

# Africa Feature Detectives

Spot natural features and people-shaped places.

**WG.7** "The student will analyze the characteristics of the regions of sub-Saharan Africa by identifying and analyzing the location of major geographic regions and major cities on maps and globes..."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Physical geography includes natural land, water, climate, plants, and landforms. These features are shaped mainly by natural processes.

Mount Kenya has glaciers near its summit.

## HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Human geography includes places, activities, and cultural patterns shaped by people. Cities, farming, language, and transportation are human features.

A family-owned restaurant in Kampala serves local food.

## 1 SORT

8 items

For each item, circle PHYSICAL or HUMAN, then in Part 2 choose two items and explain which clues helped you sort them.

1. The Namib Desert's very dry climate

PHYSICAL

HUMAN

2. Lake Tanganyika, a deep freshwater lake

PHYSICAL

HUMAN

3. Accra, the capital city of Ghana

PHYSICAL

HUMAN

4. The Ethiopian Highlands, an area of high mountains

PHYSICAL

HUMAN

5. Cocoa farming in Côte d'Ivoire

PHYSICAL

HUMAN

6. A railway carrying goods from inland mines to a port

PHYSICAL

HUMAN

7. The Congo River and its rapids

PHYSICAL

HUMAN

8. Bantu languages spoken across much of central and southern Africa

PHYSICAL

HUMAN

2

PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # \_\_\_\_\_ HOW I KNEW \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ITEM # \_\_\_\_\_ HOW I KNEW \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3

MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new PHYSICAL example and one new HUMAN example from sub-Saharan Africa.

PHYSICAL \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

HUMAN \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**CHALLENGE**

Name one physical feature and one human activity from sub-Saharan Africa. In two sentences, explain how the physical feature affects the activity.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PART 1 • SORT**

| # | ITEM                                                              | CATEGORY        | WHY                                                        |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | The Namib Desert's very dry climate                               | <b>PHYSICAL</b> | Climate and deserts are natural physical features.         |
| 2 | Lake Tanganyika, a deep freshwater lake                           | <b>PHYSICAL</b> | A lake is a natural water feature.                         |
| 3 | Accra, the capital city of Ghana                                  | <b>HUMAN</b>    | A city is built and organized by people.                   |
| 4 | The Ethiopian Highlands, an area of high mountains                | <b>PHYSICAL</b> | Highlands and mountains are natural landforms.             |
| 5 | Cocoa farming in Côte d'Ivoire                                    | <b>HUMAN</b>    | Farming is a human economic activity.                      |
| 6 | A railway carrying goods from inland mines to a port              | <b>HUMAN</b>    | Railways, mining, and trade are human activities.          |
| 7 | The Congo River and its rapids                                    | <b>PHYSICAL</b> | A river and rapids are natural water features.             |
| 8 | Bantu languages spoken across much of central and southern Africa | <b>HUMAN</b>    | Language is a cultural pattern created and used by people. |

**PART 2 • PROVE IT**

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

**PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)**

- **PHYSICAL:** The Namib Desert receives very little rainfall.
- **HUMAN:** Ghana exports cocoa beans to other countries.

**Challenge:** The Senegal River is a physical feature, and farming near it is a human activity. River water helps farmers grow crops, so farms can develop near the river.

Sort order: PHYSICAL, PHYSICAL, HUMAN, PHYSICAL, HUMAN, HUMAN, PHYSICAL, HUMAN. For Part 2, students should cite a natural-process clue for physical geography or a people, culture, settlement, or economic-activity clue for human geography.