boer republics, Transvaal and the Orange Free State; their self-government was restored in 1907 and in 1910 they were united with the Cape Colony and Natal into the Union of South Africa. The Crown is represented in South

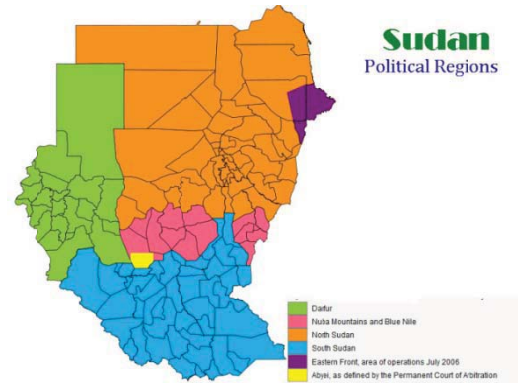


Africa, as in all Commonwealth states, by a Governor-General. It got independence from UK on 31 May 1910 and became republic in 1961.

- ✓ Gauteng province (Capital: Johannesburg) is the most populous province Northern Cape (Capital: Kimberley) is the largest province area wise.

Sudan

- ✓ Official Name: Republic of Sudan
- ✓ Capital: Khartoum
- ✓ Currency: Sudanese pound
- ✓ Languages: Arabic, English
- ✓ Population: 3,91,54,490
- ✓ Per Capita GDP: 2,522
- ✓ The Republic of Sudan, is a country in northeastern Africa, bordered by Egypt to the north, the Red Sea to the northeast, Eritrea and Ethiopia to the east, Kenya and Uganda to the southeast, the Congo and the Central African Republic to the southwest, Chad to the west and Libya to the northwest.
- ✓ It is divided by Nile, the longest river of World in East and West.
- ✓ Capital is Khartoum and Omdurman is the largest city of Sudan.



Swaziland

- ✓ Official Name: Kingdom of Swaziland
- ✓ Capitals: Lobamba (royal and legislative) Mbabane (administrative)
- ✓ Currency: Lilangeni
- ✓ Languages: English, Swati
- ✓ Population: 10,32,000
- ✓ Per Capita GDP: 5,245
- ✓ Swaziland is also known as Ngwane or Swatini, the name derives from the name of a King called Mswati II. It is the Landlocked country bordered by South Africa and Mozambique. Its a small country with 200X130 kilometer area. It was a British protectorate after Boer war and got indepdnce in 1968.



Tanzania

- ✓ Official Name: United Republic of Tanzania
- ✓ Capital: Dodoma
- ✓ Currency: Tanzanian shilling
- ✓ Languages: Swahili, English
- ✓ Population: 3,78,49,133
- ✓ Per Capita GDP: 723
- ✓ Tanzania is one of the oldest known inhabited areas on Earth. Its former political capital was dar es Salaam and since 1996, Dodoma is serving as capital. It became a German protectorate in 1891 and later British protectorate. The two parts Tanganyika and Zanzibar got independence in 1961 from UK. The Islands of Zanzibar are separated from the mainland Tanzania by 922 kilometer channel.



The Economy is mostly based upon agriculture, topography is largely mountainous. Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak of Africa is located in Tanzania. The Great Lakes of Lake Victoria (Africa's largest lake) and Lake Tanganyika (Africa's deepest lake, known for its unique species of fish) are also located in Tanzania. Gombe National Park is known for Chimpanzees, where Jane Morris Goodall, the world's foremost expert on chimpanzees studies them for almost half a century. Kalambo Falls, the second highest in Africa are also located in Tanzania.

Top 10 Mountains of Africa and their location

Mountain	Height	Country
Mount Kilimanjaro	(5,895 m),	Tanzania - highest mountain in Africa
Mount Kenya	(5,199 m),	Kenya
Mount Stanley	(5,119 m),	Congo-Uganda
Mount Speke	(4,890 m),	Congo-Uganda
Mount Baker	(4,844 m),	Uganda
Mount Emin	(4,798 m),	Congo-Uganda
Mount Gessi	(4,715 m),	Congo-Uganda
Mount Luigi di Savoia	(4,627 m),	Congo-Uganda
Mount Meru	(4,566 m),	Tanzania - little known due to its close proximity to Kilimanjaro
Ras Dejen	(4,533 m),	Ethiopia

Human Geography of Africa

The study of human use and understanding of the world, the spatial differentiation and organization of human activities and its interrelationships with the physical environment comes under the Human Geography. Its subfields include the Cultural geography, Development Geography, Economic Geography, Health Geography and Historical Geography, Population Geography, Tourism Geography etc.

Human Race

Humans have been classified into relatively large and distinct populations or groups based upon the factors such as appearance, ancestry etc. and each distinct population have been called a Race.

Thus Human Race is the division of mankind, marked by physical characteristics, more or less permanent distinguishing physical characteristics.

There are a no set criteria to define a race exactly. Earlier, the colour of skin and hair type were to delineate three to five biological races, namely, the Caucasoid, the Negroid, and the Mongoloid, Australoid and American Indians.

However, with the development of technology, various other things started being taken into account such as blood groups, genetic diseases, etc.

Human Races: Going unreal

In the last 4 decades, there has been a major change in the biological understanding of the concept of Human Race. This has been largely due to the improvement in human knowledge in the field of genetics. The race has now ceased to be a fundamental reality which characterizes the Human Species. This is based upon the following facts:

The Human species as a whole has immense genetic variation from person to person. It has been found that any two unrelated humans differ by approximately 3 million DNA variants.

85% of the Human population is consist of individuals who are ethnically / linguistically different but race become unrealistic on account of the immigration of the population from other groups in earlier times.

Only small populations of some less genetically variable tribes can be found in some parts of the world , though by no means, they too are genetically unique. Only 15% of the Human races are classically defined as human races.

Further, the classical spatial distribution of the Human Races as indentified as Negroid, Caucasoid, Mongoloid, Australoid, Indic, Polynesian, Melanesian, Oceanic and American Indians does not confine theme to the continents and countries. For example, the Caucasoid does not mean that the individuals of this race are found in Europe only. Similarly Mongoloids, apart from the central, eastern and south eastern Asia, are found in America also. There is no definition of the Hindi and Urdu speaking individuals of the India & South Asia , if we try to fix the whole population into a particular race.

Unrealistic Classical Classification

The races have been defined in the earlier models on the basis of the color of skin, stature, cephalic Index, Nose Index, Shape of Face, Shape of Nose, Eyes, hair , Body Build etc.

But this classification is itself unrealistic and confusion. For example on the basis of color , there are black, white and yellow races. However, never a really white, black or yellow human has been seen by anybody. Similarly, the height of the individuals is decided by the genetic composition, food and nutrition, the human races cannot be divided into short, medium and tall groups.

One important concept in the earlier models is the **cephalic Index** – the ratio of the maximum width of the head multiplied by 100 divided by its maximum length, used by the anthropologists to classify the human population into categories. The cephalic Index is defined as

$$= \frac{\text{width of head}}{\text{length of head}} \times 100$$

Accordingly the cephalic Index categorized the humans as follows

Females	Males	Scientific term	Meaning
< 75	< 75.9	<i>dolichocephalic</i>	'long-headed'
75 to 83	76 to 81	<i>mesaticephalic</i>	'medium-headed'
> 83	> 81.1	<i>brachycephalic</i>	'short-headed'

Similar concept is the **Nose Index** which is defined as follows:

$$\text{None index} = \frac{\text{nose width at the nostrils}}{\text{nose length}} \times 100$$

But today, the above definitions are almost irrelevant. The cephalic Index is now used only for some obstetrical reasons while the nose index is irrelevant.

Tribes & Ethnic groups

Approximately 4 % of the Human Population is made of Tribal population. The word Tribe is made up of *Tribus* , which means third part of people. The word was used in medieval Europe for 13 tribes of Israel too. The tribes are strikingly different and diverse in their culture, faith, religion, language, customs, traditions, Socio-economic organizations etc. The tribes have been victims of the aggression by the nontribal population, colonist powers.

Tribes are often synonymous with the Indigenous populations. Indigenous people have been defined by the United nations as follows:

“Indigenous communities, peoples and nations are those which, having a historical continuity with pre-invasion and pre-colonial societies that developed on their territories, consider themselves distinct from other sectors of the societies now prevailing on those territories, or parts of them. They form at present non-dominant sectors of society and are determined to preserve, develop and transmit to future generations their ancestral territories, and their ethnic identity, as the basis of their continued existence as peoples, in accordance with their own cultural patterns, social institutions and legal system.”

Major tribes of the world - Africa:

Akan People

- ✓ Akan people are a historically important ethnic group of Western Africa.
- ✓ They are in majority on Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
- ✓ Akan speak Kwa languages.
- ✓ The Ahanta tribe of Akan people celebrates the Kundum festival, which is a harvest festival of Western Africa tribes.
- ✓ Akan culture is the most dominant and apparent in present-day Ghana.
- ✓ Kente cloth, known locally as nwentoma, is a type of silk and cottonfabric made of interwoven cloth strips and is native to the Akan people of Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
- ✓ Asante Empire, also known as the Ashanti Confederacy was a pre-colonial West African state created by the Akan people of what is now the Ashanti Region in Ghana.
- ✓ Akan people who speak Asante, an Akan dialect similar to Fante language are called Ashanti people who live in Ghana.
- ✓ Ashanti are 19% of Ghana's population which makes it the largest of the cultural groups in Ghana, followed by Fante, the Ewe and Ga. Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan is half-Ashanti half-Fante

Bantu people

- ✓ 300-600 ethnic groups in Africa of speakers of Bantu languages, distributed from Cameroon east across Central Africa and Eastern Africa to Southern Africa are called Bantu people.
- ✓ Bantu people form around 1/3 of Africa's total population of 1 billion.
- ✓ Bantu people are fragmented into hundreds of individual groups out of which the largest is the Zulu people with some 10 million population.
- ✓ Swahili, the important language of Africa is a Bantu language. It has only 5-10 million native speakers but of super-regional importance as tens of millions are fluent second language speakers.

Zulu People

- ✓ The speakers of Zulu language are Zulu people, whose total population is 10 million and the vast majority (over 95%) of whom live in South Africa.
- ✓ Zulu is one of the 11 official languages of South Africa. The official languages are *Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, siSwati, Tshivenda, Xitsonga, Afrikaans, English, isiNdebele, isiXhosa and isiZulu*.
- ✓ In South Africa, most common language spoken at home is Zulu (24 percent speak Zulu at home), followed by Xhosa (18 percent), and Afrikaans (13 percent).
- ✓ The Zulu people are the largest South African ethnic group, with an estimated 10–11 million people living mainly in the province of KwaZulu-Natal.
- ✓ John Langalibalele Dube, the first President of the African National Congress was a Zulu.
- ✓ Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa is also from Zulu Tribe.

Bubi people

- ✓ Bubi people is one of the African ethnic groups, who are members of the Bantu group, indigenous to Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea.
- ✓ The largest population of Bubi people is in Equatorial Guinea followed by Spain, where they migrated during the colonial era.

Dogon people

- ✓ Dogon people are mainly inherited in Mali and some parts of Niger as well as Burkina Faso.
- ✓ Their mythology, their mask dances, wooden sculpture and their architecture are most unique, making them one of the most important tourist destination of Mali.

Grebo People

- ✓ Grebo people are found in significant population in Liberia. They are also in a significant number in Côte d'Ivoire, but at refugees.
- ✓ These people have long been known for practicing ritual murder and cannibalism. It was believed that practitioners of traditional indigenous religions among the Grebo and Krahn ethnic groups concentrated in Liberia are engaged in ritual killings.
- ✓ The victims were usually members of the religious group performing the ritual.
- ✓ Body parts of a member whom the group believed to be powerful were considered to be the most effective ritually. Body parts most frequently removed include the heart, liver, and genitals.
- ✓ The practice is called "juju" and has been an important element of Liberia's political culture.
- ✓ Practices such as ritual human sacrifice and cannibalism are usually associated with people seeking power or to those who fear losing it. During the times of President Charles Taylor (1997-2003), there was a series of Civil wars in which they Grebo people emerged as political tribes.

Herero people

- ✓ Herero people are one of the ethnic groups of Bantu people who live in mostly in Namibia and also in some numbers in Botswana and Angola.
- ✓ Along with Nama people, they make majority of the tribal population in Namibia and Botswana.
- ✓ During the first few years of the 20th century, the Herero and Nama people had begun a great rebellion against the colonist Germans which that lasted until 1907.

- ✓ In this, for the first time, the German empire used the method of genocide to crush the rebellions and the war ending with the utter destruction of the Herero people.
- ✓ Himba people is another ethnic group of Namibia.

Igbo people

- ✓ 15-30 million people worldwide are speakers of the Igbo and Igboid languages, collectively called Igbo people.
- ✓ Igbo people make the most influential ethnic group of Nigeria and are also found in smaller number in Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea.
- ✓ Most Igbo people are farmers and Yam, a kind of sweet potato (but from different genus) is the most important crop of these people.
- ✓ Igbo people became politically dominant in the mid of the 20th century and fought with the rest of the Nigerians, defeated them and claimed an independent country called Biafra.
- ✓ This Republic of Biafra was in existence from 1967 till 1970, when they were again defeated by Nigeria and the state of Biafra was again absorbed in Nigeria.
- ✓ These people still are struggling for creation of a separate Igbo state under the banner of MASSOB or Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra.
- ✓ *Things Fall Apart (1958)* is the most widely read book in modern African literature. This book deals in depth with the history and culture of the Igbo people. It has been written by Chinua Achebe, a world famous writer and critic belonging to the Igbo people.

Kongo people

- ✓ Kongo People or Congolese, is a one of the subgroups of Bantu ethnic group which lives along the Atlantic coast of Africa mainly in Congo and Angola.
- ✓ This ethnic group is best known for the ancient sacred medicine called "Nkisi" used by the healers, diviners, and mediators who defend the living against witchcraft and provide them with remedies against diseases resulting either from witchcraft or the demands of the bad spirits.

Krumen People

- ✓ Krumen people is an ethnic group living mostly along the coast of Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire. They speak Kru language and are skillful fishermen.

Maasai people

- ✓ Maasai people are located in Kenya and Tanzania and are one of the most celebrated (well known) ethnic groups of Africa.
- ✓ The language of Maasai people is Maa.
- ✓ The number of Maasai people is around 9 Lakh both in Tanzania and Kenya.
- ✓ Contrary to the other ethnic groups of the African Countries, where the society is matriarchal, Maasai society is a patriarchal in nature.
- ✓ The Maasai people are monotheistic and their God is called Enkai or Engai.
- ✓ The Engai deity is single but has dual nature viz. Engai Narok or Black Engai which is benevolent, and Engai Nanyokie or Red Engai which is malevolent.

- ✓ Ol Doinyo Lengai, a volcano located in the north of Tanzania is the Mountain of God for the Masai people.
- ✓ Like other tribal groups of Africa, practice of female circumcision draws a great deal of criticism from both abroad and many women who have undergone it in Africa.

Nilotic people

- ✓ Nilotic people are located in southern Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, and northern Tanzania and speak the Nilotic languages.

Sahrawi people

- ✓ Sahrawi people are located in the westernmost Sahara Desert in Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria and are mostly Arabs or Berber people.
- ✓ They have created the Polisario Front, which is the Western Sahara's national liberation movement, militating for the independence of the Western Sahara since 1973. It was initially against the Spanish people but later turned against Mauritania and Morocco.

Hausa people

- ✓ Hausa people are found in West African regions of northern Nigeria and southeastern Niger with significant numbers living in regions of Sudan, Cameroon, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, and Chad.
- ✓ Kano, north Nigeria is considered the center of Hausa trade and culture.
- ✓ Aka people
- ✓ Aka people is a group of nomadic African pygmy people who live by hunting and centered in Western Central African Republic and Northwest Congo (RPC).
- ✓ The Aka are one of three groups of pygmies, collectively called BaMbuti, one of several indigenous pygmy groups in the Congo region of Africa, mainly in centered in the forest of Ituri, a tropical rainforest.

Other tribes of Africa

The following table presents the Ethnic groups of the Africa with biggest population

Group	Language	Countries	Population
Egyptians, Arabs	Egyptian Arabic (Masri)	Egypt	83
Berbers, Arabs	Berber, Arabic languages	Morocco, Algeria, Libya	75
Igbo (Ibo)	Igbo	Nigeria, Cameroon, Southern Cameroons	30
Oromo	Oromo	Ethiopia, Kenya	30
Yoruba	Yoruba	Nigeria, Benin, Ghana, Togo	30
Fulani	Fula	Guinea, Nigeria, Cameroon, Senegal, Mali, Sierra Leone Central African Republic, Burkina Faso, Benin, Niger, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Ghana, Chad, Mauritania, Sudan, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire	27
Akan	Akan	Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire	20
Amhara	Amharic	Ethiopia	20
Somali	Somali	Somalia, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya	20
Hutu	Rwanda-Rundi	Rwanda, Burundi, DR Congo	16

Ijaw	Ijaw	Nigeria	14
Mandinka	Mandingo	The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Guinea Bissau, Niger, Mauritania, Chad	13
Shona	Shona	Mozambique, Zimbabwe	10.6
Zulu	Zulu	South Africa	10.6
Kongo	Kongo	Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola, Republic of the Congo	10
Chewa	Chichewa	Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe	9

- Note: The maps in this document are used from **Wikimedia commons** under Creative Commons Sharealike License and **CIA World Fact Book 2009** under GNU-GPL License.