

Exploring the Diverse Landscapes of Africa

Learning objective: To understand the geographical diversity of Africa, including its varied biomes, climates, and physical features.

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions provided. Ensure you use evidence from the text to support your answers.

Africa is a vast continent, second only to Asia in both size and population. It is home to fifty-four countries, each boasting unique cultures and physical geographies. Finn the dolphin, who travels the world's oceans, often marvels at Africa's dramatic coastline, but the interior is equally diverse. Spanning across the equator, the continent features a wide range of climates, from the scorching heat of the Sahara Desert in the north—the world's largest hot desert—to the lush, tropical rainforests found within the Congo Basin. Between these extremes lies the savanna, a sprawling grassland that supports incredible biodiversity, including elephants, lions, and zebras. The topography of Africa is equally impressive; it is home to the mighty Nile, the longest river in the world, and the snow-capped peaks of Mount Kilimanjaro, which rise high above the plains. As you journey from the Mediterranean coast to the Cape of Good Hope, you witness a tapestry of landscapes that define this magnificent continent. Understanding these environments helps us appreciate how the physical geography shapes the lives of those who call Africa home.

Word bank: continent · savanna · Sahara · biodiversity · equator · topography · basin

1. Identify two distinct physical features mentioned in the text that are examples of Africa's varied topography. (2 marks)

2. According to the text, which region of Africa is described as having a tropical climate? (2 marks)

3. Explain why the savanna is considered a vital region for African wildlife. (3 marks)

4. What might happen to the biodiversity of the Congo Basin if the tropical rainforest were significantly reduced? Justify your reasoning. (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the Sahara Desert with the Congo Basin. Which environment do you think presents more challenges for human settlement and why? (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of Africa showing three different biomes: the desert, the rainforest, and the savanna. Include labels for the Nile River and Mount Kilimanjaro.



Extension challenge: Research a specific country in Africa. Write a short travel guide for Nova the owl, describing the physical features and climate she might encounter if she flew there to go stargazing.