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**Ch. 18 Physical Geography of Africa**

**Section 1 Landforms and Resources**

1. Most of Africa is located on what type of landform?
2. What made Africa appealing to European colonizers?

A Vast Plateau

1. When did Pangea break up?
2. Where does Africa rank among the other continents?
3. How far above sea level is most of Africa (hint: it is also known as this type of continent)?
4. Define basin.
5. What is the name of the world’s largest river? How long is it?
6. Why do most people in Egypt live close to this river?

Distinctive Landforms

1. Why are the rivers not good sources of transportation?
2. Where is the largest river network in Africa?
3. Looking at Picture A, why is the Congo so hard to navigate with the rivers?
4. Why are there huge cracks in East Africa?
5. What formed as a result of land sinking?
6. How far do these stretch?
7. What forms at the bottom of rift valleys?
8. What is the name of the largest freshwater lake in the world?
9. What is the name of Africa’s largest lake?
10. What is the name of Africa’s highest mountain?
11. Name where these mountain ranges are located
    1. Tibesti Mountains
    2. Mount Cameroon
12. Define escarpment.
13. Where and what covers the Great Escarpment?
14. Looking at Picture B, why does Mt. Kilimanjaro have snow on its peak?

Africa’s wealth of Resources

1. What minerals can be found in Africa to make it one of world’s richest continents?
2. Give the percentage of the following minerals in world production:
   1. Cobalt:
   2. Platinum:
   3. Gold:
3. What is South Africa most known for producing?
4. What are the 2 reasons Africa has not prospered from all the mineral wealth?
5. What 3 countries are among the world’s leaders in producing petroleum?
6. Why will the money that American companies are willing to pay in Angola not go to being invested in schools, hospitals, and other infrastructure?
7. Looking at Picture C, what are the top 2 categories (color coded) found in Africa?

**Section 2: Climate and Vegetation**

A Warm Continent

1. What is the name of largest desert in the world? What language does its name “desert” come from?
2. How large is this desert (north/south, east/west)?
3. How extreme can the temperatures get during the summer during the day and at night?
4. Found under the Sahara are aquifers. What are they?
5. What is created when this water comes to the surface?
6. Looking at Picture D, which is larger: the Sahara or the Kalahari and Namib deserts?
7. How much of Africa is between the Tropic of Cancer and Capricorn?
8. What is considered the “winter” of the tropics?

Rainfall Patterns

1. How long is the rainy season in the savanna?
2. Looking at Picture E, describe which areas receive the most and least amounts of rain.
3. Where are the Mediterranean climates located in Africa?
4. Describe a Mediterranean climate.

A Grassy Continent

1. What covers most of Africa?
2. Describe where and what type of place is the **Serengeti Plan**.
3. What national park would you find some grasses grow taller than a person, ideal for grazing animals, and site of largest numbers of migrating land mammals?

Africa’s Extremes

1. Where are the major rain forests located?
2. Where do most animals live in the rain forests?
3. What type of method has endangered rain forests in Africa?
4. Describe the type of plants you would find in these places:
   1. Atlas Mountains of North Africa:
   2. West African river banks:
5. What are the 2 benefits of the plant that grows in the West African river banks?

**Section 3: Human-Environment Interaction**

1. What is a narrow band of grassland runs east-west along southern Sahara edge that is used for farming, herding (hint: known as the “shore of the desert”)?
2. Describe **desertification**.
3. What are the 4 causes of human desertification?
4. What are countries doing to slow down desertification?
5. When was oil discovered in Nigeria?
6. How much does the world’s 6th leading exporter account for oil in Nigeria’s national income?
7. Despite being one of Africa’s richest countries when oil prices rise in the 1970s, why is Nigeria a poor country?
8. Who becomes president in 1999 and fires corrupt officials, begins economic reform?
9. Why did the Egyptians want to build a dam on the Nile River?
10. What is the name of the dam built in 1970 after the first dam didn’t work?
11. What are the 3 benefits of this dam?
12. Whose way of life changed because of the Aswan High Dam being built?
13. What is no longer deposited on the farmland because of the dam?
14. How come the soil isn’t as fertile as before the dam was built?
15. Where do mosquitoes thrive to spread diseases, such as malaria?