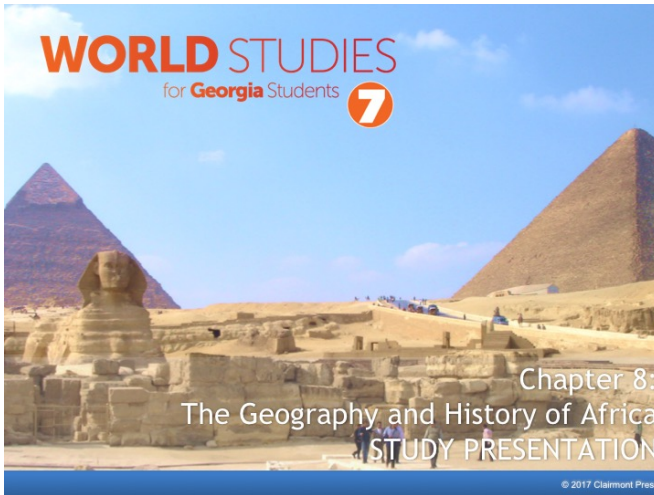
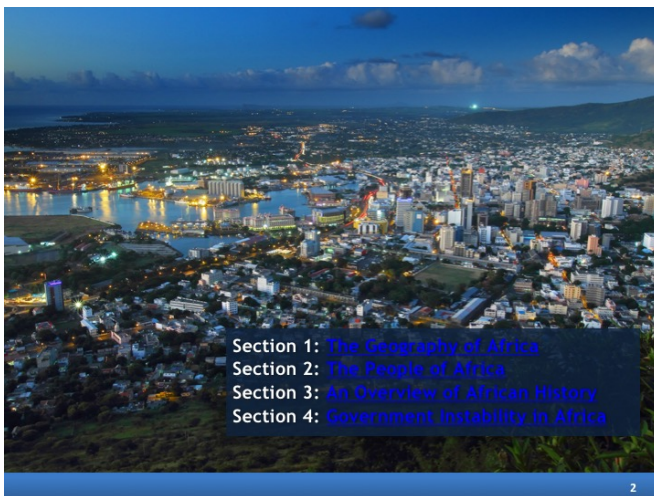


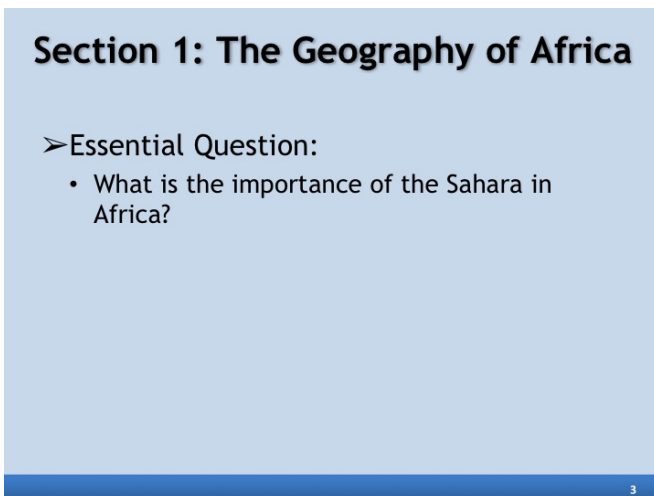
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Chapter 8: The Geography and History of Africa

Quick Notes







Section 1: The Geography of Africa

- What terms do I need to know?
 - water wars
 - fertilizer
 - industrial waste
 - deforestation
 - desertification
 - oasis
 - ecosystem

4

Location and Size of Countries in Africa

- Located in the northeastern part of Africa, Egypt is a large country located along the banks of the Red Sea and Mediterranean and contains the Nile River.
- South of Egypt is Sudan, which is larger than Egypt, also contains the Nile River and is currently one of the most unstable countries in Africa due to civil war and political instability.
- Southeast of Sudan, you find Kenya, which borders the Indian Ocean, has amazing animal parks and natural savanna grasslands, and has a relatively stable government.

5

Location and Size of Countries in Africa (cont.)

- West of Kenya, you find the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is the second largest country in Africa, has a small coastline along the Atlantic Ocean, is rich in natural resources, and has a lush rainforest along the Congo River.
- Northwest of the Democratic Republic of Congo is Nigeria, which is located on the West African coast, contains nearly every kind of habitat found in Africa, and has large oil reserves and amounts of arable land.
- At the southern tip of the continent, South Africa has coasts on both the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, has an abundance of typical African animals and grasslands, and has had to deal with the racist policy of apartheid for a long time.

6

Physical Features of Africa

- Africa has a few different regions, each with their own features:
 - ❖ The Sahara is covered with sand dunes reaching 600 feet, rolling rocky hills, and wide stretches of gravel. Traders have crossed the Sahara for thousands of years, with a mix of the traditional camel caravan and modern transport vehicles used today.
 - ❖ South of the Sahara is the Sahel, a dry and semiarid region. Once acting as a transition between the Sahara and savannas, it is now turning into a desert from the lack of rainfall and the generations of people using the area for farming and cattle-raising.

7

Physical Features of Africa (cont.)

- Africa has a few different regions, each with their own features:
 - ❖ Further south are the savannas, or grasslands and tropical habitats. This area runs along the equator in Africa. Many iconic African animals live here, and farming here is much easier than in the Sahel, though droughts can make it quite difficult.
 - ❖ Further south is the region of tropical rain forests. These rain forests are located in the center of Africa and along the Atlantic coast. It has a hot and humid climate with trees reaching hundreds of feet in height. Rapid population growth is a constant threat in this region, with the demand for wood as fuel rising.

8

Rivers and Lakes

- The longest river in the world is the Nile, with its origins as the Blue Nile and White Nile in Sudan.
 - These tributaries meet and form the Nile, which runs north to the Mediterranean.
 - The White Nile begins in Lake Victoria, the largest lake in Africa and a very important lake for the region.
- The Congo River begins near Lake Tanganyika, flows through central Africa and the Congo Rain Forest, and to the coast of the Atlantic Ocean.
 - It acts as an important source of fresh water for the region.
- The Niger River begins in Guinea, flowing 2,600 miles through many countries to its mouth in Nigeria.

9

Mountains and Valleys

- The Atlas Mountains are found in the northwest part of the continent, stretching across the north.
 - It separates the coastal region and rains of the Mediterranean from the Sahara.
- Mount Kilimanjaro, the tallest mountain in Africa, is in East Africa and is actually the combination of three volcanoes, two of which are extinct and one of which is dormant.
- The Great Rift Valley, located in East Africa, is formed from plate tectonics moving away from each other.
 - The valley runs about 4,000 miles from Syria through Africa to Mozambique, with a split in Africa: the Eastern and Western Rifts.

10

Mount Kilimanjaro

- Referred to you as the “roof of Africa”, Kilimanjaro has a snow-covered peak despite being on the hottest latitude.
- The mountain has had many names, but the origin of the name ‘Kilimanjaro’ is a mystery.
- There are some mysteries and myths of the mountains:
 - ❖ Locals believe that the peak is the seat of God, which is why it is always white.
 - ❖ The mountain is also supposed to be the home to small humans who live as hunters and gatherers.
- Mount Kilimanjaro is one of the seven summits people attempt to climb around the world, with an estimated two-thirds being successful at reaching the top.

11

Environmental Issues of Africa

- There are many environmental issues damaging the country.
 - Many of these problems are not common in the United States or other developing countries, but they are devastating Africa.
- Lack of clean water, poor soil quality, and expanding deserts are just a few of the results.
 - The growing number of factories means increased pollution, and droughts can lead to even the most fertile of places becoming desert.

12

Water Pollution and Unequal Access to Water

- Many countries in Africa struggle to have enough water for people to survive, not having access to the long rivers or lakes nearby.
- Many guess that Africa will deal with **water wars** (conflicts over water) in the near future.
 - Even countries that may be on a river could have limited amounts due to other countries' use of the water upstream.
- Fresh water is also becoming polluted, due to human waste contamination, **fertilizers** in runoff water from farms, and **industrial wastes** from factories dumping into the rivers.
- Parasites are also a threat, causing many diseases from drinking the water.
- These problems are quite large, and the African countries are trying to solve them.

13

Poor Soil and Deforestation

- Most historians believe the Sahel once had rich farmland.
- However, centuries of poor farming practices and less rainfall have led to a damaged Sahel and growing desert.
- **Deforestation**, or the destruction of trees and other vegetation, has also affected the soil, removing the very roots preventing the dirt from blowing away.
 - Rain forests are also hit with deforestation, to logging, clearing land for farming, and for fuel.
- As a result of the poor soil, many face starvation and poverty.
 - Some attempt to find urban jobs, but many of those do not.
- In recent years, world organizations have tried to step in to help those affected by providing them with food and teaching them better farming techniques.

14

Desertification

- **Desertification** is when a desert expands into areas that had been farmland previously.
 - When farmland is overused, the soil becomes powdery, eventually being blown away by Saharan winds and leaving a rocky terrain.
- In the Sahel, desertification is largely caused by people, not the climate.
- In East Africa, people have lived on farming and cattle, but less grazing land, droughts, and expanding cities into what used to be farms has forced farmers to reuse their land over and over again, resulting in the soil wearing out.
- People are trying to fight the spread of the desert by planting trees, building windbreaks to keep out sand, and so on.
 - However, the desert continues to expand every year.

15

Living in the Sahara Desert

- Very few people are able to live in the Sahara, which is considered one of the harshest environments.
- There are few places where water is available, like in an **oasis**, or where a spring of fresh water comes from the ground.
 - While rare, they do tend to grow vegetation, and some people choose to live there.
- Today, most who live in the Sahara are nomads, moving from place to place in search of water.
 - They usually travel by camel and trade with other tribes of nomads.
- Nomads have a hard time earning a living nowadays, so many are actually settling down in towns and cities to find stable work.

16

Living in the Sahel

- While there is more rain in the Sahel than in the Sahara, the amount of rainfall can range from 6 to 20 inches a year.
 - This makes farming difficult, and vegetation is sparse and unevenly distributed in this region.
 - Desertification is a major problem in the Sahel.
- Most people living here make their living by herding animals, living in an area until the grasses and water run out.
- Some people are subsistence farmers, meaning they grow just enough food for themselves and their families.
- The main crops of this region are peanuts and millet, but unreliable rainfall can make farming difficult.

17

Living in the Savanna

- Africa has the largest savanna, or grassland region, in the world, with heavy rains in the summer supporting the thick, green grass.
- People in these areas usually farm, with crops including wheat, oats, and sorghum.
- These grasslands are an important **ecosystem**, which is a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment.
 - Lions, elephants, giraffes, and other very stereotypical African animals live here.
- The expansion of human populations in the area are threatening the land for animals.
 - However, some countries have set up national parks and wildlife preserves to create a protected area for these animals to live.

18

Living in the Tropical Rain Forests

- There are many different ecosystems in the tropical rain forest: the forest floor, the rivers and streams, and high up in the trees.
 - Each ecosystem has its own set of species it caters to.
- The Europeans in the 1800s changed the lives of the people who lived in the forests, clearing land for plantations and harvesting resources of the forest.
- The rain forests are still being destroyed today, through commercial logging and road building.
 - This deforestation has led to the extinction of both plant and animal species, as well as soil erosion and desertification.

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Section 2: The People of Africa

- Essential Question:
 - What are the largest religious groups in Africa, and how did they get there?

20

Section 2: The People of Africa

- What terms do I need to know?
 - religious group
 - ethnic group

21

Religious and Ethnic Groups

- There are a few ways to divide people, but two of them are by religion and ethnicity.
- A **religious group** shares a belief system in a god or gods, with a specific set of rituals and literature.
 - Islam and Christianity are the the two largest religions in Africa, with Islam being brought hundreds of years ago by Arabs and Europeans bringing Christianity with them during the 1800s.
- An **ethnic group** is a group of people who share cultural ideas and beliefs that have been a part of their community for generations, including history, language, religious beliefs, and more.
 - Africa has thousands of ethnic groups.

22

Arabs

- Arabs arrived in North Africa in the 5th century when the first Muslim armies reached Egypt.
 - Arab armies, traders, and scholars spread across North Africa all the way to Morocco.
- Wherever the Arabs went, they brought Islam and the Arabic language with them.
- Arab traders eventually led caravans across the Sahara as part of the salt and gold trade.
 - Arabs also traveled south by sea and along the coast of East Africa.
- These Arab traders married local women and began blending cultures and religions.
- Arabs can be found today all around Africa, with a majority along the Mediterranean coast as well as some on the East African coast.

23

Bantu

- Beginning over 2,000 years ago, the Bantu migrated in waves from the Sahel into central and southern parts of Africa.
- The Bantu began as farmers and herdsmen, eventually learning to make tools out of iron.
- They migrated south and east across Africa, following rivers and streams and meeting many different peoples.
 - These interactions taught the Bantu new skills and led to intermarriage between the groups.
- Bantu people are both Islamic and Christian, and some are animists, believing there are nature spirits.
- Over 60 million people speak a Bantu-based language and share some Bantu culture today.

24

Swahili

- The Swahili ethnic group is found along the East African coast, beginning as a result of contact between Arab and Persian traders and marriage with Bantu cultures.
 - While Swahili is considered a Bantu language, it still includes many Arabic words or phrases, with the name ‘Swahili’ being an Arabic word for “one who lives on the coast”.
- Most Swahili live in cities, but many still fish and trade like their ancestors had.
- Most Swahili are Muslims, though it is not uncommon to also see them follow traditional beliefs as well.
- Swahili see a close link between their religious beliefs and their practice of medicine and healing.

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Section 3: An Overview of African History

- Essential Question:
 - What was the Scramble for Africa?

26

Section 3: An Overview of African History

- What terms do I need to know?
 - trans-Atlantic slave trade
 - imperialism
 - Scramble for Africa
 - colonies
 - indirect rule
 - assimilation
 - civil war
 - dictatorship
 - Pan-African movement

27

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

- The first Europeans to land on the African coast were explorers trying to find a route to India and Asia.
- The **trans-Atlantic slave trade** started when Europeans became interested in using Africa as a source of enslaved laborers to be sent to their colonies in the Americas.
 - It lasted from the 1500s until the middle of the 1800s, and between 12 and 15 million Africans were enslaved.
- Europeans stayed close to the coast in the beginning, but competition for power and resources drove them deeper into Africa, creating more colonies.
 - The advanced technology of the Europeans allowed them to easily defeat the natives.

28

The Age of Imperialism

- In the 1800s, Europeans saw their number of colonies as a measure of power, since those colonies would provide raw materials and more markets for the ruling country.
- **Imperialism** is the process through which a country controls another country.
- Africa was sought after for a few reasons, mainly protecting trade routes and collecting valuable resources.
 - Christianity was brought to Africa during this time.
- This race for colonies in Africa is sometimes called the **Scramble for Africa**, and it even almost to war.
 - During the Berlin Conference of 1884, Europe divided Africa among themselves, leaving out any African leaders and preventing them from having any say in what was done with their land.

29

The Colonial Period

- This period lasted from the 1800s to the mid-1900s.
- European countries tried different ways of ruling the African colonies, like allowing large companies in the area to rule their work force or setting up colonial governments.
 - African **colonies** (areas under control of another country) were divided into districts and put under the power of European officials.
- **Indirect rule** was another method of rule, used by the British, where they would appoint local chiefs to be their enforcers.
 - Africans were lured to these positions by promises of power, wealth, and influence, which did not last.
- The French tried **assimilation**, which meant forcing the natives to give up their own culture and customs and adopt the French language and lifestyle.
- Europeans exploited and neglected the needs of the African people until after World War II.

30

Independence in Africa

- During the 1950's, Africans began demanding change after realizing colonialism was only benefitting the Europeans.
- After World War II, European countries were focused on rebuilding their own countries, taking their focus off of their African colonies.
 - Europeans began granting their African colonies independence, with 27 independent countries by 1960 and 47 by 1975.
- When the Europeans first created their colonies, ethnic groups were not paid attention to, so rival groups were occasionally put in the same colonies.
 - Colonial lines were followed when granting each country independence, so these rivalries continued.
 - Because of this, **civil wars**, or wars between citizens of the same country, and **dictatorships**, harsh rule by persons with total authority, became very common though Africa.

31

The Pan-African Movement

- The **Pan-African movement** called for unity among African people as a reaction to the terrible experiences of colonial rule.
 - The goal was for people of African descent around the world to think of Africa as a homeland.
 - Many supporters hoped this movement would help Africans forget their differences and work to the benefit of each other and African countries' economies.
- Even though the peaceful unification of Africa never happened, this movement was responsible for independence movements across the continent and the formation of the African Union in 2002, which works to help people across Africa.

32

South Sudan

- Until 2011, South Sudan was a part of Sudan.
- Sudan was a British colony until it gained independence in 1956, and, shortly after, conflict between the north and south began.
 - North Sudan is primarily Arab and practices Islam, and south Sudan is a mix of 60 different ethnic groups and practice traditional religions and Christianity.
- The country's second civil war broke out in 1983 due to the government, in the north, wanting to impose Sharia Law throughout the country, which the south did not want.
 - Sudan suffered nearly 2 million deaths in their civil war.
- In 2011, South Sudan became an independent country, ending civil war with Sudan and South Sudan.
 - However, the different ethnic groups now have large conflicts and civil war.

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Section 4: Government Instability in Africa

- Essential Question:
 - What are the reasons that led to unstable governments in Africa after independence?

34

Section 4: Government Instability in Africa

- What terms do I need to know?
 - instability
 - HIV/AIDS
 - famine

35

The Legacy of Colonialism

- Because of colonialism and the rapid European withdrawal from the continent, Africa has many unstable governments.
- Civil wars broke out between ethnic groups and dictators supported by militaries seized power.
- Government instability has led to many problems with African countries, like poor education opportunities, lack of food and medicine, and the inability to combat disease and famine.
 - **Instability** means a tendency toward unpredictable or erratic behavior.

36

Access to Education in Africa

- In relatively peaceful independent countries, education opportunities are better.
 - In Kenya, the government have made school improvements a priority.
 - The better educated a population is, the more they can contribute to an economy.
- In some countries, civil war has led to educational neglect.
 - These conditions made it unsafe for children to attend school, and school buildings could be in ruins with little access to learning materials, like textbooks.
- Another education issue is gender, with boys being more likely to attend school than girls.
 - In rural areas, the traditional role of girls is to stay home and learn to cook and clean.
 - Government programs are working to close this education gap.

37

Jimmy Carter and the End of the Guinea Worm

- Up until the 1980s, the Guinea worm was found in 21 countries throughout Africa and Asia and infected over 3 million people.
 - Today, it is only found in 4 countries: South Sudan, Ethiopia, Mali, and Chad.
- The Guinea worm is a parasite that lives in water, and people swallow the worm larvae when they drink untreated water.
 - The females develop in the stomach for a year, then try to exit the body through the foot or leg, creating a burning sensation.
 - This burning causes people to put their feet in water, which lets the worm release more larvae; removal of this worm can be difficult.
- Jimmy Carter and the Carter Center have worked to eradicate the worm since 1986.
 - While there is no cure for the worm, it can be avoided, by drinking clean water and preventing the infected from putting their legs and feet in water.

38

Combating HIV/AIDS in Africa

- Control and treatment of diseases is another area where unstable governments cause problems.
- **HIV/AIDS** (Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) has the highest infection rates in the world in Sub-Saharan Africa.
 - There are an estimated 26 million people living in Africa with AIDS.
- Poor health care systems, poverty, and lack of government organizations all contribute to the rising number of cases.
 - People are also not usually informed about how to prevent the disease.
- While there are now drugs that can slow the progress of the disease, they are very expensive, which means the people who need them can't afford them.
- While some governments dealing with instability have not dealt with AIDS, countries that have peace have been tackling the issue, with significantly lower numbers than unstable countries.

39

Name: _____ Date: _____

Chapter 8: The Geography and History of Africa Quick Notes

Combating Famine in Africa

- **Famine** is when there is a food shortage and people aren't able to get enough food to eat.
 - People can starve to death because of famine.
- The leading causes of famine in Africa are climate change, political conflict, low prices for African goods on the world market, and disorganized or corrupt governments.
- Bad land policies trying to favor native farmers can end up reducing the amount of food grown when compared to European farmers.
- Civil wars can disrupt agriculture and trade, limiting the amount of food even being brought into the country.

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