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Introduction

What Has Happened to Geography?

Studies made during the last couple of decades show geography as a neglected science, even physical geography, its most traditional form. One of the suspected causes has been the higher priority of teaching subjects like maths and science in the classroom. There have been many well-publicised surveys showing that people are not very well informed about the Earth they live on.

During the years that the study of geography was being set aside in many of our schools in favour of other priorities, the whole focus of geography changed. Geography was once divided into two major categories: physical geography and human geography. Physical geography is concerned with the natural features of the earth (land, water, and climate), how they relate to each other, and the living organisms, including people, on the Earth. Physical geography has been divided into several categories: biogeography, climatology, geomorphology, oceanography, and soil geography. Human geography studies the patterns of human activity and how it relates to the environment around them. Human geography has also been divided into several categories: cultural, economic, historical, political, population, social, and urban.

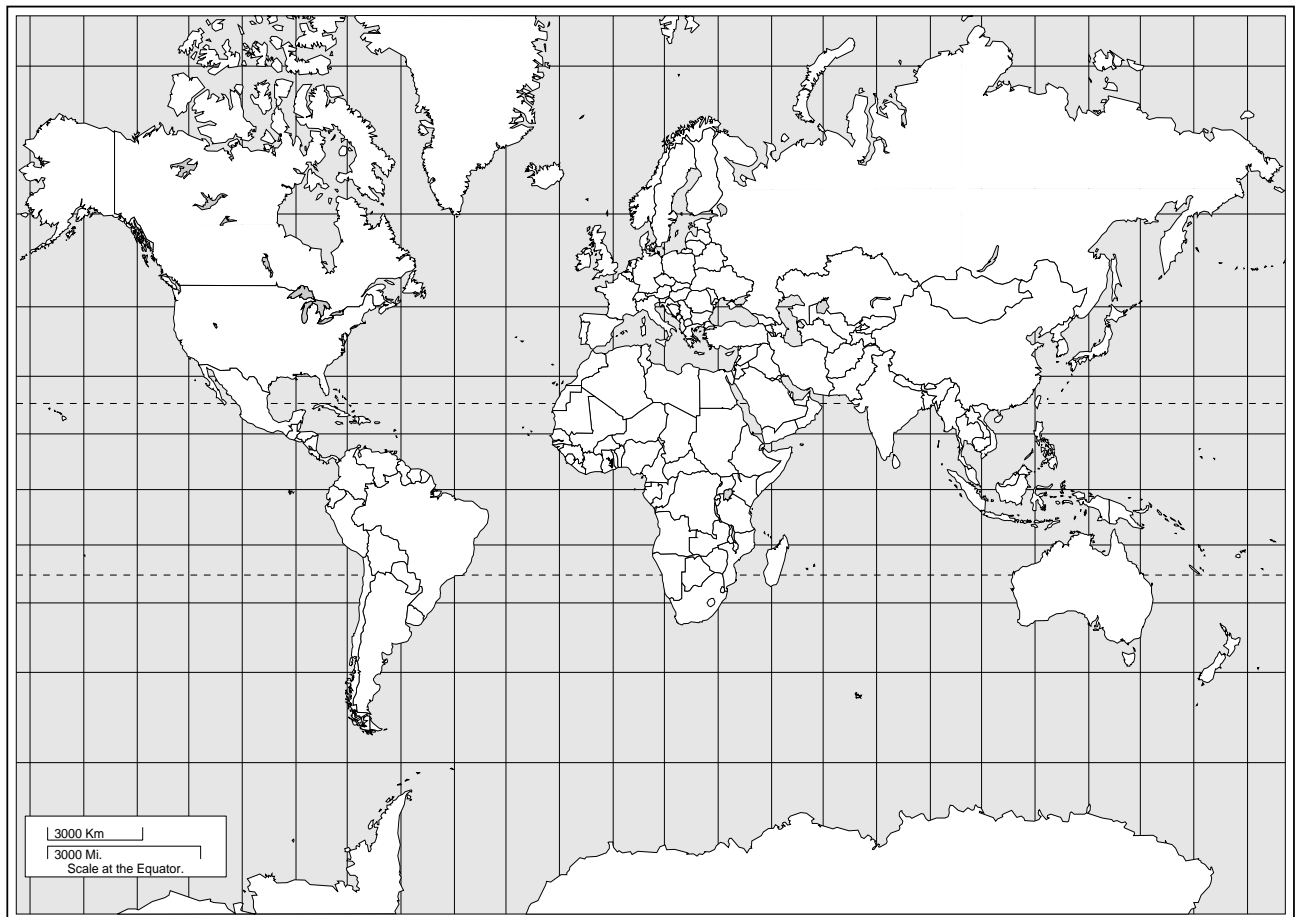
It was easy to compare and contrast geography with other sciences such as astronomy, which describes the Earth in relation to its position in space, and geology, which studies the Earth's structure and composition. Today, however, geography is crossing into other sciences, as well. We are seeing it in cultural anthropology, demographics, ecology, economics, meteorology, sociology, and zoology. Although these remain separate sciences, the lines separating them are more blurry than ever before, and many new approaches to the study of geography are being advocated.



Where on Earth Is Africa?

- Africa lies between the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian Ocean.
- Africa is the second largest continent, smaller only than Asia.
- The equator runs through the centre of Africa.
- The Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea form the northern boundaries of Africa.

Use these clues to find Africa on this map. Colour it blue.





Countries of Africa

There are 51 countries of Africa listed below. Find them forwards, backwards, and diagonally in the word search below.

L M O R O C C O T H E G A M B I A G U I N E A S
 I O A N G O L A L G E R I A A N E L E H T S S O
 B Z Q W T E R T M G U I N E A B I S S A U O I U
 Y A Y S A O T O M E A N D P R I N C I P E M E T
 A M U I O E G Y P T R P L K E R I T R E A A R H
 A B E N I N Z O X C V O S E N E G A L B Z L R A
 Z I M B A B W E E T H I O P I A E N M M A I A F
 Q Q W E R T Y U M I N O I N U E R A S D M A L R
 F U G H E Q U A T O R I A L G U I N E A B J E I
 C E N T R A L A F R I C A N R E P U B L I C O C
 I M A U R I T A N I A M H S N B V U C X A O N A
 V Q W N I G E R I A R R O A N T R Y U P I N E S
 O E L I B E R I A S D R F O D K G H E J K G M W
 R M N S U D A N V C O X B Z I A E V S D F O A A
 Y D J I B O U T I M U A Q N W E E N R T Y H U Z
 C A Z A I R E S O D G H A N A R F G Y D F T R I
 O M N B V Z X C Z A A F S D D I W A L A M O I L
 A Q W T A N Z A N I A E R E T Y U A K J H S T A
 S M A Y O B T E A S N S D F B U R U N D I E I N
 T N A M I B I A O G D B O T S W A N A D H L U D
 S E Y C H E L L E S A E M A D A G A S C A R S D

Cross off the countries as you find them: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Libya, Egypt, Chad, Sudan, Cape Verde, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Sao Tome and Principe, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Congo, Zaire, Angola, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Seychelles, Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Swaziland, Lesotho, Eritrea



People in Africa

The oldest human fossils have been found in Africa, in Olduvai Gorge, which is located in the Great Rift Valley. Africa may turn out to be the place where the human race began. Certainly, many great civilisations developed there. Egypt is well known, of course. When Europeans first came to Africa, Timbuktu, in what is now Mali, was also a centre of commerce and learning, as was Zimbabwe in the southeast.

Africa and its people can really be divided into two parts. First, there are the people who live around the Mediterranean Sea and across the Red Sea from the Middle Eastern Arab countries. In these countries, often referred to as North Africa, Arabic is the primary language and most of the people follow the religion of Islam. The second part of Africa and its people can be found south of the Sahara. This area is populated by hundreds of black ethnic groups speaking different languages and representing different cultures and religions.

European contact with Africa began about 500 years ago. The first contact involved the slave trade but soon developed into full-scale colonisation, which was done without taking ethnic boundaries into consideration. It was not until the 1960s that most African countries won their independence and, when most of the Europeans left, had to face the problems of ethnic boundaries. In many cases, these problems have led to civil wars.

Research the African countries that have declared their independence from European countries. If the African country changed its name, write the old name and the new one. Use another page, if you need more room.

African Country		European Country
Old Name	New Name	



Animals in Africa

Read the clues and unscramble the names of African animals. Circle the names of the animals that are on the endangered species list.



1. _____ large and ferocious-looking but really shy and friendly animals who live in both the lowlands and mountains (larislog)
2. _____ an animal easily recognised by its long neck (feragif)
3. _____ the pack animal of North Africa (macel)
4. _____ a large animal with a long trunk and two curving tusks (pantheel)
5. _____ a fierce carnivore of the grasslands (nilo)
6. _____ a spotted cat of the forests and plains (paroled)
7. _____ a type of anteater (radavkra)
8. _____ its name means river horse (pathopmipuso)
9. _____ an animal that is almost extinct because it is hunted for its horns (conshorier)
10. _____ a monkey that may have colourful markings on its body (bobnoa)
11. _____ is it black with white stripes or white with black stripes? (razeb)
12. _____ there are many varieties of this grass-eating animal (lopteena)
13. _____ an animal that looks a bit like a possum (trielading muerl)
14. _____ a ferocious swamp and river animal, also found in Australia (dilorcoce)
15. _____ the ape that is ranked as the most intelligent of all animals (pamnizeech)

