

Table of Contents

Africa	1
North Africa/Middle East	18
Asia	39
Europe.....	60
North America	81
South America.....	102
Commonwealth of Independent States	118
Oceania.....	134
Answer Key	150

Introduction

One of the proven methods of gaining geographic knowledge is by studying the layout of our world - this is geography. One documented strategy for understanding geography is studying the five geographic themes. These provide a simple framework which will help the teacher to cover 'all the bases' in teaching students the geography of the world.

This book is formatted around the regions of the world. Since there are various interpretations of what constitutes any of the world's regions, a regional delineation has been followed that has been recognised for the past two decades as the most comprehensive and accurate.

For the study of a world region, it is important to have a fundamental understanding of the region's location. Location tells us where in the world an area is found. Absolute location, such as latitude and longitude, is one method of answering 'where'. These coordinates give us an exact point on a globe or map for finding any place. If absolute placement is not practical, relative location provides another method for answering 'where'. Relative location is more generic and gives us a broader description of any place's location on earth by using descriptive words. With these two methods, students can identify and locate any area to be studied.

A second way to understand a region is to study its characteristics - physical and human. These answer the question 'what' and give distinct meaning to any given place. Physical aspects of a place include atmospheric, biological, geological and hydrological methods that produce landforms, water bodies, climate, soils, natural vegetation and animal life. Human characteristics of a place include population features, languages, ideologies, economics, politics, architecture and recreational activities. Studying these two attributes of place gives us a key to identifying and interpreting interrelations between people and their environments and among various groups of people.

The third theme of geography is human-environment interaction, which is the way people modify and adapt to their surroundings. Consequences of these modifications and adaptations affect us all in our globally interdependent world. Each place has its distinctive patterns of human-environment relationships. This theme answers some of the 'how' and 'why' questions of our world.

Movement is what allows humans to interact in our world. Communication and transportation systems enable people to link globally. Interaction changes as systems of movement change. With people, goods and ideas being carried locally and worldwide, our knowledge goes with them. Movement begins to answer the question 'how'.

The fifth theme of geography is regions, which is the basic unit of geographical studies. Any area that exhibits unity in some way can be defined as a region. Regions provide a convenient method upon which to build our knowledge of our world. They define, examine, describe, explain and analyse every aspect of the social sciences.

These five themes are so interrelated that it is difficult to teach one without the others. Students will use hands-on skills, map and globe study, and absolute and relative location to enhance their knowledge of geography. Following this format will ensure that all of the important material is covered.

Africa

Where Is Africa?

Themes of Geography: *Location, Place, Region*

Objectives

Students will

1. use globe, atlases and maps to identify location of hemispheres
2. identify absolute location of natural features in Africa
3. examine map projections centred on Africa
4. describe relative location of African cities

Rationale

A globe is the best representation of the earth. As a scale model, a globe allows the earth to be viewed in proper proportions. The hemispheres (halves of the earth's sphere) can be identified directionally or as land or water.

Whenever a globe is flattened to make a map, some distortion (change) occurs. Every map has some distortion. Different maps can be designed by projecting a globe onto paper. Many map projections are computer designed. Each type of map projection has advantages and disadvantages. Many cartographers (map makers) feel the Robinson projection offers the best compromise in showing shapes and sizes of the earth's features on a map.

Skills Taught in This Unit

Globe and map reading
Use of globe(s)
Use of map projections
Absolute location
Latitude and longitude
Relative location

Place characteristics
Region characteristics

Vocabulary

globe
plane
distortion
longitude
cylindrical
populous

interrupted
map
latitude
conic
relative location

cartographer
hemisphere
projection
absolute location
plane projections

Absolute Location in Africa

To study Africa's absolute location is to study a part of the world with many strategic geographical coordinates. This is the only continent situated in all four hemispheres. With the Gulf of Guinea at the intersection of the equator and prime meridian, it provides a perfect place to emphasise latitude and longitude.

Many world map projections have Africa centred on them. Cartographers continue to place this continent as a focal point of the map. Distortion created by various map projections often gives Africa an elongated appearance.

Materials: globe(s), atlases or other reference books, pencils, 'Absolute Location in Africa' activity sheets

Directions

Brainstorm what a globe is while displaying one (or various kinds, ie. inflatable, with axis-inclined base, removable from stand, lighted). Have students speculate how globes are made into maps. Define and examine distortion. Discuss hemispheres and how latitude and longitude identify absolute location. Examine some map projections with Africa centred, as illustrated on the first page of the student activity sheets and/or in atlases or reference books. Guide students' reading on the first page of the activity sheets, completing the scavenger hunt next.

Absolute Location in Africa

Absolute location is specific; relative location is more general. In giving descriptions of Africa's location, one must consider its place and what ordinary features are found in this region. Relative location pinpoints a particular location in relation to its surroundings.

Relative location can be used to describe Africa's major population centres. These can easily be described in various categories - inland or coastal, national capital or not, northern or southern, eastern or western.

Materials: atlases or other reference books, pencils, 'Relative Location in Africa' activity sheet

Directions

Review the differences between absolute and relative location. Relate how place and region characteristics are used in describing relative location. Complete the 'Relative Location in Africa' activity sheet.

Absolute Location in Africa

A globe is a scale model of the earth. It shows the earth's shape, lands, directions and distances in accurate proportions. However, globes are not always convenient to use, and they cannot show all of the world at one glance.

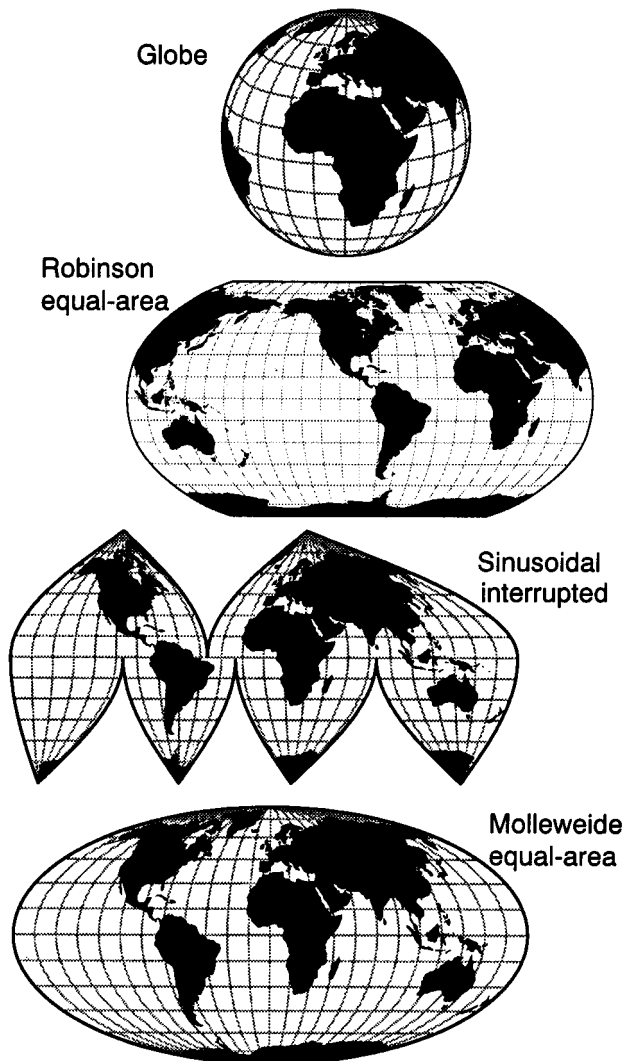
Mapmakers or cartographers make maps from globes to better display the earth. It is not easy or simple to make a map; each sphere-shaped globe flattened onto a paper map loses or changes some features. This is called distortion.

Different maps can be projected onto paper in various ways. Computers are used to make most map projections. A map projection can either show accurate shapes of small areas or the correct sizes of areas, but not both. Types of map projections include conic, cylindrical, interrupted and plane. Africa is placed near the centre of many world maps.

Cutting a globe in half creates hemispheres, halves of a sphere. Often, cartographers create their plane projections by cutting the earth at the equator. This represents what are known as the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Africa is crossed by the equator, so the continent is in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.

Some mapmakers cut a globe vertically through the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and the Arctic Ocean and Antarctica, creating the Eastern and Western Hemispheres (usually at 20°W and 160°E). This places Africa into the Eastern Hemisphere. If the prime meridian is used to cut the earth, some of western Africa (parts of Algeria, Mali, Burkina Faso and Ghana) is found in the Western Hemisphere, and the remainder of the African continent becomes part of the Eastern Hemisphere.

The equator and prime meridian actually intersect in the Gulf of Guinea, south of Ghana and west of Gabon. This means that the African region is the only one that is found in all four directional hemispheres - Northern, Southern, Western and Eastern. Using latitude with the equator and longitude with the prime meridian helps to identify the absolute location of places on maps and globes. Directions north and south of the equator and west and east of the prime meridian provide specific coordinates for any location.



Name _____

Use an atlas to conduct a scavenger hunt across Africa. As you travel, identify the absolute location for each of these natural features.

1. Mt Kilimanjaro is Africa's highest point. It is located at _____°S _____°E
2. Next you go to Djibouti and Africa's lowest point, Lake Assal, at _____.
3. Then it is on to Africa's largest country, Sudan, and its capital, Khartoum, at _____.
4. Cairo, Egypt, is Africa's largest metropolitan area, located at _____.
5. Then head to Lagos, Nigeria, the second largest metropolitan area, at _____.
6. Next, go to the third largest metro area of Kinshasa, Zaire, at _____.
7. Travelling Africa's longest river, the Nile, takes you through Lake Nasser at _____.
8. Africa's second longest river is the Zaire/Congo at _____.
9. The Niger River is Africa's third longest at _____.
10. In Africa you will find the world's largest desert, the Sahara, at _____.
11. Another of Africa's deserts is the Kalahari, where you meet the San people at _____.
12. You travel the unique coastal Namib Desert at _____.
13. Head to Africa's largest lake, Victoria, at _____.
14. Then you see the second largest lake, Tanganyika, at _____.
15. Next you head to the Cape of Good Hope at _____.
16. Africa's truly southern point is Cape Agulhas at _____.
17. Stop by Victoria Falls at _____ on the Zambezi River.
18. Travel into the Great Rift Valley at _____.
19. Here you visit the Olduvai Gorge, where humans first walked this continent, at _____.
20. Next, visit Timbuktu, known for its gold, salt, and slave trading at _____.
21. Walvis Bay is your next stop, and it is not a body of water, at _____.
22. Cabinda comes next at _____, with its rich oil fields for Angola.
23. You finish at the Great Karroo plateau at _____.

You have now found and visited many of the outstanding locations of Africa. Hope you enjoyed your travels!

Design your own scavenger hunt, maze or board game using some of Africa's absolute locations. Consider making your outline pattern based on African facts you have learnt.

