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*Mediterranean Sea*

*Cape of Good Hope*

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| **Vocabulary Term** | **Definition & Information** |
| **DESERTIFICATION** | The gradual transformation of habitable/fertile land into desert, typically as a result of drought, deforestation, or inappropriate agriculture.  *Issue affecting many areas in Africa. If countries don’t start to prevent or reverse the effects, desert regions could increase in size.* |
| **FAMINE** | A negative effect of desertification. Many countries experience this because of poor economies. |
| **DROUGHT** | A negative side effect of desertification. |
| **DEVELOPING COUNTRY** | A poor agricultural country that is seeking to become more advanced economically and socially.  *Most countries in Africa that we are studying would be considered developing because of their low standards of living and poor economies.* |
| **SAVANNA** | A grassy plain in tropical and subtropical regions, with few trees where with much wildlife.  *Tourist attraction for many of the countries. A way of making money for some countries. Need to keep certain animals off watch lists.* |

**DESERTIFICATION**

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| **Causes** | **Negative Effects** | **Prevention** | **Reversing the Effects** |
| **Overgrazing**  *Too many animals feeding in one location* | Vegetation is lacking or damaged  Damaged lands | Animals on the land must be reduced  Mixed farming & rotating crops – the same should be used for animal grazing | Management and policy approaches that promote sustainable resource use |
| **Deforestation**  *The destruction of forests and grasslands* | Erosion of soil    Food Loss  Soil is unusable | Soil conditions must be made better with natural fertilizer  Planting trees, perennials, and leguminous plants | Reintroducing selected species of plants  Establishing seed banks  Countering erosion – use of terraces |
| **Over**  **Population**  *Too many people and not enough land to produce enough food* | Poverty  Famine  Cannot support life | Better farming practices  Establish a culture of prevention | Enriching soil with nutrients |
| **Climate**  **Change**  **& Drought** | Animals die from starvation  Severe Floods | Better water conservation through irrigation | Establishing regulations and practices to support sustainable use of the land |

**SOCIAL:** *Information about people and society*

* Over 800 different ETHNIC GROUPS in Africa (ex. Hutu and Tutsi)
* This makes it very difficult to form unified nations
* Over 1000 different LANGUAGES, 40 of which have more than one million speakers
  + The most multilingual continent in the world
  + Many speak fluently in multiple African AND European languages
* Over 40% practice a wide variety of TRADITIONAL RELIGIONS
* Life Expectancy = 58 years
  + Much lower in poorer countries, but higher in more developed countries
  + Reasons for low life expectancy
    - Malnutrition, Famines, Warfare, Poverty, Poor sanitation, Inadequate medical services
    - Disease (AIDS, Ebola, Malaria, TB, Yellow Fever)
    - Typical sub-Saharan MEAL (DAILY LIFE) includes:
  + Starchy food (rice, cassava, or corn cooked into a porridge, or yams)
  + Sauce containing vegetables or bits of meat
  + Plantain (large, starchy kind of banana that can be fried, boiled, baked or grilled)

**ECONOMIC:** *Information about money, wealth, & trade*

* Africa has the least developed economy of any continent (except Antarctica)
* Agriculture is the leading economic activity
  + Most farmers use outdated tools and methods of farming
  + Soil is thin and poor
* Africa has great mineral wealth
  + Huge deposits of copper, diamonds, gold, and petroleum
* Produce most of the world’s cassava, cocoa beans, and yams

**ENVIRONMENTAL:** *Information about geography & natural resources*

* Major Rivers
  + Nile River
  + Niger River
  + Congo River
* Important Geographic Features:
  + Mt. Kilimanjaro
  + Congo Basin
  + Deserts (Sahara, Kalahari, Namib)
    - Sahara – World’s largest desert (stretches across most of northern Africa)
    - Almost as large as the United States in total area
* Elephants, giraffes, lions, zebras and other animals live in vast grasslands in eastern and southern
* African Climate
  + 15% is DESERT
  + 10% is TROPICAL RAINFOREST
  + 35% is SAVANNA/GRASSLAND
* The rest of Africa includes Mediterranean climate, mountain climate, tropical wet and dry, rainy and mild, and wet and mild.

**DEMOGRAPHIC:** *Information about where people live & why*

* Africa is 11.6 million square miles (about the size as 7 billion football fields)
* HUGE compared to U.S. 3.6 million square miles (almost four times the size as U.S.)
* Second largest continent in the world; Makes up over 20% of Earth’s land
* Second most populous continent (after Asia)
* Largest countries: Nigeria (166 million), Ethiopia (87 million), Egypt (84 million), DRC (70 million), South Africa (50 million), Tanzania (48 million), Sudan (45 million), Kenya (43 million)
* Around 55 countries on the continent (Civil wars and conflicts make this number fluctuate)
* Over 2/3rds of Africans live in rural areas
* Make a living farming or raising livestock
* Located near a major River