

## Chapter 8: Geography & History of Africa

### Internet Activity

The continent of Africa has many environmental factors that make it difficult its people to have access to all the resources they need to survive. One of these factors is *desertification*, or the transformation of once-suitable farmland into desert. In this lesson, you will use a video and an online article to learn about desertification, work with your group to devise the best solution to the problem, then create an online flyer to convince your audience to take action to solve the problem.



### Part 1: Background Information

**Directions:** Watch this video about one Sahel farmer’s battle against desertification, found at <http://bit.ly/desertvid>. Then, answer the questions below.

- 1) What are some causes of desertification in the Sahel? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- 2) Describe the farming methods used by Yacouba Sawadogo. How did his farming methods result in better farmland? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Now, read this article on desertification, found at <http://bit.ly/desertart1>, then fill out the guided notes table below. Be sure to explain at least 3 causes and at least 3 solutions.

Causes of Desertification	Solutions to Combat Desertification

## Chapter 8: Geography & History of Africa

### Internet Activity

#### Part 2: Determine a Solution

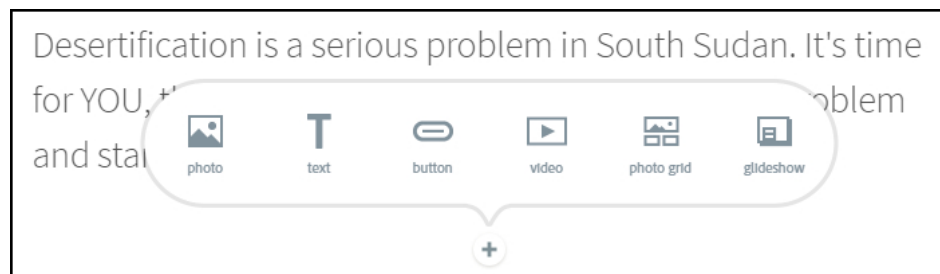
Your group has been selected by the African Union, an organization committed to bettering the countries of Africa, to devise a solution to the problem of desertification in the Sahel region. Based on your reading and the video, create an online flyer to convince a group to take action. With you group, read these two articles (<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/desertification> and <https://www.treehugger.com/what-is-desertification-5115926>), then choose from one of the following scenarios:

1. Convince the government of Burkina Faso to offer incentives (such as lower prices on trade goods or free seeds) for farmers to plant perennials and trees to help soil retain water.
2. Convince villagers in Mali to rotate their crops and grazing land (i.e. graze one year, plant wheat the next year) to help keep the soil in better condition.
3. Convince the tribal leaders of Chad to put rock or oil on top of their sand dunes to prevent the sand from blowing and eroding the farmland.
4. Convince the parliament of Sudan to make a law requiring all farms to dig rainwater holes to collect water during flood periods.
5. Convince farmers in South Sudan to use rocks in their farms to prevent water runoff and to break down as fertilizer for their vegetables.

#### Part 3: Create an Online Flyer

You will use Adobe Spark (or another online website chosen by your teacher) to create your flyer. Follow the directions below to get started. *Be sure to use at least 3 images in your flyer.*

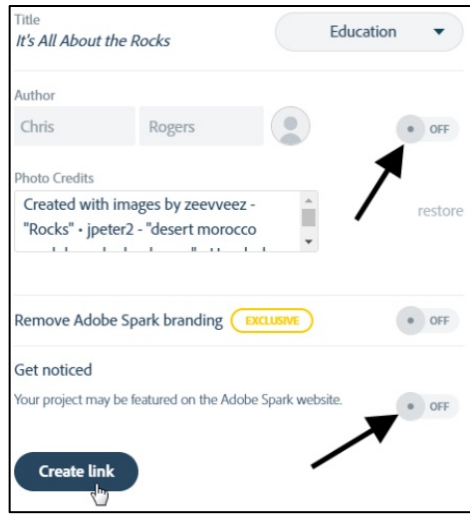
1. Using a web browser, go to <https://spark.adobe.com/login>.
2. Follow your teacher's directions about how to log in.
3. Click the Plus sign to create a new project. Choose "Page" for your type of project, or choose from one of the pre-created templates: Promote Something – *Newsletter* and Teach & Inspire – *Presentation* are good for beginners.
4. After adding a title and your name, click the Plus button to add another element: you can choose from photo (search under "Find Photos" on the right-hand pane of the screen), text, button (web link), or another element.



## Chapter 8: Geography & History of Africa

### Internet Activity

5. Be sure to add several elements to tell your audience about the effects desertification and to convince them of how they can help solve the problem. You can also choose “Theme” to change the layout of your flyer.
6. When you are happy with your finished product, choose “Share” at the top of the page. Be sure to turn off the **Author** and **Get noticed** sliders and create your link.



7. Share your finished link by following your teacher’s directions – you can copy/paste the link or embed code, send by email, or write the link here (it will start with <https://spark.adobe.com>)

**Link:** <https://spark.adobe.com/page/>\_\_\_\_\_