World Geography: Africa: Teacher’s Guide

Grade Level: 6-12  Curriculum Focus: Geography  Duration: 38 segments; 88 minutes

Program Description
This library of videos contains segments on the geography, climate, culture, and history of the African continent.

NORTH AFRICA
- A Look at Africa (5 min.)
- Overview of North Africa (2 min.)
- Chad and Sudan (3 min.)
- Libya (2 min.)
- Mauritania (2 min.)
- Morocco (3 min.)
- Algeria (2 min.)
- Egypt (3 min.)

WEST AFRICA
- A Look at Africa (5 min.)
- Overview of West Africa (3 min.)
- Burkina Faso and Benin (2 min.)
- Cameroon (2 min.)
- Cote d’Ivoire (2 min.)
- The Gambia and Senegal (2 min.)
- Guinea (2 min.)
- Sierra Leone (2 min.)
- Ghana (3 min.)
- Mali (3 min.)
- Nigeria (3 min.)
EAST AFRICA

- A Look at Africa (5 min.)
- Overview of East Africa (3 min.)
- Burundi (2 min.)
- Rwanda (2 min.)
- Somalia (2 min.)
- Uganda (2 min.)
- Ethiopia (2 min.)
- Kenya (3 min.)
- Mauritius (4 min.)
- United Republic of Tanzania (3 min.)

CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

- A Look at Africa (5 min.)
- Overview of Central and Southern Africa (2 min.)
- South Africa (3 min.)
- Angola (2 min.)
- Zambia (2 min.)
- Mozambique (2 min.)
- Zimbabwe (3 min.)
- Botswana (2 min.)
- Namibia (3 min.)

Thematic Units

Help your students evaluate and analyze what they view in the videos with the Essential Questions for each Thematic Unit.

History

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What events or civilizations are characteristic of the ancient history of the African continent?
- What historical changes have taken place in many African countries in the 20th century? What changes can you anticipate for the future for some countries?
How has AIDS affected the development of some African countries? What other crises have slowed Africa’s progress, especially compared to Western countries?

SEGMENTS

Joseph Conrad & *Heart of Darkness*

- **Pre-viewing question**
  What is imperialism? Why did Europeans believe that imperialism was beneficial?

- **Post-viewing question**
  Give examples of European imperialism. Why were Europeans successful in dominating African countries in the late 1800s?

Africa’s Slave Trade

- **Pre-Viewing Question**
  From where were many slaves purchased? When did the practice of transatlantic slave transportation become illegal in the United States?

- **Post-Viewing Question**
  Why did Europeans initially bring African slaves to the Americas? Describe key events that helped abolish slave trading in the U.S.

Egypt

- **Pre-Viewing Question**
  What do you know about Egypt’s history? What geographic feature is central to its history and way of life?

- **Post-Viewing Question**
  Who are the fellaheen? What techniques do they use to grow crops along the Nile? How are these techniques threatened?

Zimbabwe: Lost City of Africa

- **Pre-viewing question**
  Who colonized much of southern Africa? When did most colonization take place?

- **Post-viewing question**
  When was the Great Zimbabwe built? Who built it and why is this important in African history?

Culture

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- How has traditional culture been preserved in many African countries? How does Western culture influence some countries?

- Describe the lifestyle of the vast majority of Africans. How do they support themselves? What are their expectations for the future?
• What changes may be imminent for some Africans? What must take place so their lives will be improved??

SEGMENTS

Ethiopia

• Pre-viewing question
  How does Ethiopia compare in size to Texas? What are some of the geographical features of this country?

• Post-viewing question
  Describe the weather cycle of Ethiopia’s Rift Valley. How do many farmers adapt to the cycle?

Weaving & the Fabric of Africa

• Pre-Viewing Question
  Are you familiar with traditional African clothing? Describe the styles and designs.

• Post-Viewing Question
  What are the different fabrics and garments of Africa? How are they important to the Africans’ history and culture?

Economics

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

• What are Africa’s natural resources? What obstacles must Africans overcome to use these resources successfully?

• Name some predominant geographic features on the African continent. How have Africans made use of these features to survive, as well as benefit their economies?

SEGMENTS

Ghana

• Pre-viewing question
  What are potential negative effects of not monitoring the cutting of forests?

• Post-viewing question
  How can people in Ghana help replenish their forests? Why is this important?

United Republic of Tanzania

• Pre-Viewing Question
  Where is Lake Victoria? Where does the water from this lake flow?

• Post-Viewing Question
  How has the introduction of the Nile perch in Lake Victoria been beneficial and problematic for the people of Tanzania?
Nigeria

- **Pre-viewing question**
  Where is Nigeria located? What do you know about its economy?

- **Post-viewing question**
  What challenges do Nigerians face in exploiting their country’s oil reserves and farming their land?

Kenya

- **Pre-viewing question**
  Where is Kenya located? Based on its geography, what industries might be successful there?

- **Post-viewing question**
  Why have French beans become a major export of Kenya? What challenges do the bean farmers face?

Mali

- **Pre-viewing question**
  Where is Mali located? Which European country ruled Mali until 1960?

- **Post-viewing question**
  How have the harsh droughts of the region affected people in Mali? What are they doing to improve their lives?

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**Academic Standards**

**Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL)**

McREL’s Content Knowledge: A Compendium of Standards and Benchmarks for K-12 Education addresses 14 content areas. To view the standards and benchmarks, visit link: [http://www.mcrel.org/compendium/browse.asp](http://www.mcrel.org/compendium/browse.asp)

This lesson plan addresses the following national standards:

- Geography — The World in Spatial Terms: Knows the location of places, geographic features, and patterns of the environment; Places and Regions: Understands the physical and human characteristics of place, Understands the concept of regions; Human Systems: Understands the nature and complexity of Earth’s cultural mosaics, Understands the patterns and networks of economic interdependence on Earth’s surface

- Language Arts — Viewing: Uses viewing skills and strategies to understand and interpret visual media

**The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)**

NCSS has developed national guidelines for teaching social studies. To become a member of NCSS, or to view the standards online, go to [http://www.socialstudies.org](http://www.socialstudies.org)
This lesson plan addresses the following thematic standards:

- Culture
- Time, Continuity, and Change
- People, Places, and Environments
- Power, Authority and Governance
- Production, Distribution, and Consumption
- Science, Technology, and Society
- Global Connections

Support Materials

Related Lesson Plans

You can find hundreds of lesson plans online at http://www.discoveryschool.com. The following lesson plans work well with the video segments in this library collection.

- **Stories From Africa** (grades K–5)
  http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/storiesfromafrica/
- **Africa: Its People and Places** (grades K–5)
  http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/africapeopleandplaces/
- **Africa: Economics and Change** (grades 6–8)
  http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/africaeconomics/
- **Africa: Shaped by the Past** (grades 6–8)
  http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/africapast/
- **Africa Today** (grades 6–8)
  http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/africatoday/

Other Resources

Develop custom worksheets, educational puzzles, online quizzes, and more with the free teaching tools offered on the Discoveryschool.com Web site. Create and print support materials, or save them to a Custom Classroom account for future use. To learn more, visit

- http://school.discovery.com/teachingtools/teachingtools.html
**DVD Content**

This program is available in an interactive DVD format. The following information and activities are specific to the DVD version.

**How To Use the DVD**

The DVD starting screen has the following options:

*Play Video*—This plays the video from start to finish. There are no programmed stops, except by using a remote control. With a computer, depending on the particular software player, a pause button is included with the other video controls.

*Country Index*—This DVD is divided into 38 country selections, grouped into four regional selections indicated by video thumbnail icons. Within each regional selection, you can select a submenu of video segments. Watching all the segments in sequence is similar to watching a video from start to finish; the total running time (TRT) is listed for each segment. To play a particular segment, press Enter on the remote control; on a computer, click once to highlight a thumbnail or menu item, and click again to start the segment.

*Thematic Units*—This option groups the segments by curricular units. Videos that fall under the themes of History, Culture, and Economics are regrouped as such.

*Maps*—Select an individual map or view all maps as a slide show.

*Standards Link*—Selecting this option displays a single screen that lists the national academic standards the video addresses.

*Teacher Resources*—This screen gives the technical support number and Web site address.

**Country Index**

**NORTH AFRICA**

**A Look at Africa (5 min.)**

Africa is the second largest continent on the planet and home to more than 740 million people. The Sahara, Mt. Kilimanjaro, the Nile, the Great Rift Valley, and Lake Victoria are some of its most distinctive geographic features.

**Overview of North Africa (2 min.)**

Bordered by the Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea, and the Red Sea, and home to the Nile River, North Africa is a desert region that benefits from its essential waterways.

**Chad and Sudan (3 min.)**

Chad and Sudan are located in North Africa. Ancient Nubians once lived in the area, and archaeologists are studying artifacts to learn more about them.
Libya (2 min.)

Even with its abundance of oil, Libya has suffered economically as a result of international sanctions. The United Nations and the United States established sanctions to punish Libya for its association with terrorists, but other sanctions have been lifted.

Mauritania (2 min.)

Mauritania has a relatively small human population and an unusually large population of crocodiles. The people in this country are working to protect these large reptiles.

Morocco (3 min.)

On the northern coast of Africa across the Strait of Gibraltar lies Morocco. Most of its people practice Islam; the Berbers, the country’s earliest inhabitants, make up close to 60 percent of the population.

Algeria (2 min.)

More than three times the size of Texas, Algeria is located almost entirely within the Sahara. To raise date crops, Algerian farmers use an ancient method of moving water from underground reservoirs to the surface.

Egypt (3 min.)

The Nile is the reason for Egypt’s agricultural success. Rich nutrients in the river’s silt allow Egyptian farmers to grow a variety of crops.

WEST AFRICA

A Look at Africa (5 min.)

Africa is the second largest continent on the planet and home to more than 740 million people. The Sahara, Mt. Kilimanjaro, the Nile, the Great Rift Valley, and Lake Victoria are some of its most distinctive geographic features.

Overview of West Africa (3 min.)

West Africa is made up of desert, semiarid grasslands, savanna, and tropical rain forests. People living in this region have adapted to its climates, making the most of its natural resources.

Burkina Faso and Benin (2 min.)

Burkina Faso borders Benin to the north. It is one of the poorest countries in the world because it has a very limited amount of arable land. International organizations are helping villagers in Burkina Faso manage their land.

Cameroon (2 min.)

More than 200 ethnic groups live in Cameroon, each with a different musical tradition. The country’s leading industries are oil refining, farming, and cocoa production.
Cote d’Ivoire (2 min.)
For several decades Cote d’Ivoire has been one of the most prosperous countries in tropical Africa. But since 1999 it has endured political turmoil over the status of its immigrants.

The Gambia and Senegal (2 min.)
The Gambia, the smallest country in Africa, lies within the borders of neighboring Senegal. Most Gambians are farmers who must cope with the environmental threats of desertification and deforestation.

Guinea (2 min.)
Even though Guinea has a wealth of natural resources, most people do not enjoy their country’s prosperity. Mostly undeveloped, Guinea struggles to manage the immigration of refugees from nearby countries.

Sierra Leone (2 min.)
Settled in the late 1800s by freed slaves, Sierra Leone is also home of the Mende and Temne people. A decade-long civil war ended in 1999; since then much of the population has been working to rebuild the country’s economy and infrastructure.

Ghana (3 min.)
Ghana is rich in natural resources, but poor management of farming and the timber industries has hurt its economy. The country is at risk of losing the valuable resources its residents need to survive.

Mali (3 min.)
The arid land of Mali makes it difficult to grow many crops. But the farmers in this country are benefiting from governmental changes that let them make more money. And they have put that money into their communities.

Nigeria (3 min.)
Managing its large oil reserves is a top priority for the Nigerian government. Although oil is a lucrative natural resource, drilling has taken a great toll on the country’s farmers.

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Africa is the second largest continent on the planet and home to more than 740 million people. The Sahara, Mt. Kilimanjaro, the Nile, the Great Rift Valley, and Lake Victoria are some of its most distinctive geographic features.
Overview of East Africa (3 min.)
East Africa has some of the most mountainous and fertile areas in all of Africa. Because trade routes crossed it during the Middle Ages, the region’s residents have many different cultures.

Burundi (2 min.)
Small, poor, and densely populated, Burundi is located in east-central Africa. The United Nations has placed a peacekeeping force in the country to ease ongoing tensions between ethnic groups and to make the country safer.

Rwanda (2 min.)
Located in east-central Africa, Rwanda is an impoverished landlocked country. A civil war in 1994 took the lives of more than 800,000 Rwandans. The country is trying to recover, and many orphaned children are struggling to care for their families.

Somalia (2 min.)
Many nomads live in Somalia, an East African and predominantly Muslim country. The Somali people have suffered from civil war, drought, and famine for many years, and international aid organizations are working to improve the quality of life.

Uganda (2 min.)
Conservation programs in Uganda are working to protect the endangered mountain gorilla population. Continued poaching and habitat destruction threaten the species with extinction.

Ethiopia (2 min.)
Located in East Africa, Ethiopia is almost twice the size of Texas. Many people live in the fertile Rift Valley, but harsh droughts have forced some families to leave their homes to find food.

Kenya (3 min.)
Farming is the livelihood of nearly 70 percent of Kenya’s population, and many farmers grow French beans. Cultivating millions of pounds of beans for export to foreign countries is a billion-dollar business.

Mauritius (4 min.)
After gaining independence in 1968, the island nation of Mauritius put its industrious labor force to work and improved its economy.

United Republic of Tanzania (3 min.)
On the country’s northern border lies Lake Victoria, the world’s second largest freshwater lake. It provides important resources for those living in Tanzania and neighboring countries.
CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

A Look at Africa (5 min.)
Africa is the second largest continent on the planet and home to more than 740 million people. The Sahara, Mt. Kilimanjaro, the Nile, the Great Rift Valley, and Lake Victoria are some of its most distinctive geographic features.

Overview of Central and Southern Africa (2 min.)
Rich in natural resources, the regions of central and southern Africa consist of 20 countries that have a variety of governments, climates, and beautiful landscapes.

South Africa (3 min.)
For most of the 20th century, non-whites in South Africa lived under the oppressive system of apartheid. That changed in 1990, when Nelson Mandela was freed from decades in prison and elected president.

Angola (2 min.)
Angola is the second largest producer of oil in sub-Saharan Africa. But most Angolans do not benefit from its production; they live in poverty and have poor health care provisions.

Zambia (2 min.)
A Lake Kariba, one of the largest artificial lakes in the world, was created in Zambia in the late 1950s. It displaced several animal species, but the country has built nature reserves to protect wildlife around the lake.

Mozambique (2 min.)
The Zambezi, Limpopo, and Changane Rivers are three important resources for people in Mozambique. But in the year 2000, severe storms caused flooding and devastation of many homes and farms. International aid organizations are repairing the country’s infrastructure.

Zimbabwe (3 min.)
Due to ongoing drought, some farmers can’t make a living working their land, so they have taken up panning and trading in gold. But the illegal practice is damaging Zimbabwe’s environment and economy.

Botswana (2 min.)
The Kalahari covers 70 percent of Botswana and has long been the home of the San people, some of whom maintain their traditional nomadic lifestyle. Even those who live in Botswana’s increasingly modern society try to remain independent.
Namibia (3 min.)

Namibia lies along the Atlantic coast in southwestern Africa. Originally settled by Germans, Namibia gained its independence from South African rule in 1990. Etosha National Park, one of the best-known game reserves in the world, is in northern Namibia.