

GEOGRAPHY OF AFRICA

Africa is the second-largest continent in the world and is made up of 53 countries. Because it has few jagged coasts and bays, Africa has the shortest coastline of all the other continents.

Africa is almost an island. Its only connection to other land is the tiny Sinai Peninsula in Egypt. It is separated from Europe by the Mediterranean Sea and from much of Asia by the Red Sea. It is four times the size of the United States.

Africa is home to the Sahara, the largest desert in the world, covering 3,500,000 square miles. The Sahara extends from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea.

Africa is also home to the Nile, the longest river in the world. The Congo is the largest river in Africa. Lake Victoria is the largest lake in Africa and is the second-largest fresh-water lake in the world.

Africa has more countries than any other continent. Sudan is the largest country by area in Africa, situated in Northern Africa.

The islands of Africa are small except for the island of Madagascar which has an area of 229,820 square miles. Madagascar is the fourth-largest island in the world, smaller only to the islands of Greenland, New Guinea and Borneo. It lies off the southeastern coast of the continent.

Three-fourths of Africa is in the tropics. Temperatures in Africa do not vary greatly. Temperatures are more uniform here than in any other continent.