

## KS3 Geography. Africa.

### 1. Overview of physical geography.

#### [INTRODUCTION]

Hi! I'm Chioma, and I'm standing here, near my home city of Cape Town in South Africa, at a very special place - an amazing place - Cape Point!

To the east, we have the Indian Ocean. And to the west, I'm looking out at the Atlantic Ocean. And here, in front of me, is the entire continent of Africa!

#### [SIZE / POPULATION]

Africa is the world's second largest continent - it's three times bigger than all of Europe!

And of all the people on Earth today, 18 percent of them live here in Africa - a population of 1.5 billion, in 54 different countries. That's more countries than any other continent!

And, as you'd expect for such a huge landmass, there are many different regions, with a wide variety of climate and terrain.

#### [SAHARA DESERT]

The Sahara Desert covers more than 9 million square kilometres. It's the world's largest hot desert. And, along with the River Nile, it defines the region known as North Africa.

Some areas in the Sahara don't receive a single drop of rain for years - so it's not an easy place to live. But that doesn't mean it's empty: it's home to complex systems of giant sand dunes, rock plateaus, and oases. Many reptiles, birds, and mammals live there, as well as around 2.5 million people.

#### [SAHEL REGION]

To the south, stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea, is the Sahel region. It's a zone of semi-arid grasslands and savannas.

'Sahel' means 'the shore' in Arabic. That might seem like a strange name for a place that's largely dry. But the whole area is like a shoreline between the deserts of North Africa, and the rainforests and wooded savannas to the south.

It's a meeting place of many cultures.

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[CONGO BASIN]	The Congo Basin is a massive, bowl shaped depression, covering 1.3 million square miles! It's known as the freshwater heart of Africa, because this tropical, green area is fed by an extensive network of rivers, nearly all of which flow down into the deepest river in the world - the Congo.
[CONGO RAINFOREST]	It's surrounded by the Congo Basin rainforest. Which is not just a beautiful place - home to thousands of different species - it's also the world's largest carbon sink, and so incredibly important for our planet's carbon cycle.
[EAST AFRICAN RIFT]	<p>The East African Rift is a lowland area that is growing all the time. That's because the tectonic plates that shape the continent are moving apart.</p> <p>It's a volcanically active zone where some of the world's tallest free-standing mountains have formed, and the huge valleys have some of the world's biggest lakes.</p>
[SERENGETI PLAINS]	The Rift Valley has shaped the landscape of the Serengeti plains. They're home to unique ecosystems - and it's one of the few places on Earth where large-scale, seasonal migration of land animals still takes place.
[SOUTHERN PLATEAU]	The central Southern African plateau is an enormous region of high, flat ground, formed by tectonic forces hundreds of millions of years ago. It's mostly savanna. On the Eastern side is the vast, dry expanse of the Kalahari Desert - which means 'great thirst' in the local Tswana language.
[GREAT ESCARPMENT]	<p>And around the edges of the plateau is The Great Escarpment - thousands of miles of cliffs, where the land drops suddenly to the much lower ground level of the coastal areas.</p> <p>Like here - the Cape area - the very tip of an incredibly rich and varied continent!</p>

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