

CONTINENT OF AFRICA

Africa, the second-largest of the Earth's seven continents, makes up about 22 per cent of the world's total land area. There are 53 countries in Africa and more than 1,000 languages spoken there. Around 800 million people live in Africa, making Africa's population slightly less than 14% of the total world population. The African continent is cut almost equally in two by the equator. Sudan is the largest country in Africa. Egypt's capital city, Cairo, is the largest city in Africa with an estimated 9.2 million population.

Lakes and Rivers of Africa

The Nile River is the world's longest river, spanning 4,160 miles from the Mediterranean Sea in North East Africa to Lake Victoria in South East Africa. Lake Victoria is the largest lake in Africa and is the world's second-largest freshwater lake. Lake Malawi in southern Africa is home to 500 different types of fish, making it home to more types of fish than anywhere else in the world. The only place in the world where schools of fresh water sardines are found is in Lake Tanganyika.

Deserts and Mountains

The Namib is the world's oldest desert and the only desert in Africa inhabited by elephant, rhino, giraffe and lion. The Sahara desert is the world's largest desert with 3.5 million square miles of land area and is expanding southwards at an average of one-half mile a month. Most of the 2 million people who live in the Sahara desert are Arabic nomads who have no fixed home but spend their lives traveling in search of food and water.

Gold and Diamonds of Africa

Up until 2007, the world's largest diamond was the Cullinan, found in South Africa in 1905. It weighed 3,106.75 carats uncut. In 2007, a diamond was found in South Africa that weighed 7,000 pounds. Botswana, Congo (D. R.), and South Africa together produce 50% of the world's diamonds. Ghana, South Africa, and Zimbabwe together produce nearly 50% of the world's gold.