

Africa Location Clues

Use regional clues to locate major African physical features.

SS7G1 "Locate selected features of Africa."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each of the 11 named African physical features. Number them 1 through 11 as you find them to notice how each feature's location is described.

Reading Africa's Regions

- ① Africa stretches from the Mediterranean Sea in the north toward the southern oceans. Along its northwestern edge, the Atlas Mountains rise in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. South and east of these mountains lies the Sahara, a vast desert across northern Africa. At the Sahara's southern border is the Sahel, a dry band that crosses the continent from west to east. Farther south, broad savannas, or tropical grasslands, cover much of central and eastern Africa. These zones help a map reader place northern Africa before moving south.
- ② Near the equator, tropical rain forest forms a green belt, especially in central Africa. The Congo River flows through this region and bends toward the Atlantic Ocean on Africa's west coast. The Niger River begins in the west and makes a broad curve through West Africa before reaching the Gulf of Guinea. The Nile River travels north through northeastern Africa, then enters the Mediterranean Sea. Lake Victoria lies in eastern Africa, near the headwaters of the Nile. Knowing each river's direction helps distinguish the west, center, and northeast.
- ③ In eastern Africa, the Great Rift Valley is a long zone of valleys and highlands that runs generally from northeast to south. It passes near Lake Victoria. In the continent's far south, the Kalahari Desert covers parts of Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa. To locate these features, first find the continent's broad regions: north, west, center, east, and south. Then use nearby landforms and bodies of water as clues. For example, a feature near the Mediterranean belongs toward the north, while one near the Atlantic coast is toward the west.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Where would you locate the Atlas Mountains in Africa? Include the countries named in the passage.

2 Name the river in central Africa that flows toward the Atlantic Ocean and the river in northeastern Africa that enters the Mediterranean Sea.

3 Which two features does the passage place near each other in eastern Africa?

4 Where would you locate the Kalahari Desert? Name the three countries given in the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Complete the locator table with four features other than the Atlas Mountains, Congo River, Nile River, Great Rift Valley, Lake Victoria, and Kalahari Desert. Use a regional clue and a nearby feature or body of water from the passage for each one.

FEATURE	REGIONAL LOCATION CLUE	NEARBY FEATURE OR BODY OF WATER

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each of the 11 named African physical features. Number them 1 through 11 as you find them to notice how each feature's location is described. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where would you locate the Atlas Mountains in Africa? Include the countries named in the passage.	On Africa's northwestern edge, in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia.
2	Name the river in central Africa that flows toward the Atlantic Ocean and the river in northeastern Africa that enters the Mediterranean Sea.	The Congo River flows through central Africa toward the Atlantic Ocean. The Nile River travels north through northeastern Africa to the Mediterranean Sea.
3	Which two features does the passage place near each other in eastern Africa?	The Great Rift Valley and Lake Victoria.
4	Where would you locate the Kalahari Desert? Name the three countries given in the passage.	In far southern Africa, in parts of Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

FEATURE	REGIONAL LOCATION CLUE	NEARBY FEATURE OR BODY OF WATER
Sahara	northern Africa	south and east of the Atlas Mountains
Sahel	south of the Sahara	dry band crossing from west to east
Niger River	West Africa	curves toward the Gulf of Guinea
tropical rain forest	central Africa near the equator	the Congo River flows through it

Accept accurate regional and relative-location clues from the passage. For the table, students may choose any four allowed features and may use equivalent wording for directions or nearby places.