

PEOPLE OF AFRICA LESSON PLAN

Descriptive Title: People of Africa

Introduction: In this lesson, students will learn about the continent of Africa, its countries, and its rich diversity of people and cultures. Students will read picture books about Africa, create a three-dimensional physical map of Africa, and explore various African cultural groups and their traditions and lifestyles.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

- Read picture books about the countries and people of Africa
- Create a three-dimensional physical map of Africa
- Identify various African cultural groups and describe some of their traditions and lifestyles

Curriculum Alignment with the National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies, Early Grades (K-4):

I. CULTURE

- d. Compare ways in which people from different cultures think about and deal with their physical environment and social conditions.
- e. Give examples and describe the importance of cultural unity and diversity within and across groups.

II. Time, Continuity, and Change

- e. Demonstrate an understanding that people in different times and places view the world differently.

III. People, Places, and Environments

- b. Interpret, use, and distinguish various representations of the earth, such as maps, globes, and photographs.
- e. Locate and distinguish among varying landforms and geographic features, such as mountains, plateaus, islands, and oceans.
- g. Describe how people create places that reflect ideas, personality, culture, and wants and needs as they design homes, playgrounds, classrooms, and the like.
- h. Examine the interaction of human beings and their physical environment, the use of land, building of cities, and ecosystem changes in selected locales and regions.

Curriculum Alignment with the National Geography Standards:

I. The World in Spatial Terms

- 3. How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places and environments on Earth's surface

II. Places and Regions

- 4. The physical and human characteristics of places

IV. Human Systems

- 9. The characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations on Earth's surface
- 10. The characteristics, distribution, and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics.

Classroom Time Required: 1-1 ½ hours

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Materials Needed:

- World map globe ball
- Pictures from newspapers or magazines or websites, such as *National Geographic*, from different places around the world (at least 2 per student)
- Copies of picture books about Africa. Suggested titles include:
 - Knight, Margy Burns. (2002). *Africa is Not a Country*. Millbrook Press.
 - Musgrove, Margaret. (1976). *Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions*. New York: Puffin.
- Glue sticks
- Color copies of a physical map of Africa – see example below.
- ½ container of 4 different colors of playdough per student (suggested colors: red, green, yellow, blue)
- One piece of 8.5x11 cardboard per student
- Toothpicks
- One set of African Cultures Labels per student

Activities:

1. Have students identify the continents on a world map or globe ball. As each continent is identified, ask students to name some countries on that continent.
2. Place students in groups of 4. Give each group of students 8 or more pictures from newspapers or magazines or websites, such as *National Geographic*, and have students sort them into groups based on which continent they think they depict. Have students verbally justify their reasoning for their classification.
3. Tell students that today they will be learning about Africa, its geography, and the people that live there. Have students turn to a partner and share some things that they already know about Africa. Have pairs report out and record responses on the board.
4. Read *Africa is Not a Country* by Margy Burns Knight and/or *Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions* by Margaret Musgrove aloud to students.
5. Ask students what additional information they learned about Africa. Add to information already recorded on board and correct any misinformation recorded earlier.
6. Create physical maps of Africa.
 - Give each student an 8.5x11" piece of cardboard. Have students glue a copy of a physical map of Africa on the cardboard.
 - For mountains: Show students pictures of the mountains in Africa. Have students cover the mountain areas on their maps with blue playdough. Encourage them to mound up the clay like mountains.
 - For deserts: Show students pictures of the deserts in Africa. Have students cover up the desert areas on their maps with red playdough.

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- For forests: Show students pictures of the forested areas of Africa. Have students cover up the forest areas on their maps with green playdough.
 - For the grasslands: Show students pictures of African grasslands. Have students cover up the grasslands on their maps with yellow playdough.
7. Remind students that in the books that they read, they learned that different groups of people live in different parts of Africa and they all have different lifestyles and traditions.
 8. Give each student a set of African Cultures labels (see below). Encourage students to draw a picture to represent some aspect of each group's culture on half of the label.
 9. Have students fold each label in half over a toothpick and place each toothpick in the correct location on the map they created. (For locations, see the last page in *Ashanti to Zulu*.)

Assessment:

1. Have students write or share verbally what they learned about Africa and the people who live there.

Modifications:

- To save time and materials, students may create maps in groups or pairs, rather than individually.
- To break lesson into two shorter lessons, do steps 1-5 on Day One and steps 6-9 on Day Two.
- To use this lesson in a learning station format, have the books and pictures used in #1 -5 displayed on a large table for students to explore. On one end of the table have the rainforest map-making materials and an example available for students to use to create their own maps. On another end of the table, have the books and pictures for sorting. Have one or more adults facilitate each of these activities

Links to other Africa lesson plans and resources:

- PBS: Africa—Africa for Kids: This website contains links to activities that allow children to view informational slideshows about children in Africa and how they live, learn about thumb pianos, make an African mask, and read a Swahili folktale. The website can be found at <http://pbskids.org/africa/> The companion Teacher Tools link found at <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/africa/tools/index.html> contains lesson plans and resources for use in grade 3-12 classrooms.
- National Geographic Kids Website: This website contains information about the geography, people, and animals found in several African countries.
 - Kenya: <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/Places/Find/Kenya>
 - Egypt: <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/Places/Find/Egypt>
 - Nigeria: <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/Places/Find/Nigeria>

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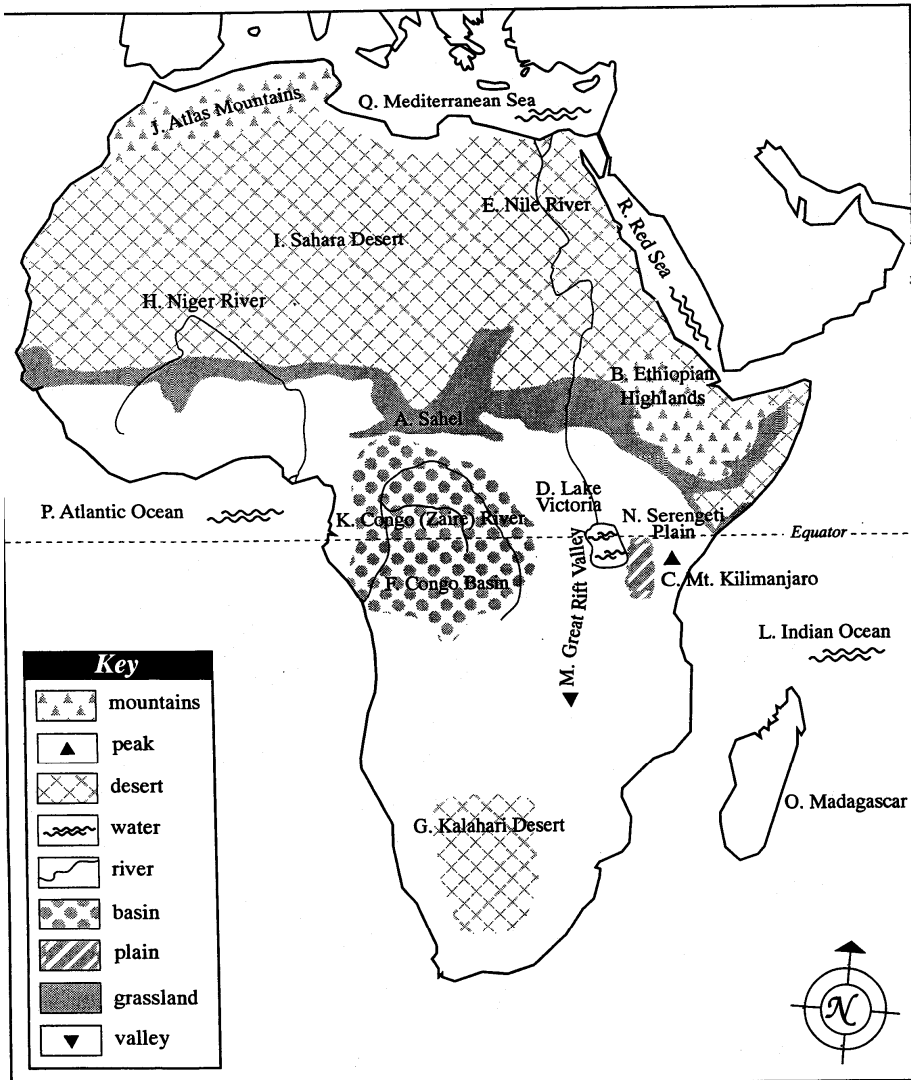
- National Geographic Xpeditions Lesson Plans: This website contains excellent lesson plans for students in grades K-12 about Africa and other places around the world. An index of these lessons can be found at <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/matrix.html>.
- Peace Corps World Wise Schools: This website contains a wealth of lesson plans drawn from the experiences of Peace Corps volunteers that help to build cross-cultural knowledge and understanding. Lessons can be accessed at:
<http://www.peacecorps.gov/www/educators/lessonplans/section.cfm?rid=afri><http://www.peacecorps.gov/www/educators/lessonplans/section.cfm?rid=afri>

About the Author:

Hardin Engelhardt is a Reading and ESL specialist with 14 years of education experience in Maryland, California, and North Carolina. Her primary work has been at the middle school level. Ms. Engelhardt has NC credentials in Reading, ESL, and English-Language Arts. She has a Master of Arts in Education/Language, Literacy, and Culture from UC Berkeley. She is a Teach for America alum.

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Physiographic Map of Africa



Make a combination of the map above and below (from this link <http://weber.ucsd.edu/~jmoore/apesites/Maps/AfricaVEG.gif>)

Include only: desert, grasslands, mountains, forests, rivers. Use blue for mountains, red for deserts, green for forests, yellow for grasslands.)

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AFRICA CULTURE LABELS

Tuareg	Hausa
udai	Dogon
Uge	Yoruba
Vai	Baile
Ashanti	Fanti
Ewe	Ga
Uge	Ndaka
Wagenia	Jie

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Masai	Rendille
Chagga	ikoma
Vai	Baile
Quimbande	Ikoma
Kung	Lozi
Zulu	Sotho
Pondo	Xhosa