

A satellite-style map of the African continent is centered on a dark blue background. The map shows various geographical features like the Sahara Desert, the Nile river, and the Great Rift Valley. The title text is overlaid on the map. The background of the entire slide consists of a light green field with two vertical red bars on the left and right sides.

# Africa's Geography

# Standards

## **SS7G1 The student will locate selected features of Africa.**

- a. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map: the Sahara, Sahel, savanna, tropical rain forest, Congo River, Niger River, Nile River, Lake Tanganyika, Lake Victoria, Atlas Mountains, and Kalahari Desert.
  
- b. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map the countries of Democratic Republic of the Congo (Zaire), Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, and South Sudan.

# Teachers

Print off the following 3 pages for each student. They should use an atlas to label the political and physical features of Africa.

# Geography of Africa

**Part One:** Use a pen to label the following six countries on the map.

- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Egypt
- Kenya
- Nigeria
- South Africa
- Sudan

Next, use a marker to **outline the political border** of each country. Lightly shade each country in **YELLOW**.

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**Part Two:** Use a pen to label the following eight physical features on the map.

- Sahara
- Sahel
- Congo River
- Niger River
- Nile River
- Lake Tanganyika
- Atlas Mountains
- Lake Victoria
- Kalahari Desert

1. Color the rivers **BLUE**.
2. Color the deserts **BROWN**.
3. Draw **GREEN** triangles for the mountains.
4. Color the lakes **TEAL** or **LIGHT BLUE**.

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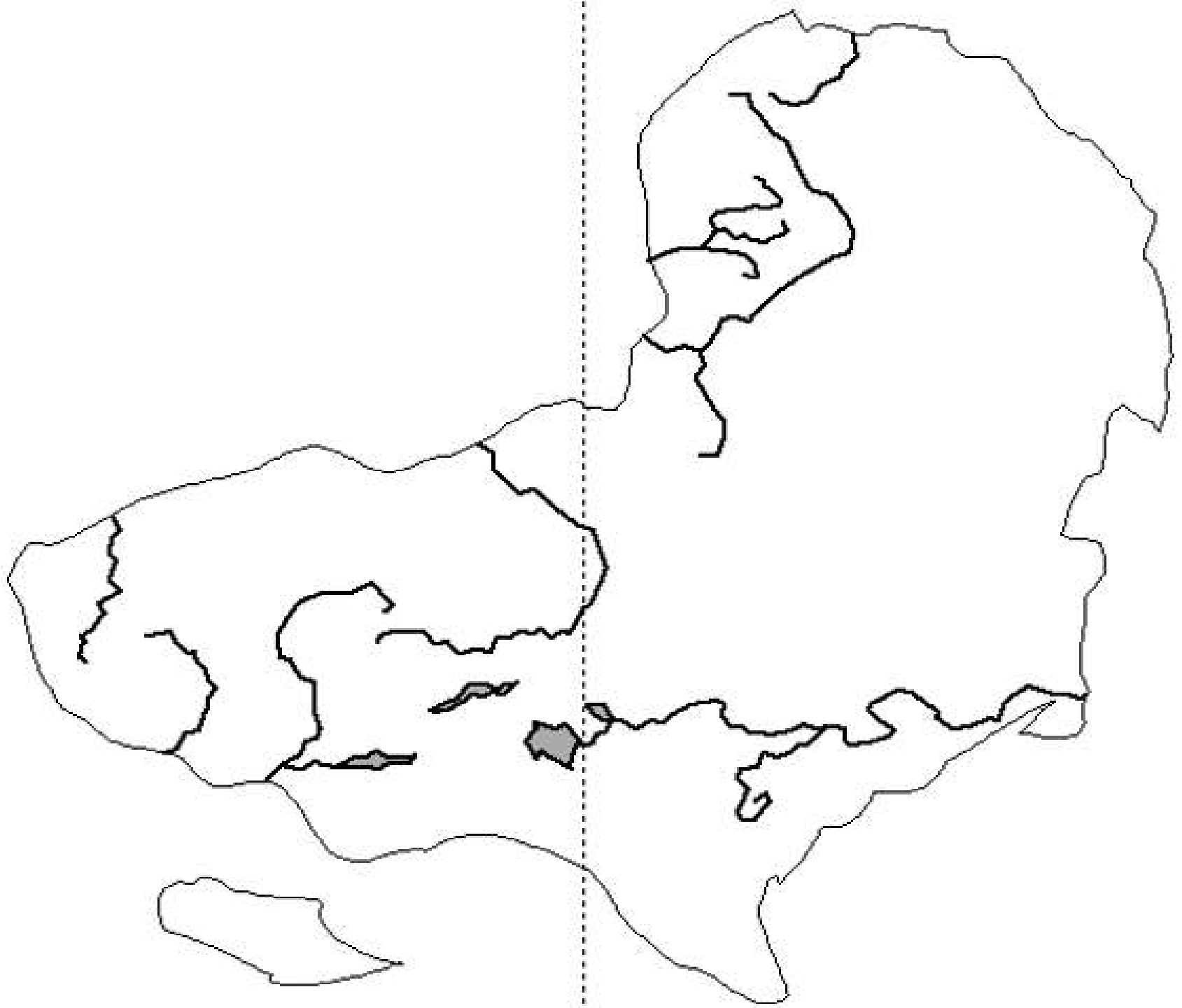
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# Teachers

Print off the following page for each student.  
They should complete the chart while  
discussing the presentation.

# Africa - Physical Features Chart

**Directions:** Fill in each square with details about each physical feature, where it's located, and an illustration. Color your illustrations!

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sahara</b></p> <p>Description:</p> <p>Location:</p> <p>Illustration:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sahel</b></p> <p>Description:</p> <p>Location:</p> <p>Illustration:</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Savanna</b></p> <p>Description:</p> <p>Location:</p> <p>Illustration:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tropical Rain Forest</b></p> <p>Description:</p> <p>Location:</p> <p>Illustration:</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Congo River</b></p> <p>Description:</p> <p>Location:</p> <p>Illustration:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Niger River</b></p> <p>Description:</p> <p>Location:</p> <p>Illustration:</p>



<p><b>Nile River</b></p> <p>Description:</p> <p>Location:</p> <p>Illustration:</p>	<p><b>Lake Tanganyika</b></p> <p>Description:</p> <p>Location:</p> <p>Illustration:</p>
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<p><b>Lake Victoria</b></p> <p>Description:</p> <p>Location:</p> <p>Illustration:</p>	<p><b>Atlas Mountains</b></p> <p>Description:</p> <p>Location:</p> <p>Illustration:</p>
<p><b>Kalahari Desert</b></p> <p>Description:</p> <p>Location:</p> <p>Illustration:</p>	



# Africa's Geography

# Africa

- Africa is the world's second largest continent (11,700,000 miles).
- It is home to 52 countries, 1,000 different languages, and 800 million people.
  - 10% of the world's population lives in Africa.
- The one thing that all African nations have in common is their reliance on the land's physical characteristics, which affect where people live, work, & trade.
- Africa can be divided into many different regions:
  - The Sahara, the Sahel, the savannahs, the tropical rain forests, the Ethiopian Highlands, and Southern Africa.



**Desert**

**Savanna**

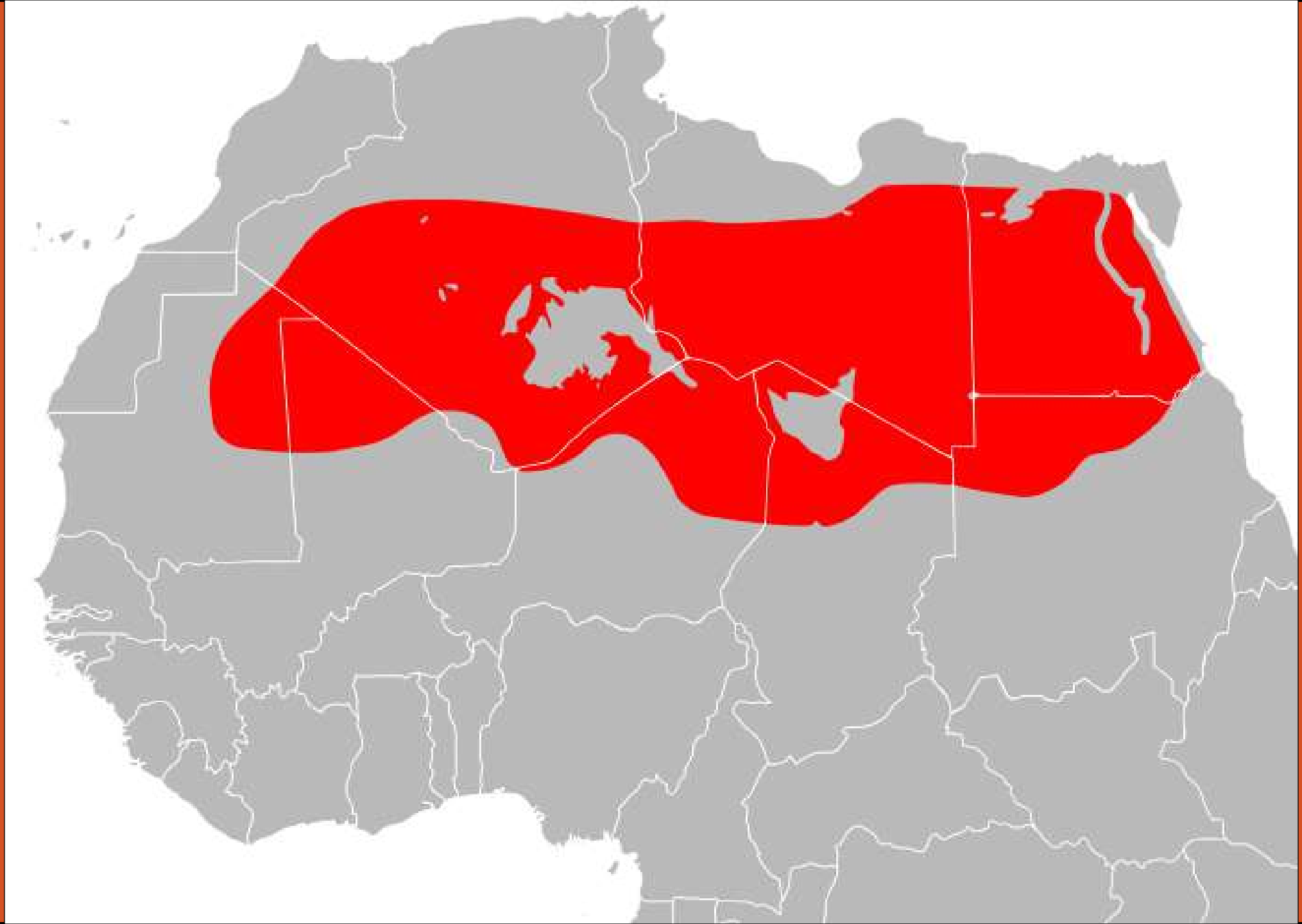
**Rainforest**

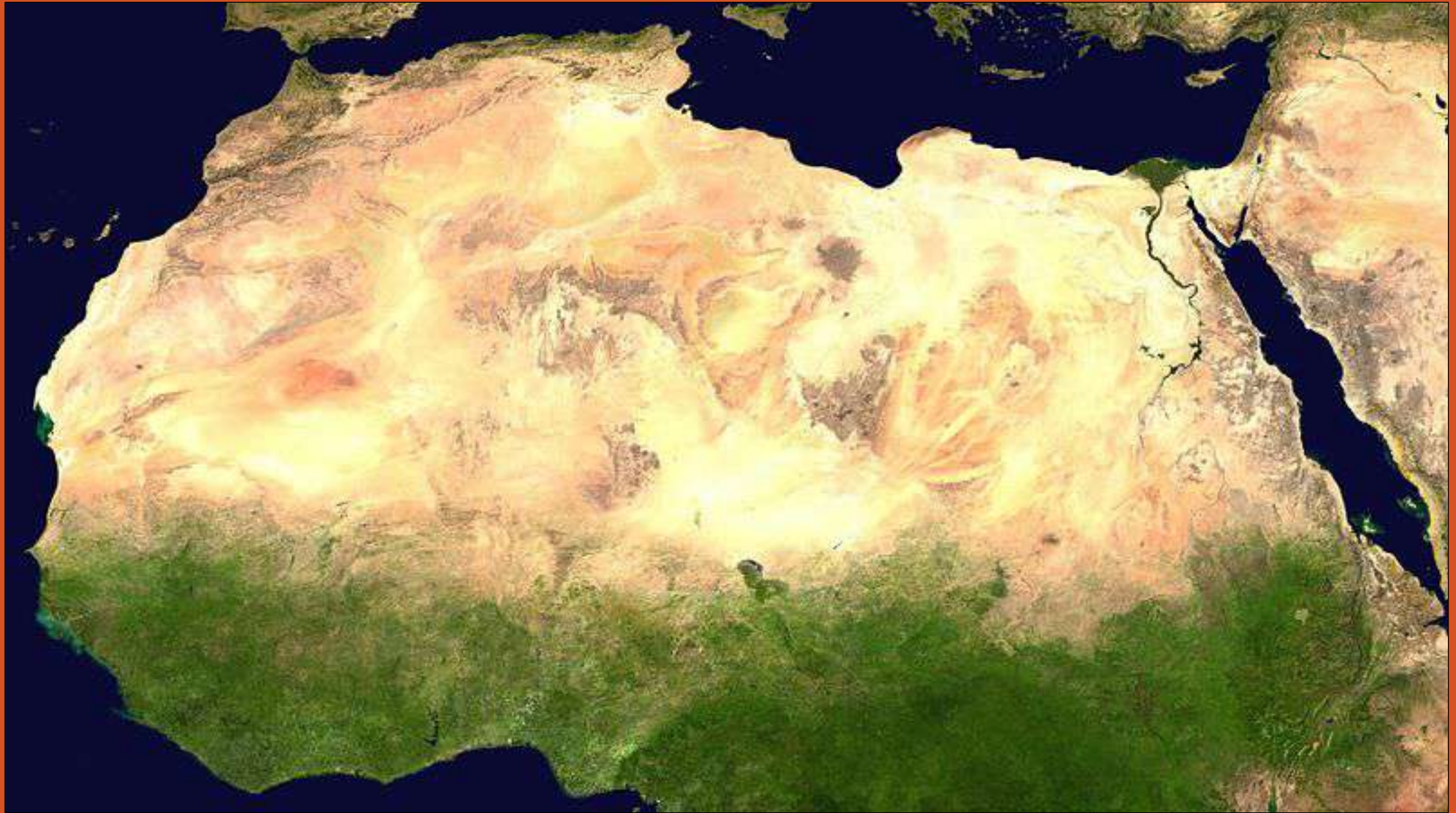
**Savanna**

**Desert**

# Sahara Desert

- The Sahara is the world's largest desert (3,500,000 miles).
  - It runs across the width of northern Africa.
  - It covers 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the continent.
- It divides the continent into two distinct regions – North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa.
- The Sahara is covered with sand dunes, rocky hills, and stretches of gravel that continue for miles and miles.
- Very few people live in the desert because it is considered one of the harshest places to live in the world.
  - The people who do live here are called nomads.
  - They move from place to place, usually traveling by camel, looking for food & water.





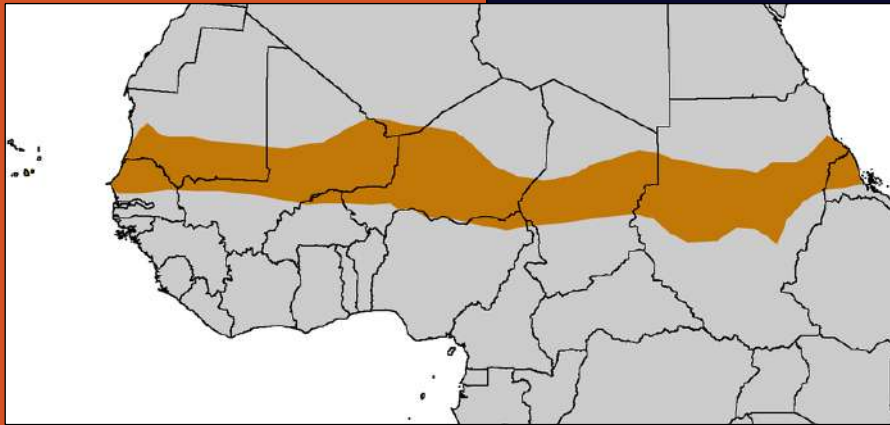
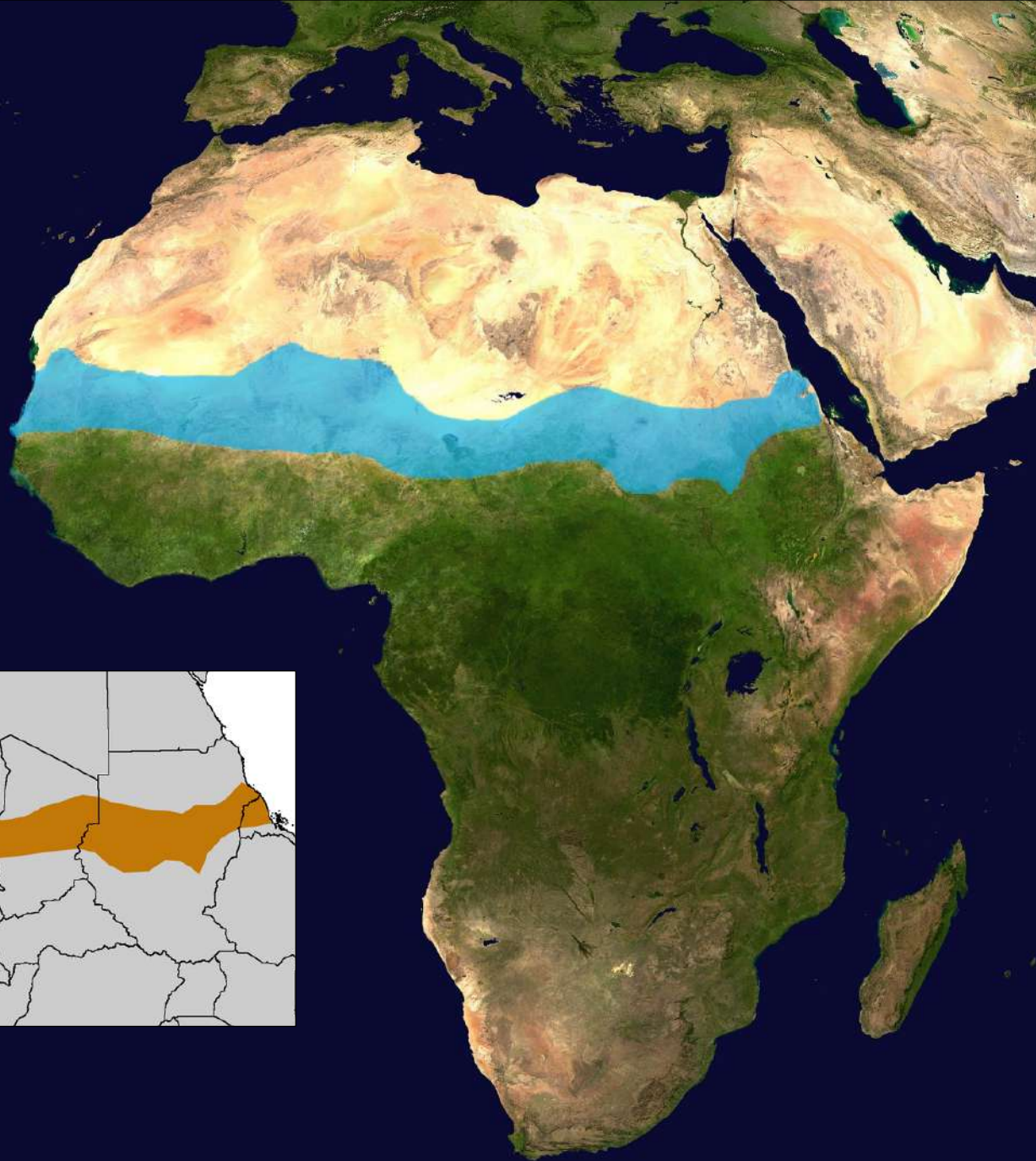






# The Sahel

- The Sahel is a strip of dry grassland that is located south of the Sahara.
  - The word “Sahel” means “border” or “margin”.
  - It is the region between the desert to the north and the grasslands and rainforest to the south.
- It is a dry, semi-arid region that is slowly turning into desert.
  - It gets more rainfall than the desert, but still receives very little, ranging from 6-20 inches.
- People have tried to live here but generations of overgrazing and desertification have caused soil erosion.
  - Vegetation is sparse here—grasses and shrubs are unevenly distributed.
- The Sahel is relatively flat with few mountains and hills.





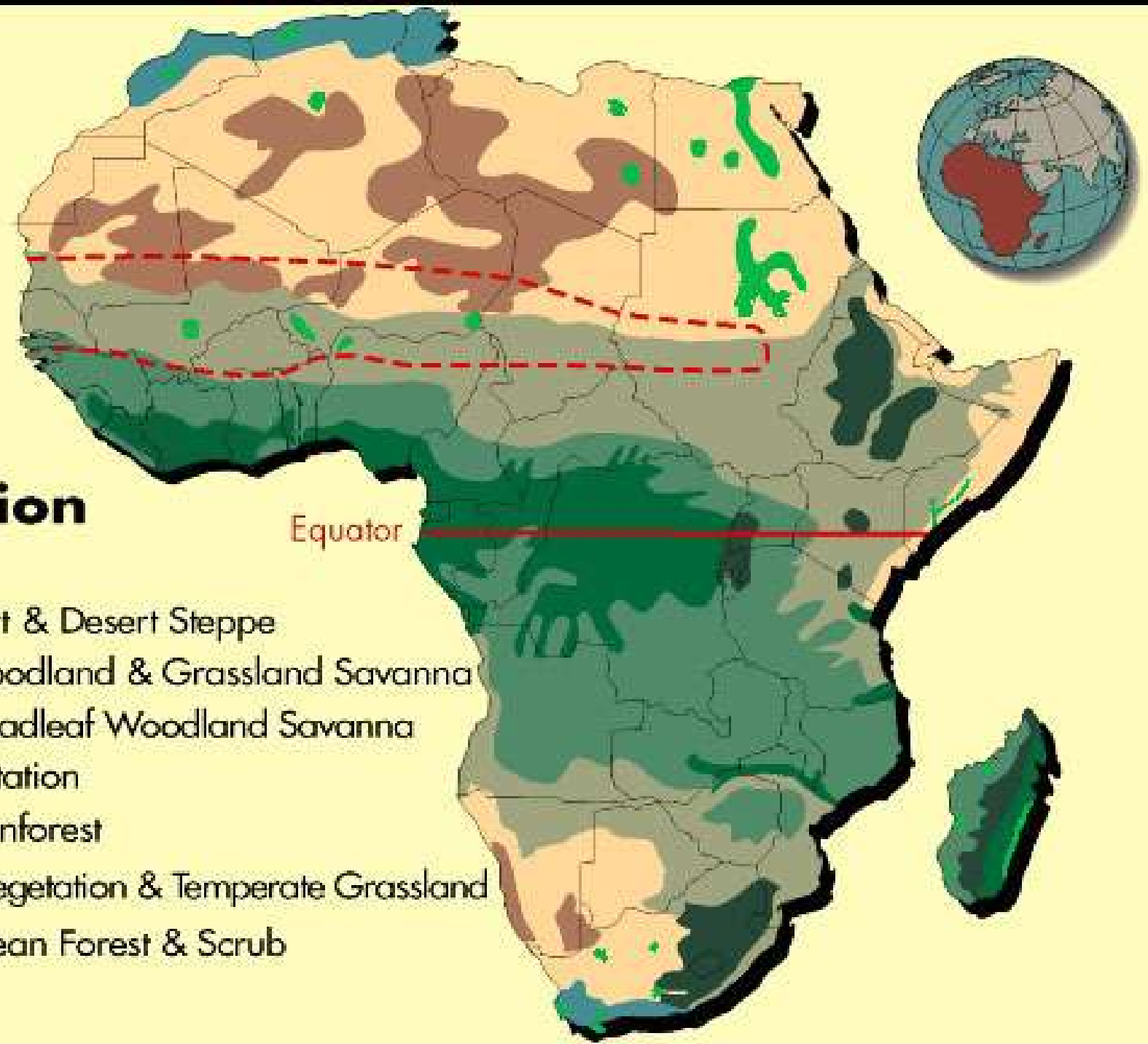


# Savanna

- The African savannas are hot, dry grasslands that are located near the Equator and cover almost half of Africa.
  - They actually cover the regions just north and south of the rainforests that lie along the equator.
- The African savanna is the largest in the world.
  - There is a large variety of wildlife here, including lions, zebras, & elephants.
- Farming is good here, but only if there is good rainfall.
  - Grasses and grains like wheat, oats, and sorghum grown in the region.
- The area receives enough rain to support drought resistant undergrowth, but not enough to support forest-type vegetation.
  - Grasses are tall and thick, while trees are short and scattered.

## Vegetation

- Desert
- Semi-Desert & Desert Steppe
- Tropical Woodland & Grassland Savanna
- Tropical Broadleaf Woodland Savanna
- Oasis Vegetation
- Tropical Rainforest
- Mountain Vegetation & Temperate Grassland
- Mediterranean Forest & Scrub
- The Sahel











# Tropical Rain Forest

- Africa's tropical rain forest is located along the central coast of Africa, near the Equator.
  - It lies in the Congo River Basin.
- The rain forest covers  $1/5^{\text{th}}$  of the land surface of Africa and touches 37 countries.
  - The rain forest has a hot, humid climate.
  - The annual rainfall is over 17 feet.
  - There is a large variety of animals found in this region.
- Trees are so thick and tall that sunlight never reaches the forest floor!
  - The trees grow hundreds of feet tall.
- It's the second largest rain forest in the world; the Amazon rain forest in Brazil is the largest.
  - Unfortunately, this rain forest has shrunk due to deforestation.



 Tropical Rain Forest



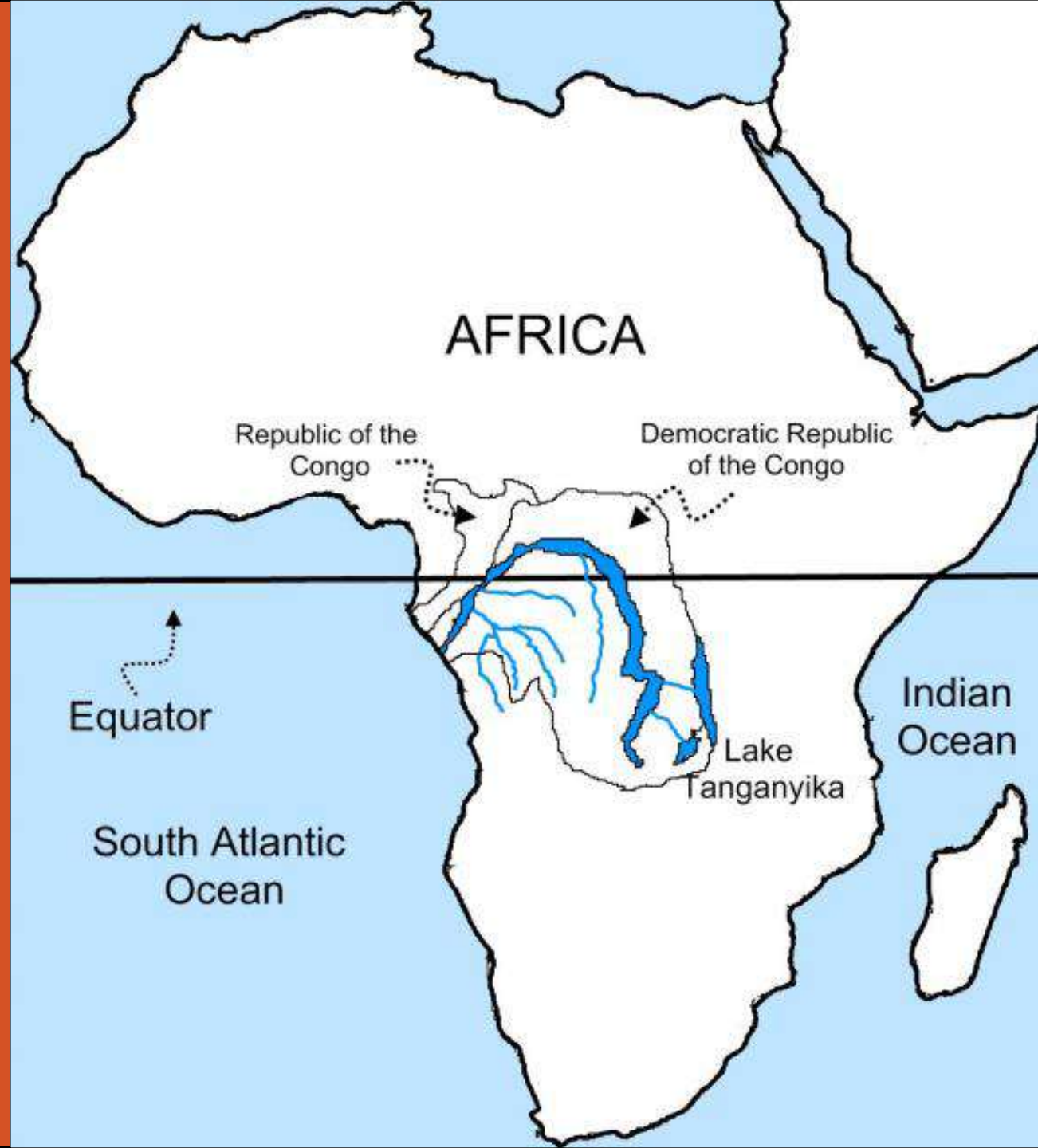




# Congo River

- The Congo River is located in western central Africa.
  - It begins in central Africa, near Lake Tanganyika, and flows west through the tropical rain forest.
- The Congo River is the second largest river in Africa.
  - It's over 3,000 miles long.





AFRICA

Republic of the  
Congo

Democratic Republic  
of the Congo

Equator

South Atlantic  
Ocean

Lake  
Tanganyika

Indian  
Ocean





# Niger River

- The Niger River is located in western Africa.
  - It flows through Guinea, Mali, Niger, Benin, & Nigeria.
- The Niger River is the third largest river in Africa.
  - It runs over 2,600 miles.
- The mouth of the Niger River flows through a large delta, often referred to as the “Oil Delta” because of the petroleum industry that’s centered here.





# Nile River

- The Nile River is located in eastern Africa.
  - It starts in East Burundi and flows northward and empties into the Mediterranean Sea.
- The Nile is the world's longest river at 4,150 miles.
- It provides water for Sudan and Egypt.
- It's an important waterway for transporting people and goods.
- The Nile also provides a source of irrigation for agriculture.





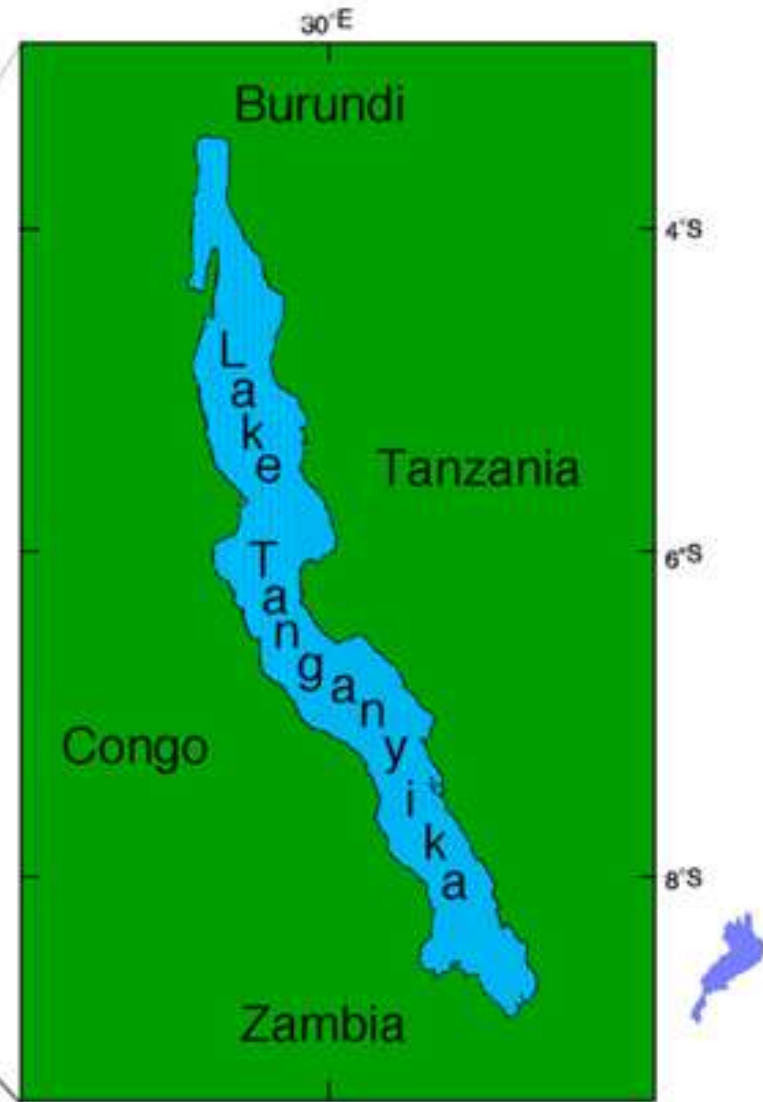






# Lake Tanganyika

- Lake Tanganyika is located in central Africa.
  - It's divided between Burundi, Congo, Tanzania, and Zambia.
- Lake Tanganyika is the deepest lake in Africa and one of the deepest in the world.
- It's also one of the largest freshwater lakes in the world.



100 km



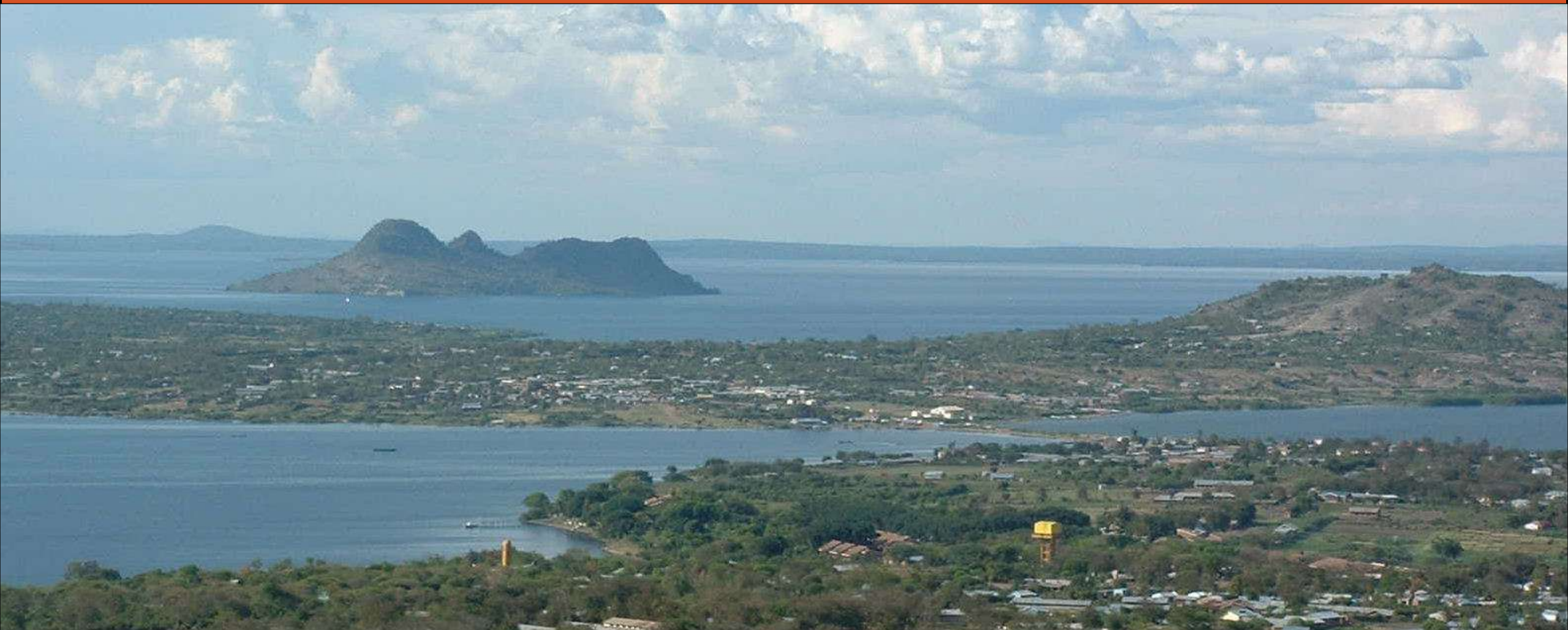


# Lake Victoria

- Lake Victoria is the largest lake in Africa and the second largest freshwater lake in the world (Lake Superior is the largest).
- It is located in central Africa and extends into three countries: Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya.
  - White Nile begins here.
- Lake Victoria is vital in supporting the millions of people that live nearby.
  - It provides a living for many fishermen and attracts millions of tourists each year.



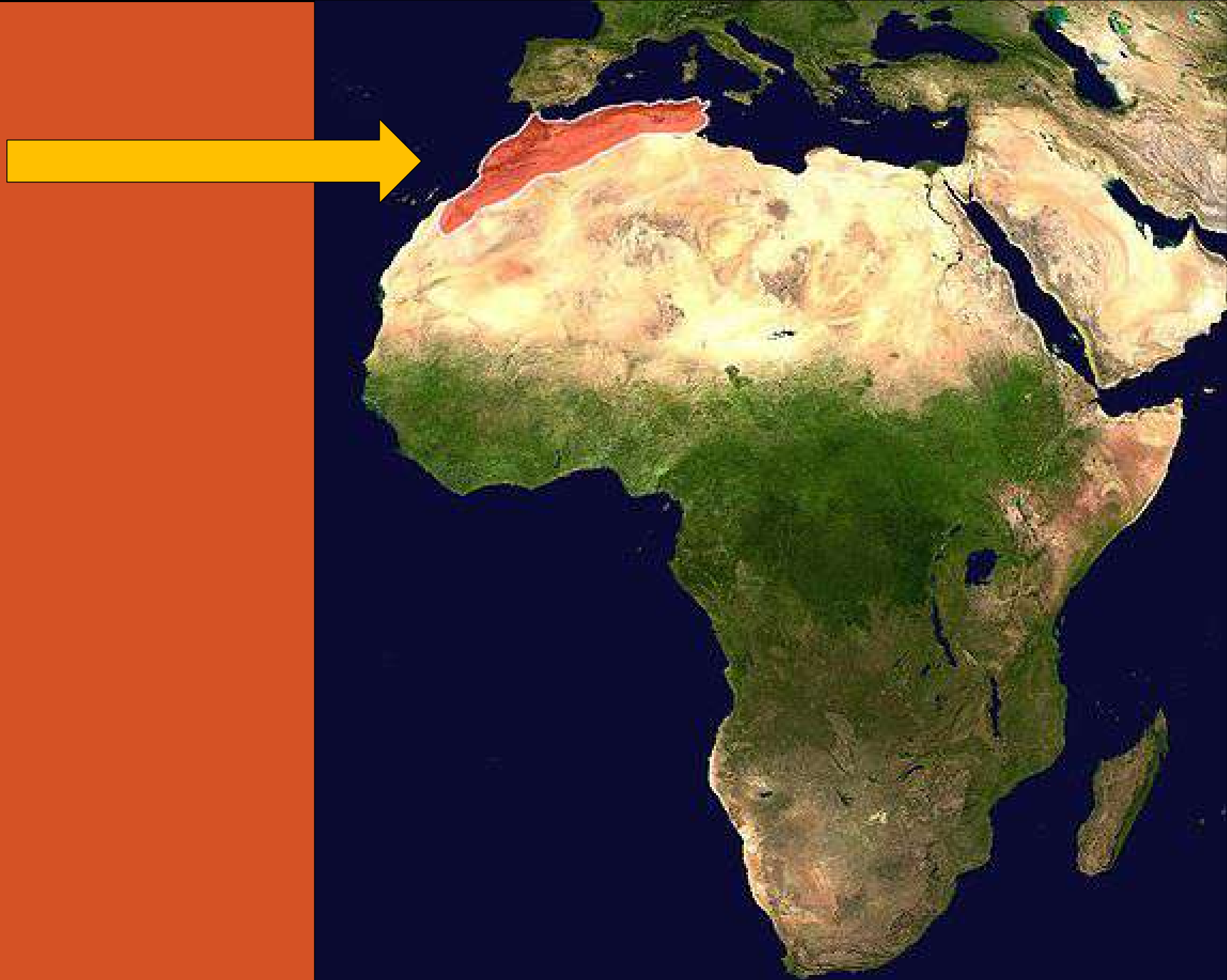






# Atlas Mountains

- The Atlas Mountains are a mountain range in north Africa.
- The mountains extend from Morocco to Tunisia, between the Mediterranean Sea and the Sahara desert.
- They separate the coastal regions from the Sahara Desert.



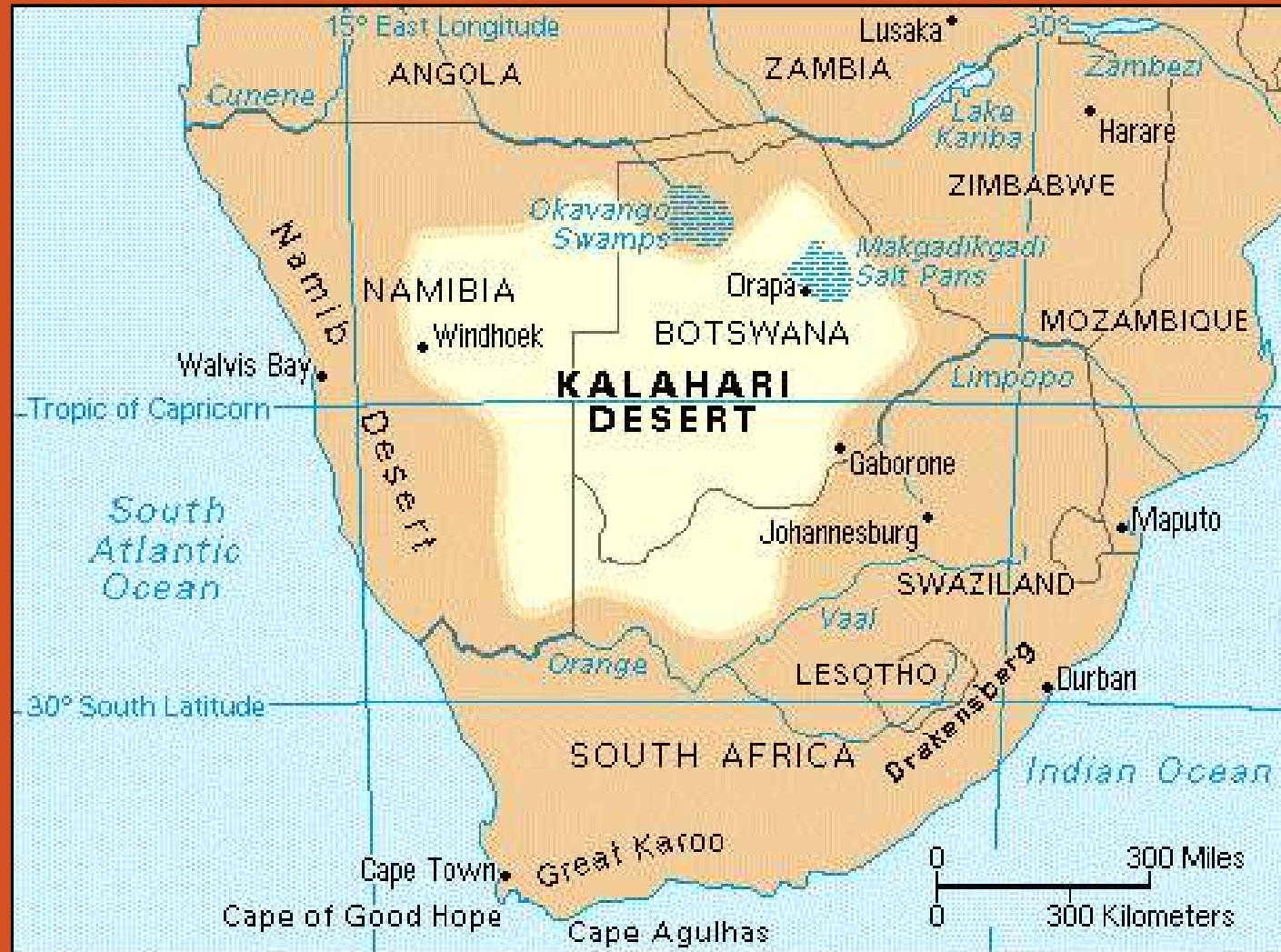




# Kalahari Desert

- The Kalahari Desert is located in southwestern Africa.
  - It covers parts of Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa.
- The region is surrounded by semi-arid areas that are slowly becoming more dry.
- It is not a “true” desert because it receives 3-10 inches of rain per year.
- Because of the precipitation and underground water supplies, grass, shrubs, and wild animals manage to live in the Kalahari desert.











# Pack Your Bags!

Directions:

1. Inside of the suitcase, draw FIVE things that you are going to take with you on our class trip to Africa. Think about the location, climate, physical features, and natural resources of the country. Look in your notebook for clues about what you might need on your trip.

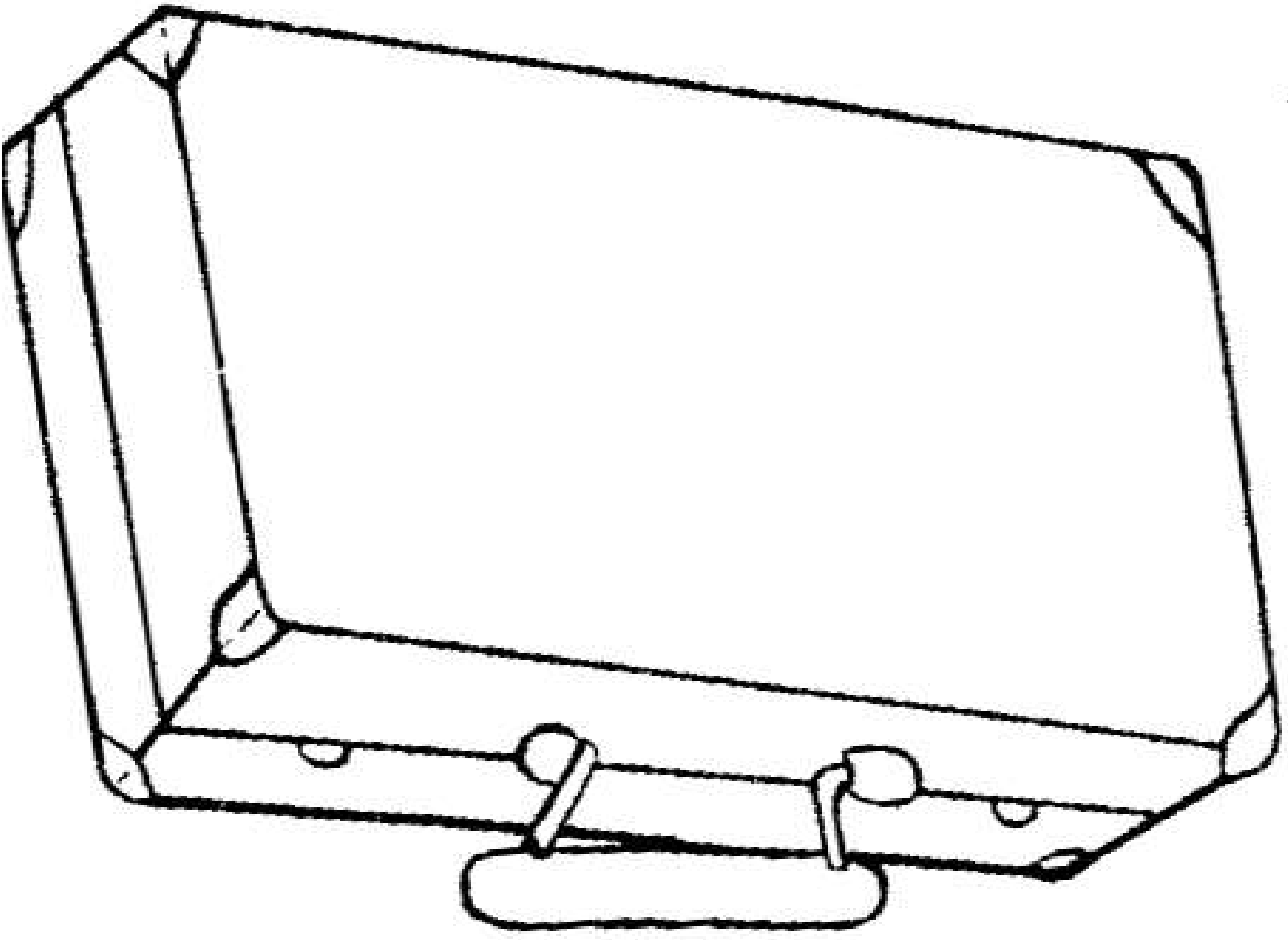
2. Next, include a brief description of why you chose to bring that particular item.

Example)



I'm bringing a camera to take a picture of the meerkats in the Kalahari Desert.

3. Color your suitcase—the creative! 🎨



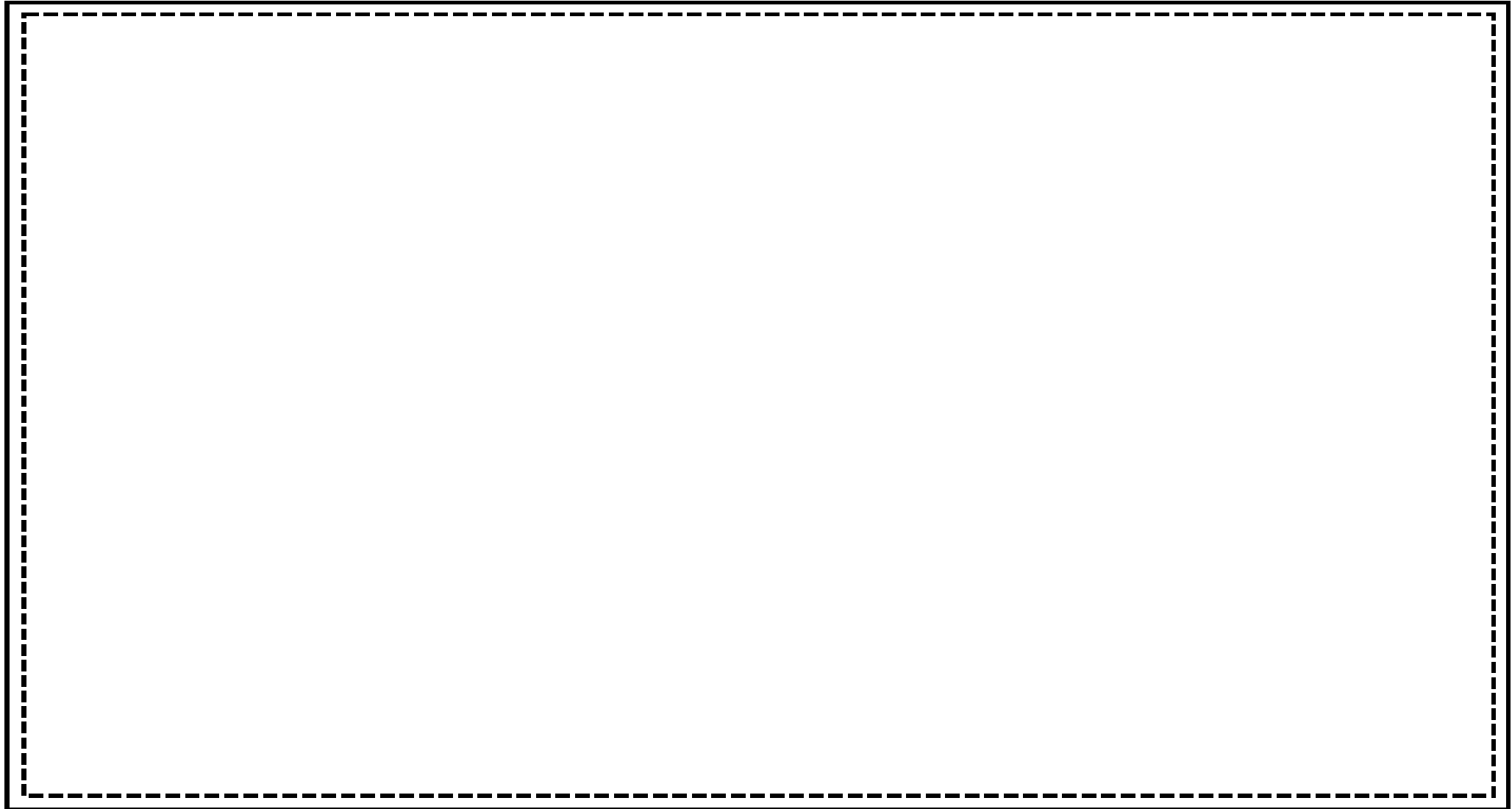
# Physical Features Class Quilt – Teacher Directions

- Divide the class into groups of 11 .
- Give each student a quilt patch handout.
- Each student will create a “quilt patch” for 1 of the 11 physical features in Africa.
- Have the students tape all 11 patches together to create the “quilt”.
- \*To make the quilt “even”, have the students work together to make a patch about Africa in general (size, features, people, climate, location, etc.)

# Africa's Physical Features Quilt Patch

**Directions:** You are going to work together to create a "quilt" of Africa's physical features.

1. Choose your feature and write the name **BIG** on the patch below.
2. Draw and color an illustration of the feature on your patch.
3. Write a description of the feature and where the feature is located on your patch.
4. Cut out the patch and tape it with your group members' patches to create your Africa quilt.



# Physical Features Hot Seat Review – Teacher Directions

- Write the names of the 11 physical features on sticky notes and randomly place them under students' chairs.
- Have all students check their seats and if they have a feature, they have to either describe it or say where it's located.
- Another variation—project a blank map of Africa on the board & have students place the sticky where the feature is located.



# Teachers

Thank you for downloading this file. I hope you enjoy using it with your students, and I can't wait to read your feedback in my TPT store! 😊

- For more social studies materials, please visit my store:  
<http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Brain-Wrinkles>
- I teach 6<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts and Social Studies in Georgia, so my products are aligned with Common Core (LA) and Georgia Performance Standards (SS).

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