

TENDER HEART HIGH SCHOOL

SECTOR 33B, CHANDIGARH

Class: VII

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Subject: Geography

Chapter 8 (continue)

Africa - Location, Political Divisions and Physical Divisions

5) Major Physical Features

1) Africa Desert Region

- One third of Africa is covered with desert.
- Sahara Desert is the largest desert.
- Desert Region has many oases like Kufra Oases and Siwa Oases.
- It extends from Red Sea in the east to Atlantic Ocean in the west.
- The Kalahari Desert in the South and Namib Desert in the western coast.

2) African Plateau

- It is made up of old volcanic rocks composed of old, hard, crystalline igneous and metamorphic rocks.
- It extends from South Africa to North Sahara and from Guinea Coast to Somalia in the East.
- It is divided into smaller plateaus whose height is greater in South and smaller in North.

3) Low lands and Basins

- There are narrow coastal plains in Africa that are flanked by Plateau Escarpments.
- The Coastal Plains are wide in Mozambique, Somalia and Guinea Coast.
- However, there are number of river basins such as Congo, Niger, Orange etc.
- It also have inland drainage like Chad Basin.

4) Mountains

(a) Fold Mountains

- These are remnants of ancient old folded mountains.
- The Cape ranges in extreme South are not high and they enclose two areas that extend from coast of South African plateau, known as Karoo.
- Atlas mountains to the North-west are young folded mountains.

(b) Block Mountains

- The East African Rift Valley extends from Red Sea to River Zambezi has Block Mountains on both its eastern and western flanks eg. Mt. Rwenzori.

(c) Ethiopian Highlands

- Most of the highest peak of the region has volcanic Mountains.
- Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest peak (5895 m)
- other important mountains are Mt. Elgon, Mt. Kenya, Mt. Cameroon etc.

(d) Residual Mountains

- These are made up of residue materials.
- eg. Ahaggar and Tibesti Plateaus.

(5) Rift Valley:

- The most prominent physical feature of Africa is the Great Rift Valley.
- The Great Rift Valley is about 6440 kms long and extend from Red Sea to River Zambezi.
- It has number of lakes like lake Rukwa, Lake Tanganyika and Lake Malawi.

(6) Drainage:

- One third of Africa has no direct drainage to Sea.
- Majority of rivers are characterised by rapids, waterfalls and deep Gorges.
- Some important rivers of the region are:-

(a) River Nile

- It originates in Lake Victoria
- White Nile is the main tributary and Blue Nile is another Tributary.
- It is longest river of world (6670 kms long).
- It drains itself into Mediterranean sea after forming 250 kms long Delta.
- It is a fan shaped Delta.

(b) River Congo:

- It is river of Central Africa
- It is not fit for navigation as it has many water falls and rapids.
- It has great hydel power potential
- Ubangi and Kasai are its main tributaries

(c) River Niger:

- It is important river of West Africa.
- River Benue is the main tributary.

(d) River Zambezi:

- It is major river of South Africa.
- The famous Victoria falls are across it.
- It has huge hydel power project

(e) Other Rivers

- The other important rivers of Africa are Senegal, Orange and Chad.

(f) Lakes

- Main lakes of Africa are Lake Albert, Lake Edward, Lake Kivu, Lake Tanganyika, Lake Rukya and Lake Nyasa.

I hope you all have understood the topic very well. So you all are required to read chapter 1 and also the questions and answers of Back exercise of chapter 1.

With this I conclude the interactive session.