

# 1. Africa Knowledge Organiser



Africa, the **second-largest continent**, to the north is the **Mediterranean Sea**, to the east is the **Indian Ocean**, and to the west is the **Atlantic Ocean**. It is divided in half almost equally by the Equator.

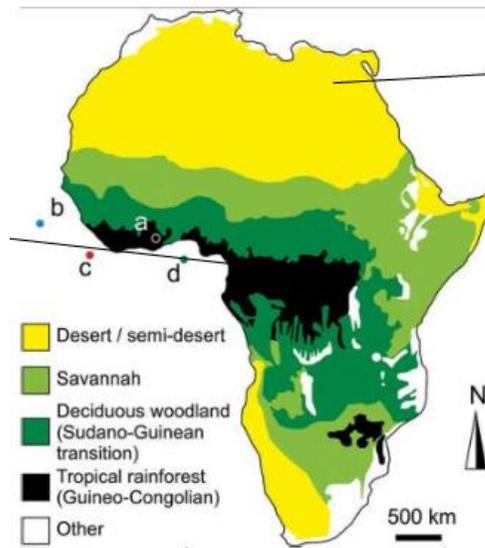
There are **54 countries** in Africa. The largest country in Africa is **Algeria** and the smallest is the **Seychelles**. The most populated country is **Nigeria**.

Africa is the **second largest country** and Africa is also the world's **second most populous continent**. Africa is one of the most diverse places on the planet with a wide variety of terrain, wildlife, and climates.



## Key Terms

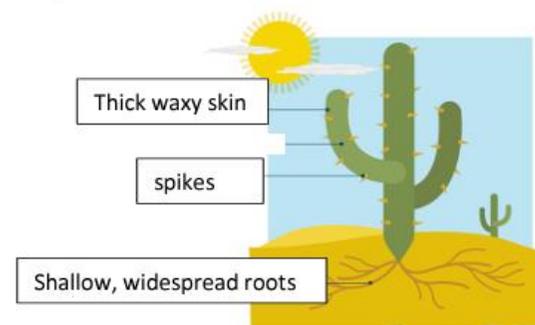
Continent	One of the seven major land masses on the earth.
Biome	A large ecosystem (collection of plants and animals) for example deserts.
Desert	A place that receives under 250mm of rainfall per year.
Plate tectonics	The earth's surface is divided into series of plates which slowly move.
Poverty	The state of being poor. When people's income is below 60% of the country's average.
Economic Development	Increasing wealth and quality of life within a country.
Diversity	This is differences. It could be about animals, ecosystems, people and plants.
Quality of Life	The level of comfort and wellbeing a person enjoys. Linked to wealth and happiness.
Tourism	Travelling to a place for pleasure and leisure.



## Desert Biome

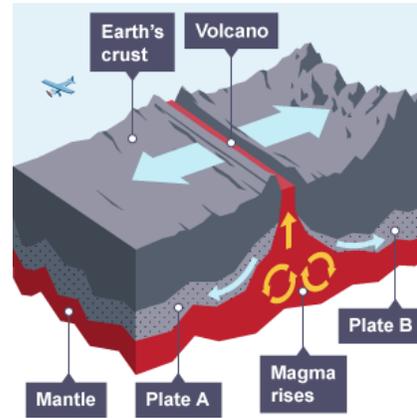
**What is a desert?** Deserts are dry or arid areas that receive less than 250 mm of rain each year. They contain plants and animals that are specially adapted to these extremely dry conditions.

Plants and animals in the desert have to cope with very little water. There is also a big variation in temperature between day and night. They do this by **adapting to their surroundings**.



The continent of Africa is a very diverse place with different climates, ecosystems and cultural landmarks making certain places very popular with tourists. For example the Pyramids in Egypt, The Savannah's of Kenya where you can see lions and elephants on Safari as well as hot places with beautiful beaches such as Madagascar, The Seychelles, Tunisia. Plus rainforests in the East.

## The Great Rift Valley



At a constructive plate boundary two tectonic plates are moving apart. This has created the Great Rift Valley and also surrounding mountains and volcanoes as the plate plates crack and split.

The Great Rift Valley is the location of many of Africa's most famous physical features. Mount Kilimanjaro is a large volcano in the Rift Valley and also Africa's highest mountain. In places the valley has filled with water creating huge lakes such as Lake Victoria and waterfalls such as Victoria Falls.

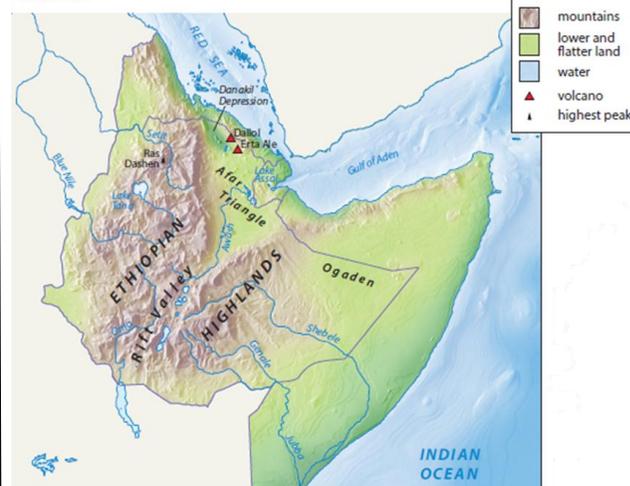
## Life in the Horn of Africa

Life in Africa is very different depending where you live as it is the second biggest continent and places have different climates, ecosystems and countries have different levels of wealth. We studied the Horn of Africa which is located in North Eastern Africa and includes the countries of Ethiopia, Djibouti, Eritrea and Somalia.



## Physical Features of the Horn of Africa

Mountains, rivers, lakes, deserts, beaches, volcanoes ... the Horn of Africa has them all.



The Ethiopian Highlands are largest area of high land in Africa. They are divided in two by the Rift Valley, which holds a string of lakes. All of the rivers on the map start in the Ethiopian Highlands. The Blue Nile leaves Ethiopia and heads north to join the White Nile to form the River Nile, which flows on to Egypt. The Horn of Africa is in the tropics, and quite close to the Equator. So it is generally hot all year, on the low land. But the higher you go, the cooler it gets. Rain is in very short supply in some places.

## Peoples lives in the Horn of Africa

This table gives some data about the countries of the Horn, and the UK. You can see that compared to the UK the wealth of the countries (GDP) is low. \$37,500 in the UK per person on average and only \$600 per person in Somalia.

	Djibouti	Eritrea	Ethiopia	Somalia	UK
Population (millions)	0.9	5.9	85.2	9.8	64
% aged 14 or under	34	41	44	44	17
% living in towns and cities	77	21	17	38	80
How long a new baby is likely to live for (years)	62	63	60	51	80
% of population with access to clean safe water	29	61	44	29	100
What % of workforce are farmers?	under 30	80	85	71	1.4
GDP per person (PPP) (in dollars)	\$2700	\$800	\$1200	\$600	\$37 500

Today, the countries of the Horn of Africa are not well off. There are many causes of poverty. But for these countries, one factor is the years of conflict they have suffered. The good news is ...

They may be poor today – but the good news is that the countries of the Horn are developing quite fast, and especially Ethiopia. More and more factories are opening.

Education and healthcare are improving, with help from other countries.

Peoples lives can be very different in Ethiopia many people are coffee farmers, in Djibouti (the smallest country) they work in the ports. In the semi-desert areas of Somalia and Ethiopia many people are animal farmers and nomadic (they move with their animals always looking for food and water). In Ethiopia Addis Abiba is the biggest city and is developing fast but there are problems with people living in slums. Much is being done to improve the area economically though and Ethiopia is experiencing rapid economic development.