

AFRICA

African land was rarely explored, even into the 18th century, but most people traded along the coasts, mostly for gold, ivory, spices, and later...slaves.

In 1788, Joseph Banks, a botanist, founded the African Association to promote the exploration of the interior of the continent.

It's hard to say who actually first explored Africa, because as far as times date back, there were always people who had lived there. When people started to migrate, different cultures and languages came about.

Africa is the world's second-largest and second-most-populous continent. At about 30.2 million km² (11.7 million sq mi) including adjacent islands, it covers six percent of Earth's total surface area and 20.4 percent of its total land area. With 1.1 billion people as of 2013, it accounts for about 15% of the world's human population.

The continent is surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea to the north, both the Suez Canal and the Red Sea along the Sinai Peninsula to the northeast, the Indian Ocean to the southeast, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. The continent includes Madagascar and various archipelagos. It has 54 fully recognized sovereign states (or countries), nine territories and two *de facto* independent states with limited or no recognition.

- There was a lot of slave trade in and out of Africa, as early as the 7th century
- Africa has the most countries per continent which is 54
- Africa includes Sahara, the largest desert in the world
- It is the source of 50% of the production of gold and diamonds in the world
- Bears higher risks of disease and socioeconomic disasters
- Poorest and most underdeveloped continent in the world
- Famous for the Great Pyramids of Giza

Bordering Bodies of Water: Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Suez Canal, Red Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Gulf of Guinea



Major Rivers and Lakes: Nile River, Niger River, Congo River, Zambezi River, Lake Victoria, Lake Tanganyika, Lake Nyasa

Major Geographical Features: Sahara Desert, Kalahari Desert, Ethiopian Highlands, Serengeti grasslands, Atlas Mountains, Mount Kilimanjaro, Madagascar Island, Great Rift Valley, the Sahel, and the Horn of Africa

Fun Facts about Africa:

The highest point in Africa is Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania at 5895 meters high. The lowest point is Lake Asal in Djibouti at 153 meters below sea level.

The largest country in Africa is Algeria, the smallest is the Seychelles. The most populated country is Nigeria.



Flag of Algeria



Flag of Seychelles

The largest lake in Africa is Lake Victoria and the longest river is the Nile River, which is also the longest river in the world.

Africa is rich with varied wildlife including elephants, penguins, lions, cheetahs, seals, giraffes, gorillas, crocodiles, and hippos.

African languages are varied with more than 1000 languages spoken across the continent.