

Exploring Africa: A Geography Challenge

Learning objective: To consolidate knowledge of African physical geography, climate zones, and biomes, whilst developing critical thinking skills.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of the continent of Africa. Read the front, think of the answer, then check the back. For the 'Greater Depth' questions, write your answers in your exercise book to explain your reasoning.

Which major line of latitude passes through the centre of Africa, dividing it into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres?

The Equator.

What is the name of the largest hot desert in the world, located in Northern Africa?

The Sahara Desert.

Finn the dolphin is mapping rivers; what is the name of the longest river in Africa, which flows north into the Mediterranean Sea?

The River Nile.

Describe the characteristics of a 'Savanna' biome.

A tropical grassland with scattered trees, experiencing distinct wet and dry seasons.

Name the mountain range located in North-West Africa that stretches across Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia.

The Atlas Mountains.

Explain why the climate in the Congo Basin is different from the climate in the Sahara.

The Congo Basin is near the Equator and receives high rainfall, creating a tropical rainforest climate, whereas the Sahara is a subtropical high-pressure zone with very little rainfall.

Compare and contrast the physical geography of coastal regions in Africa with the interior plateau regions.

Coastal regions often feature narrow plains and ports, while the interior is dominated by elevated plateaus and basins.

Justify why Africa is often described as a 'continent of plateaus'.

Much of the African continent consists of high-lying land with relatively flat surfaces, broken by escarpments and basins, rather than being dominated by extensive mountain chains like other continents.

What might happen to the migration patterns of animals in the Savanna if the 'wet season' failed to arrive for several years?

Animals would be forced to migrate further in search of water and grazing land, leading to increased competition for resources and potential population decline in certain species.

Nova the owl is stargazing; why does the night sky change as you travel from North Africa to South Africa?

Because you are crossing the Equator, moving from the Northern Hemisphere to the Southern Hemisphere, causing different constellations to become visible.

Evaluate the importance of the River Nile to the development of early human civilisations.

The Nile provided a reliable source of water, fertile silt for agriculture through annual flooding, and a major transport route for trade and communication.

If you were planning an expedition across Africa, how would the 'Climate Zones' influence your choice of equipment?

You would need to account for extreme temperature fluctuations, ranging from intense heat in arid deserts to high humidity in rainforests and potential freezing temperatures at high altitudes.