

Exploring the Continent of Africa with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To locate Africa on a world map, identify its major biomes, and understand its diverse physical and human geographical features.

Use your knowledge of world geography and the word bank to complete these tasks. Think carefully about the different climates and landscapes found across the continent.

Finn the Dolphin has been mapping the world's oceans and coastlines. Now, he is looking inland at the vast continent of Africa. From the scorching sands of the northern deserts to the lush, dense greenery near the centre, Africa is home to a spectacular variety of environments. Finn wants you to use your geographical skills to explore how these places differ and why they are so important to our planet.

Word bank: Equator · Sahara · Savanna · Rainforest · Nile · Atlas Mountains · Biome · Continent

1. Identify the imaginary line that runs through the middle of Africa. Explain why the climate near this line is generally warmer than in the UK. (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast a desert biome with a rainforest biome. What might happen to the wildlife if a rainforest received significantly less rainfall? (3 marks)

3. The River Nile is one of the longest rivers in the world. Justify why ancient civilisations chose to settle and build their cities along the banks of such a river. (2 marks)

4. Look at a map of Africa. Name one major mountain range and one major desert. Why is it important for geographers to study these physical features? (2 marks)

5. If you were to travel from the north of Africa to the south, describe how you think the landscape might change. Use geographical vocabulary in your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of the African continent and label three different biomes (e.g., desert, savanna, rainforest) using different colours or patterns to show where they are located.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a travel writer accompanying Finn on his journey. Write a short, descriptive journal entry (100 words) about arriving in a bustling African city. Focus on the sights, sounds, and the human geography of the area. How does the city feel different to the rural landscapes you have studied?