

Africa Unit Technology Resources for Parents

The seventh grade students are in the process of learning about Africa. In this unit students will gain an understanding of the modern cultural and physical landscape of Africa. When examining the specific elements of culture, students will gain an understanding of the diversity of religion and ethnic groups in Africa. Self-rule through governance has been an ongoing challenge as African nations have transitioned from colonial rule to one party rule to fledgling democracies. Students will analyze how political stability affects the standard of living in Africa. Students will locate selected countries and physical features in the region and examine how location, climate and physical characteristics have affected where people live, the types of work they do and how they travel.

Below are some resources that you might want to consider sharing with your children as you explore the exciting geographical, cultural, economic, and political features of Africa.

Interactive Resources

Africa MapMakerKit

http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/multimedia/africa-mapmaker-kit/?ar_a=1

CARE Virtual Field Trips Archives, Madagascar

The humanitarian organization CARE presents an informative piece on Madagascar with information about the organizations aid efforts in the African island nation, in this virtual field trip

<http://www.care.org/vft/madagascar/index.asp>

Free Rice

A fun, interactive game allows students (and teachers) to test their knowledge as well as help fight hunger! For every question that is correctly answered, Free Rice donates ten grains of rice through the U.N. World Food Program to help fight world hunger. The more you play, the more rice you help donate. Now offers question topics such as art, chemistry, geography, grammar, language learning, and math

<http://www.freerice.com/>

GeoNet Game

Houghton Mifflin's Social Studies GeoNet game. Click on "Play GeoNet" and then the map of Africa. Test your knowledge of the following categories: The World in Spatial Terms (people, places and environments in Africa), Places and Regions; Physical Systems; Population; Culture and Independence; Environment and Society; and Geography.

<http://www.eduplace.com/geonet/>

National Geographic Kids Brainteasers: Africa

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/games/puzzlesquizzes/brainteaserafrica/>

ProjectExplorer: Yebo, South Africa!

Join this comprehensive virtual field trip to South Africa while exploring the country to learn about its customs, history, culture, geography, and more.

<http://www.projectexplorer.org/ms/za/intro.php>

Nutrients for Life Foundation: Games: Humanity Against Hunger

Complete the mission to help alleviate the food shortage in Africa. Stay in the local village to identify the problem with the soil there. Then solve the mystery by helping the farmer provide healthy soil for growing bountiful crops.

<http://www.nutrientsforlife.org/games/humanity/>

Wonders of the African World

Join Henry Louis Gates, Jr. as he takes you on a journey to discover a wealth of African history and culture in Wonders of the African World.

<http://www.pbs.org/wonders/index.html>

World Food Programme: Horn of Africa Crisis

The World Food Programme continues to fight hunger around the globe. In particular, the situation is dire in the Horn of Africa at this particular time due to drought conditions and the conflict in Somalia. Millions of people are experiencing extreme malnutrition and are in need of immediate help. This page provides background information regarding the reasons for the crisis, what is currently being done to alleviate the suffering, and what people around the world can do to help.

<http://www.wfp.org/crisis/horn-of-africa>

E-Books

Atlanta- Fulton Public Library allows library card holders to check out e-books and e-audiobooks online. More information is available at:

<http://afpls.lib.overdrive.com/5B5F9ABA-BAA0-40E6-AAAF-684C5522A7AE/10/725/en/Default.htm>

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Video Resources

Crisis in Sudan Video

A humanitarian crisis continues to plague the African nation of Sudan, where food shortages and drought are contributing to violence, political instability and death. According to the United Nations, half of southern Sudan's population faces desperate food shortages. More and more people are going without food or water thanks to growing violence from civil conflict and violence. The United Nations says that approximately 360,000 people have fled their homes in the violence between the majority black African south and the predominantly Arab north. Though fighting ended five years ago and

nationwide elections are on the horizon, NewsHour correspondent Fred de Sam Lazaro looks at how food insecurity and violence might hamper the success of a future electoral process.

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/video/blog/2010/03/crisis_in_sudan.html

From Sudan to the United States (The Lost Boys of Sudan) Video

The Lost Boys of Sudan are a group of Dinka youth who fled civil war in their native country, spent a decade growing up in a Kenyan refugee camp, and were eventually resettled in the United States. The Dinka are the largest ethnic group in southern Sudan. In the United States, the Lost Boys faced many challenges while adapting to their new lives and trying to maintain their cultural identities as Dinka.

http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/multimedia/from-sudan/?ar_a=1

Mike Fay Mega-Flyover, View of Africa from the Air Video

http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/multimedia/mike-fay-mega-flyover/?ar_a=1

National Geographic Destinations: East Africa

There's no better way to get to know the countries of East Africa than by taking a video tour of the area! Meet the people, learn of their history, geography, natural resources, cultures as well as other significant facts.

<http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/places/regions-places/africa-northeastern/africa-east-dest/>

National Geographic Destinations: North Africa

Hop aboard the plane & join your guide on a stunning visual tour of North Africa! Meet the people and places, see the geography and natural resources, experience the rich history and culture as you watch this video clip.

<http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/places/regions-places/africa-northwestern/africa-north-dest/>

National Geographic Destinations: South Africa

Hop aboard the plane & join your guide on a visual tour of Southern Africa! Meet the people and places, see the geography and natural resources, experience the rich history and cultures as you watch this video clip.

<http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/places/countries-places/south-africa/southafrica-overview-dest/>

NPR: A Civilization Threatened by Climate Change (Egypt and the Nile)

Watch a video about Egypt and the Nile River and how it is threatened by the climate change.

<http://www.npr.org/programs/wesun/features/2008/apr/egypt/>

Online Resources

BBC World Service: The Story of Africa

The history of Africa is documented from earliest times to the present. The menu bar divides it into time periods which then divide into sub-topics; also included is a visual timeline.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/specials/1624_story_of_africa/index.shtml#top

Kids National Geographic

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/>

Welcome to South Africa! Follow this interactive overview of the country's history, geography, people, government, nature, and more. A map and video are included.

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/south-africa/>

Kids Click!

This site provides dozens of web sites previewed for students by librarians and is acknowledged by the American Library Association.

<http://www.kidsclick.org/searches/search.php?searchtype=subject&keywords=Africa&title=Africa>

National Geographic Africa

Environment and Economy

http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/encyclopedia/africa-resources/?ar_a=1

Africa: Physical Geography

http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/encyclopedia/africa-physical-geography/?ar_a=1

Africa: Human Geography (Culture and Politics)

http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/encyclopedia/africa-human-geography/?ar_a=1

Africa and the Great Lakes Region

http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/multimedia/africa-great-lakes-region/?ar_a=1

National Geography educational site; Includes an interactive map feature

http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/mapping/interactive-map/?ar_a=1

Nile River Video

<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/videos/earth/nileriver.html>

Information about physical features and conservation efforts in Africa

<http://www.africannaturalheritage.org/>

History of conflict in Sudan

<http://www.insightonconflict.org/conflicts/sudan/>

Attempts to resolve the conflict in Sudan

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2011/01/16/world/africa/sudan-graphic.html>

Information on the Swahili Culture

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/features/storyofafrica/index_section5.shtml

Conflict over oil in Sudan

[http://pachodo.org/latest-news-articles/news-from-various-sources/2838-what-amp-39-s-at-the-cru-
of-sudan-and-south-sudan-amp-39-s-oil-dispute](http://pachodo.org/latest-news-articles/news-from-various-sources/2838-what-amp-39-s-at-the-cru-
of-sudan-and-south-sudan-amp-39-s-oil-dispute)

HIV/AIDS and refugees in Africa

<http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646ce3.html>

Information on Ashanti Culture

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/tribes/ashanti.php>

Information on Bantu Culture

<http://www.cal.org/co/bantu/sbrelig.html>

Information on Bantu Culture

<http://bantucivilizationinformation.wikidot.com/the-bantu-religion-and-culture>

New York Times – Africa

Online source for obtaining current news about Africa. The New York Times online edition of the newspaper is free. Start by reading the current news stories.

<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/world/africa/>