

Africa Location Trail

Use location clues to track major African physical features.

SS7G1.a "Locate on a world and regional political-physical map: Sahara, Sahel, savanna, tropical rain forest, Congo River, Niger River, Nile River, Lake Victoria, Great Rift Valley, Mt. Kilimanjaro, Atlas Mountains, and Kalahari Desert."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each named African feature, then draw a small arrow from it to the nearby direction or region clue in the same sentence.

Following Africa's Physical Clues

- ① On a political-physical map of Africa, begin in the north. The Atlas Mountains rise along the continent's northwestern edge, near the Mediterranean Sea. South and east of these mountains lies the Sahara, a vast desert stretching across northern Africa. Along the Sahara's southern border is the Sahel, a dry transition zone. Farther south, broad savannas, or tropical grasslands with scattered trees, extend across much of Africa. These patterns help a map reader move from north to south while noticing changes in land and climate.
- ② In the northeast, the Nile River flows north through Sudan and Egypt toward the Mediterranean Sea. Lake Victoria, in east-central Africa, is one important source area for the Nile. West of Lake Victoria, the Congo River curves through the tropical rain forest of central Africa. The Niger River begins in the west, flows northeastward into the Sahel, then turns southeast toward the Gulf of Guinea. The Great Rift Valley is a long system of valleys in eastern Africa, near Lake Victoria and south of it.
- ③ Southeastern Africa includes two landmarks with very different settings. Mt. Kilimanjaro stands in northeastern Tanzania, near the Kenyan border and just south of the equator. It is near the eastern side of the continent, not in the Great Rift Valley itself. The Kalahari Desert covers parts of Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa in the south. To locate each feature, first find the larger region, then use nearby water, borders, or landforms as clues. A map key can identify rivers, mountains, lakes, deserts, and vegetation zones.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** Starting at the Atlas Mountains, what desert lies south and east of the mountains? What transition zone is along that desert's southern border?

- 2** Which river begins in western Africa, enters the Sahel, and then turns southeast toward the Gulf of Guinea?

- 3** Name the lake in east-central Africa and the river west of it that curves through the tropical rain forest.

- 4** Where is Mt. Kilimanjaro located, and where is the Kalahari Desert located?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write four numbered location directions for a classmate using four different named features: one river or lake, one mountain or valley, one desert, and one vegetation zone. In each direction, name a region and one nearby clue that would help the classmate find it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each named African feature, then draw a small arrow from it to the nearby direction or region clue in the same sentence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Starting at the Atlas Mountains, what desert lies south and east of the mountains? What transition zone is along that desert's southern border?	The Sahara lies south and east of the Atlas Mountains. The Sahel is along the Sahara's southern border.
2	Which river begins in western Africa, enters the Sahel, and then turns southeast toward the Gulf of Guinea?	The Niger River.
3	Name the lake in east-central Africa and the river west of it that curves through the tropical rain forest.	Lake Victoria and the Congo River.
4	Where is Mt. Kilimanjaro located, and where is the Kalahari Desert located?	Mt. Kilimanjaro is in northeastern Tanzania near the Kenyan border. The Kalahari Desert is in southern Africa, covering parts of Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

1. Find Lake Victoria in east-central Africa, where the Nile River has an important source area. 2. Locate the Great Rift Valley in eastern Africa, near and south of Lake Victoria. 3. Find the Kalahari Desert in southern Africa, across parts of Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa. 4. Identify the tropical rain forest in central Africa, where the Congo River curves through it.

Accept accurate location directions that use the required four feature types and include a broad region plus a nearby clue. Regional descriptions may use equivalent terms such as northern, central, eastern, or southern Africa when they match the passage.