

Year 5 Geography Assessment: Exploring Africa

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of the physical and human geography of the African continent, including climate zones, major landmarks, and environmental diversity.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of Africa's geography to provide detailed answers. Ensure you use geographical terminology where appropriate. Write your answers clearly in the spaces provided.

Finn the dolphin has been mapping the coastlines of Africa and sharing his discoveries with his friends. From the vast, arid northern deserts to the lush, equatorial rainforests in the centre, and the expansive grasslands of the southern regions, the continent offers a remarkable variety of landscapes and human experiences.

Word bank: Equator · Sahara · Savanna · Tropic of Cancer · Climate zone · Human geography · Physical geography · Biodiversity · Irrigation · Plateau

1. Name two major climate zones found in Africa and explain one key physical characteristic of each. (2 marks)

2. Finn the dolphin observes that the Equator passes through Africa. Explain how the proximity to the Equator influences the climate of the central region of the continent. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the Sahara Desert with a tropical rainforest in terms of vegetation and water availability. (3 marks)

4. What is the difference between human geography and physical geography? Provide one example of each within the context of an African nation. (3 marks)

5. Justify why many large settlements in Africa have historically developed near major rivers such as the Nile or the Niger. (4 marks)

6. Explain why Africa is often described as a continent of 'great geographical diversity'. Use examples of landforms to support your argument. (3 marks)

7. Extended Writing Task: Imagine you are a travel writer joining Nova the owl on an expedition across Africa. Write a descriptive account of your journey, comparing a visit to a bustling capital city with a visit to a remote, rural landscape. Consider the differences in infrastructure, daily life, and the natural environment. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled sketch map of Africa. Include the position of the Equator and at least three major physical features (e.g., a mountain range, a desert, and a major river).



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: What might happen if climate change causes the Sahara Desert to expand significantly further south? Discuss the potential impact on both the local ecosystems and the human populations living in the Sahel region.