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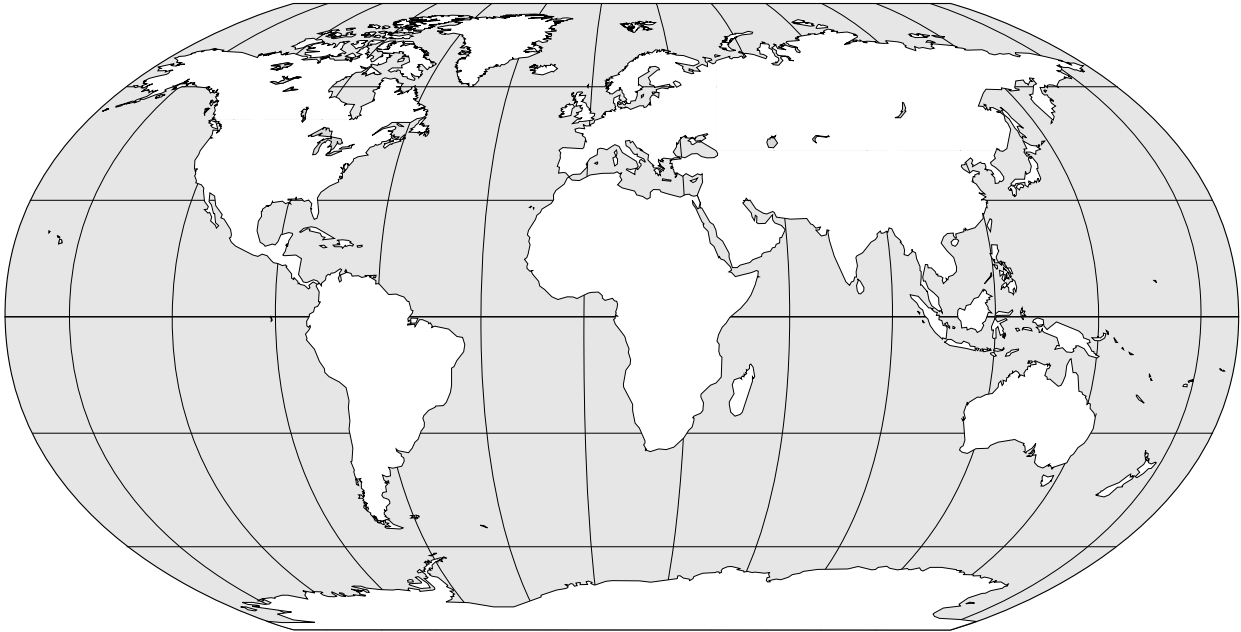
# Before You Begin

## Introduction

*World Geography* is designed to help students acquire basic knowledge about each continent. The pages within this book include reproducible maps of the world, continents, and oceans. In addition, informative profiles of the continents and related activities are provided to help reinforce and enhance your students' knowledge of world geography.

## Unit Organisation and Management

The study of world geography presented in this book is divided by continent.



### Each continent section includes:

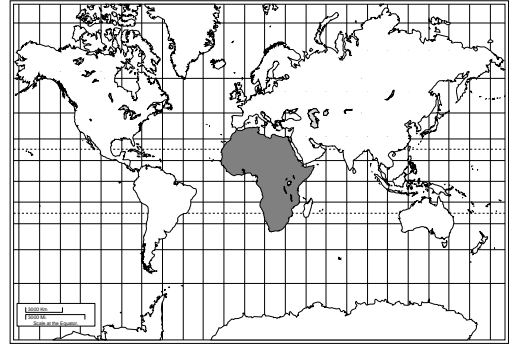
- an outline map and a physical map of the continent
- an information page about the physical geography of the continent
- activities for the study of the physical geography of the continent
- an information page about the human geography of the continent
- activities for the study of the human geography of the continent

Except for the section about Antarctica, each section is identical in format but includes content tailored to the continent. For example, each section includes a population graphing exercise with identical instructions and layout but with data pertaining to the continent. This arrangement provides the following options:

- A different continent may be assigned to each of seven small groups, each group doing the same tasks for its own continent.
- A different continent may be assigned to each member of a group; individuals may help one another with required skills but not the content.
- All the worksheets of one type may be assigned to a group.
- Appropriate exercises may be used with the whole class.

# Physical Geography of Africa

**Location:** Africa is located in the eastern hemisphere. It is south of Europe and southwest of Asia. It is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea to the north, the Red Sea to the northeast, the Indian Ocean to the east, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. Approximately two-thirds of the continent is located in the northern hemisphere and a third in the southern hemisphere.



**Size:** Africa is approximately 30,330,000 square kilometres in area, which makes it almost four times the size of Australia. It is the second largest continent after Asia. The greatest distance from south to north is about 8,000 kilometres and from east to west 7,600 kilometres. The highest point of the continent is the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro at 5,895 metres. The lowest point is Lake Assal, which is 155 metres below sea level.

**Climate:** The climate throughout Africa is generally warm to hot. In most parts of Africa the difference between day and night temperatures is greater than the difference between summer and winter temperatures.

Precipitation varies greatly on the continent. Most of the heaviest rainfall occurs in central Africa. Snow falls in the higher elevations. In the northern and southern regions, rainfall is limited.

**Landforms:** Africa is basically a gigantic plateau. The three dominant landforms on this plateau are deserts, grasslands, and tropical rainforests.

The largest and most famous desert in Africa is the Sahara. It extends across northern Africa about 5,600 kilometres, a distance greater than that between Perth and Auckland. In the south, the principal deserts are the Namib and Kalahari. Together, deserts cover about two-fifths of Africa.

Grasslands, or savannahs, also cover about two-fifths of Africa. Most of these grasslands are located between desert areas and the tropical rainforests.

Tropical rainforests make up about one-fifth of the continent. The largest area of rainforest is located in central Africa, although some can also be found in the southeast and on the island of Madagascar.

There are two important river basins in Africa. One is along the Nile River in the northeastern corner of the continent. The Nile is the longest river in the world. The other basin is the huge Congo Basin in central Africa, which includes the Congo River and its tributaries.

The longest fresh-water lake in the world, Lake Tanganyika, is located in eastern Africa, as is Lake Victoria, the world's third largest lake.

The major mountain ranges of Africa are in the extreme northwest and in the east. In the northwest are the Atlas Mountains. In the east are many high mountains, including Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa.

Many islands are part of Africa, including one of the largest in the world, Madagascar.

One interesting feature of the continent is the Great Rift Valley. It runs north to south for hundreds of kilometres in the eastern region of the continent. This feature is actually many steep-sided valleys formed by cracks in the earth's surface.