

Study Guide: Africa's Geography

1. What is one major problem facing those who depend on the Nile River for water?
 - The water is contaminated with human and industrial waste
2. What is silt?
 - Rich topsoil transferred by floodwaters
3. How does continued use of chemical fertilizer cause build up in soil?
 - salt
4. What is a major use of the Niger River?
 - Transportation and agriculture
5. Why do people believe there may be "water war" in Africa's future?
 - competition among countries that share a river system
6. Why do governments ignore industrial pollution of rivers and waterways?
 - They want the industries to be profitable
7. Why is drought a problem for farmers in the Sahel?
 - The soil is of poor quality and dry conditions result in even fewer crops
8. What is a major cause of desertification?
 - Overuse of the land by the people
9. Why are most rainforest areas lost today?
 - logging for industry, farming and fuel
10. Where are desertification problems the greatest?
 - Sahel
11. Which phrase best describes the Sahara region?
 - Hot, dry desert
12. What is a nomad?
 - One who wanders from place to place to find food and water
13. What were two most important trade goods carried across the Sahara?
 - Gold and salt
14. What has been the most reliable way to travel across the Sahara?
 - camel
15. What is the name of a desert area that gets some rainfall or where there is a spring?
 - oasis
16. Which phrase best describes the Sahel?
 - an area that borders the desert
17. Why is farming so difficult in the Sahel?
 - Rainfall can vary widely from year to year
18. What is the most common way people make a living in the Sahel?
 - Herding and Subsistence farming
19. Which is a consequence of cutting down trees for fuel in the Sahel?
 - desertification
20. Which phrase best describes the savanna?
 - Grasslands making up half of the African continent

21. Which is found on the African savanna?
 - A wide variety of animals
22. What are some African countries trying to do to protect the savanna?
 - Setting land aside as national parks
23. Which phrase best describes the rainforest?
 - Humid and warm with thick vegetation
24. How does the African rainforest rank in size in the world in terms of size?
 - the 2nd largest in the world
25. In what part of Africa is the rainforest found?
 - The Congo River Basin
26. What is deforestation?
 - Cutting down and clearing trees from the area
27. What does it mean if a plant or animal becomes extinct?
 - There are no more of that type of plant or animal alive in the world
28. What is a factor in the destruction of the rainforest?
 - Rapidly growing population
29. What is an example of an ethnic group?
 - People who share a language and religion
30. What is an example of a religious group?
 - People who share a belief in god or gods
31. What religion did the Arabs bring to Africa?
 - Islam
32. What goods did Arab traders carry across the Sahara by caravan?
 - Salt and gold
33. Where do most Muslims live in Africa?
 - In Northern and Eastern Africa
34. In which country do most Ashanti live?
 - Ghana
35. What is the significance of the Golden Stool for the Ashanti people?
 - It symbolizes the power of the Ashanti people
36. What do those who practice the Ashanti religion believe?
 - There is one supreme god
37. What best describes the Bantu people?

They are many different people who share a related language and some cultural characteristics
38. What best describes the religion of the Bantu?
 - Bantu practice a wide variety of religions
39. Where are the majority of the Swahili people found?
 - East Africa
40. What two languages are combined to make Swahili?
 - Arabic and Bantu

