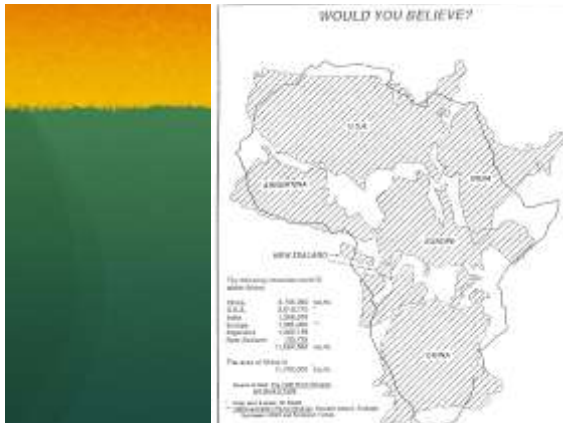
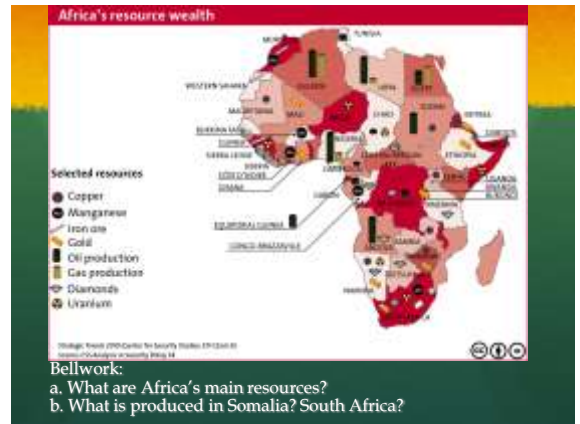


Physical Geography of Africa

Chapter 18- The Plateau Continent



Section 1: Landforms & Resources

- Plateau**- land area with a flat surface considerably higher than the surrounding area
 - Most of Africa is 1,000 ft above sea level
 - "Plateau Continent"
- Basin**- depressions in the land in a plateau, usually has rivers or lakes in this area

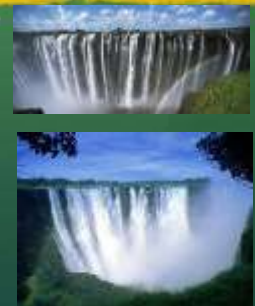
Section 1: Landforms & Resources

Nile River- world's longest river
-Population Density

- * **Africa's rivers**- many are not useful for transportation because they have too many waterfalls, & rapids
- What does this mean for the economy?

Victoria Falls

- Victoria Falls is considered to be among the Seven Natural Wonders of the World.
- It is 360 ft. tall and over a mile wide!
- During the wet season, the flow of water makes it the largest waterfall in the world! (volume)
- The natives call it *Mosi-o-Tunya*, which means, the "Smoke that thunders."



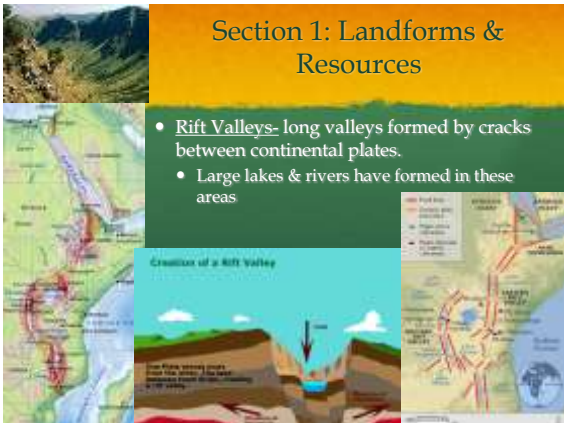


Visit Victoria Falls!

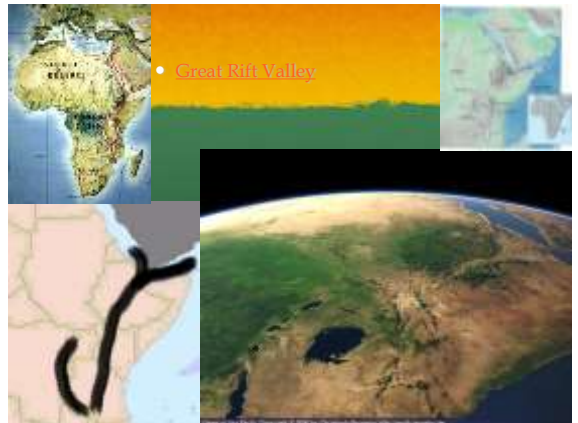


Section 1: Landforms & Resources

- **Rift Valleys**- long valleys formed by cracks between continental plates.
- Large lakes & rivers have formed in these areas

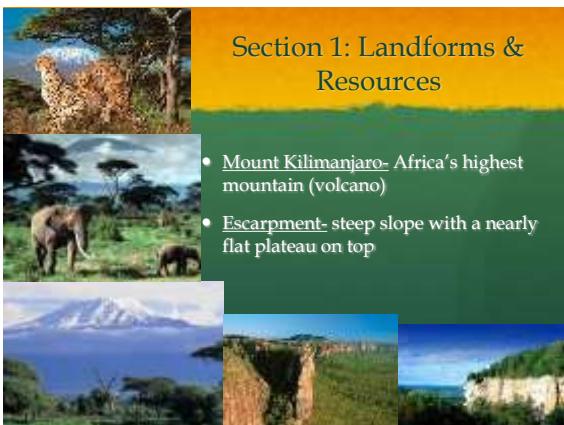


Great Rift Valley



Section 1: Landforms & Resources

- **Mount Kilimanjaro**- Africa's highest mountain (volcano)
- **Escarpment**- steep slope with a nearly flat plateau on top



Mountains

- Africa mainly has volcanic mountains: Mount Kenya, Mount Kilimanjaro
- **Mount Kilimanjaro** is Africa's highest mountain and is still an active volcano!
- It rises over 19,000 ft. above sea level

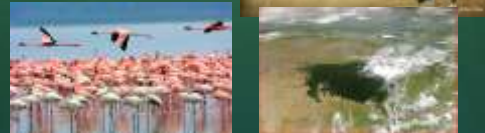


Global Warming?

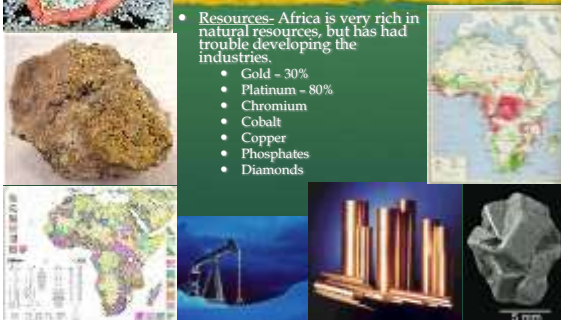


Lake Victoria

- Lake Victoria is Africa's largest lake by area, and it is the largest tropical lake in the world.
- Lake Victoria is the world's second largest freshwater lake by surface area.



Section 1: Landforms & Resources



Other Resources

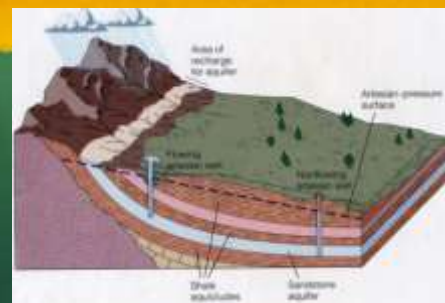
Oil Resources:

- Libya, Nigeria, and Algeria are leading petroleum producers - 7%
- Angola, Gabon = untapped reserves

Other:

- Coffee - 20%
- Agriculture - 66% of Africans earn their living from farming, 1/3 of all exports

Section 2: Climate & Vegetation



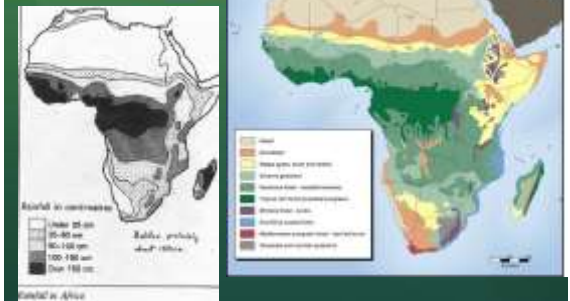
Section 2: Climate & Vegetation

- **Oasis**- water that reaches the surface from an aquifer in the desert



Section 2: Climate & Vegetation

- Natural Vegetation of Africa



Africa's Deserts

- The **Sahara** is largest desert in world; name means "desert" in Arabic
- It stretches 3,000 miles from the Atlantic to the Red Sea; 1,200 miles north to south
 - temperatures as high as 136 degrees in summer, freezing at night
 - fewer than 2 million of Africa's 800 million people live in Sahara



Africa's Deserts

- 6,000 feet under the Sahara are **aquifers** — stores of underground water
- When this water comes to the surface it creates an **oasis**
- Sahara and other deserts may go years without rain



Tropical Grasslands

- Tropical grassland covers most of Africa
- **Serengeti Plain** — northern Tanzania grassland
 - dry climate, hard soil prevent growth of trees, crops



Section 2: Climate & Vegetation

- **Serengeti Plain**- tropical grassland
 - Ideal for grazing animals



Tropical Grasslands

- Serengeti National Park has best grasslands in the world
 - some grasses grow taller than a person
 - ideal for grazing animals like wildebeests, gazelles, zebras
 - site of largest numbers of migrating land mammals
 - **Serengeti National Park**



Section 2: Climate & Vegetation

- **Canopy**- uppermost layer of branches (about 150 ft. above ground), in the rainforest.
- Many species of plants & animals.



Section 3: Human-Environment Interaction

- **Sahel**- narrow band of dry grassland on the southern edge of the Sahara.



Section 3: Human-Environment Interaction

- **Desertification**- expansion of dry conditions into moist areas that are next to deserts.
- Major problem for the Sahel region



Nigeria as a major Oil Producer

- Discovery of oil - 1956
- Today is 6th world exporter of oil
 - 2,000,000 barrels/ day!
 - 80-90% of Nigeria's income
- Initially, discovery made Nigeria a wealthy African Nation
 - Mismanagement, poor planning, corruption, decline in prices left Nigeria poorer than before



Oil in Nigeria

- More than 4,000 oil spills
 - Cleanup operations slow, ineffective, nonexistent
 - Acid rain, soot, respiratory infections
- Pipeline explosions kill thousands



Section 3: Human-Environment Interaction

- Aswan High Dam-
 - Controls the Nile River
 - Lake Nasser was created behind it
 - Finished in 1970
 - Benefits
 - Fewer floods
 - More farmable land



Section 3: Human-Environment Interaction

Problems

- More standing water
- Evaporation
- Malaria
- More Salt from water table
- Less Silt for farmers



Section 3: Human-Environment Interaction

- Silt- very fertile sediment, that is deposited on the soil after floods



River Monster







