

Especially for young readers

The Mini Page

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By BETTY DEBNAM

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A Very Different Area

The Continent of Africa

photo by Eliot Elisofon



Most Africans (about 70 percent) live in rural areas or villages. Family ties are very important.

photo by Eliot Elisofon



More and more people are leaving the rural areas for growing cities such as Kinshasa in Zaire.

Africa is important



Africa is important to us for many reasons.

- Many Americans trace their heritage back to Africa.

- African countries, as members of the United Nations, have a strong voice in world affairs.

- We rely on Africa for many valuable natural resources, such as timber, oil, gold and copper.

- Africa's location is important as a link with the East.

Africa is the second largest continent. It is three times the size of the continental United States.

For thousands of years, the peoples of Africa governed themselves. They set up their own kingdoms, empires and smaller groups.

Through trade, Africans came in contact with people from other countries.

European countries gained control of Africa in the early 1900s. They divided almost all of the continent into colonies.

Since 1950, most colonies have gained their independence.

Today, Africa is divided into 51 different countries. The countries vary in size, geography, natural resources, population and in many other ways.

Within Africa there are hundreds of different ethnic groups, 1,000 different languages and many different religious beliefs.

Africa faces many challenges. Africans, who take pride in their traditional ways, are striving to adjust to a changing world.

photo by Larry Mangum



Children at this school wear Western-style clothes to class. They might change to traditional clothes when they get home.

photo by Scott Parker



Children like this girl from Ghana often wear traditional clothes and hair styles.

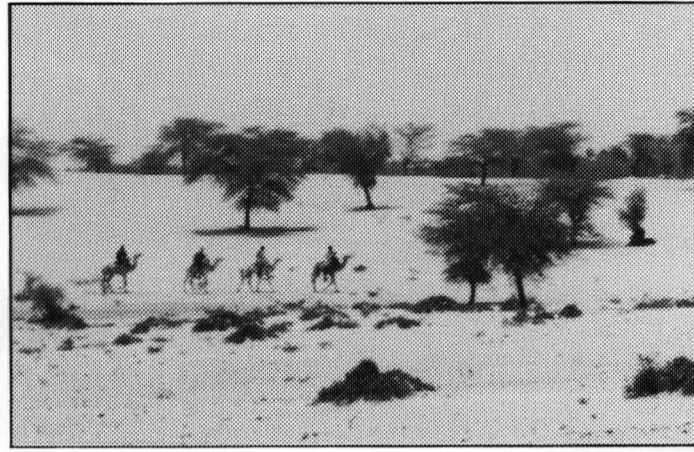
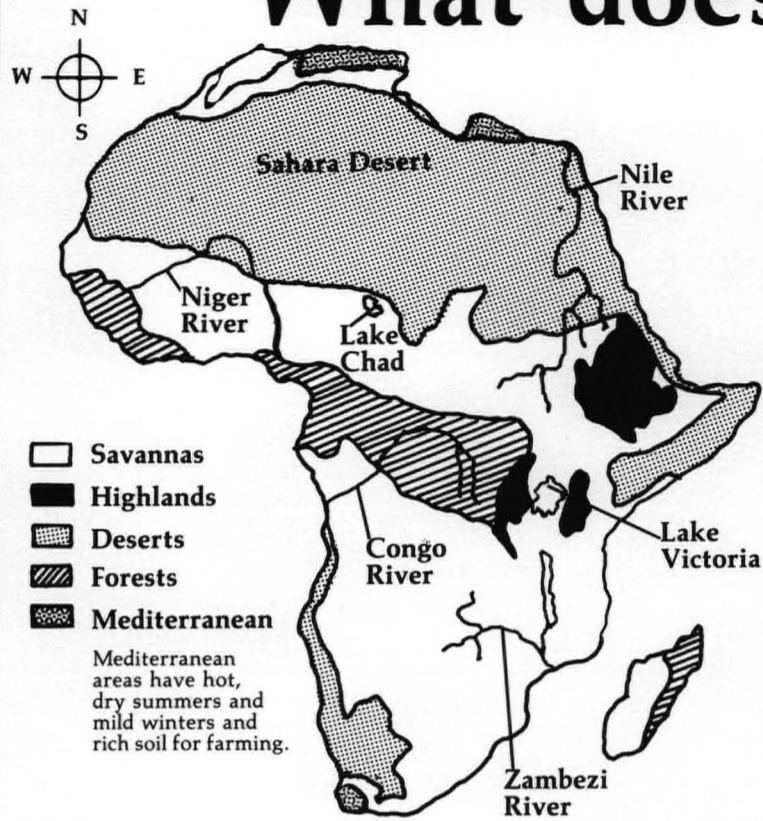


The Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African Art has opened in Washington, D.C. It is devoted to arts from the area south of the Sahara Desert. Through art, we learn more about Africa, its history and traditions.

THIS IS THE
THIRD IN A
SERIES ABOUT
OUR WORLD.



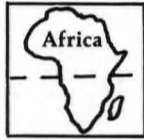
What does Africa look like?



Deserts (left): Africa is two-fifths desert. The Sahara is the world's largest desert.

Savannas (below): Savannas cover about two-fifths of Africa. These have scattered trees, grasses and thorny bushes. Many of Africa's animals, like this lion, live on the savanna.

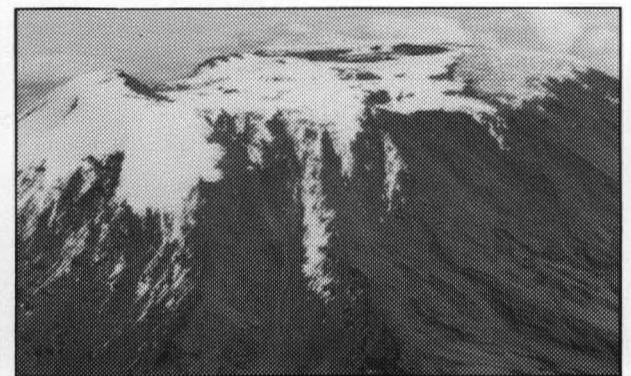
The equator crosses through Africa. It is a hot area of the world. Some areas in Africa get a lot of rainfall, while others get very little.



Rivers: The Nile River is the longest in the world at 4,145 miles. Other important rivers include the Congo and Niger. Rapids and waterfalls make traveling on many rivers difficult. Africa also has several large lakes.



Forests: Africa is one-fifth forest. These forests have many plants and animals that man has yet to identify. Tropical rain forests are not as thick as jungles.



Mountains: Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania is Africa's tallest mountain at 19,340 feet. Even in this hot climate, some mountaintops are high enough to be covered with snow.

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Mini Spy . . .



Mini Spy and her friends are visiting an African market. See if you can find:

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- word MINI
- two carrots
- top hat
- ruler
- two hoes
- letter T
- duck
- hot dog
- snail
- ax
- mushroom
- elephant's head
- pipe



THE NEWS HOUND'S

Africa TRY 'N FIND

Words that remind us of Africa are hidden in the block below. See if you can find: LANGUAGES, COPPER, SAVANNAS, GOLD, CATTLE, MARKETS, URANIUM, SAHARA, DESERTS, ANIMALS, OIL, DIAMONDS, CONGO, NILE, EQUATOR, HOT, OASIS, COCOA.



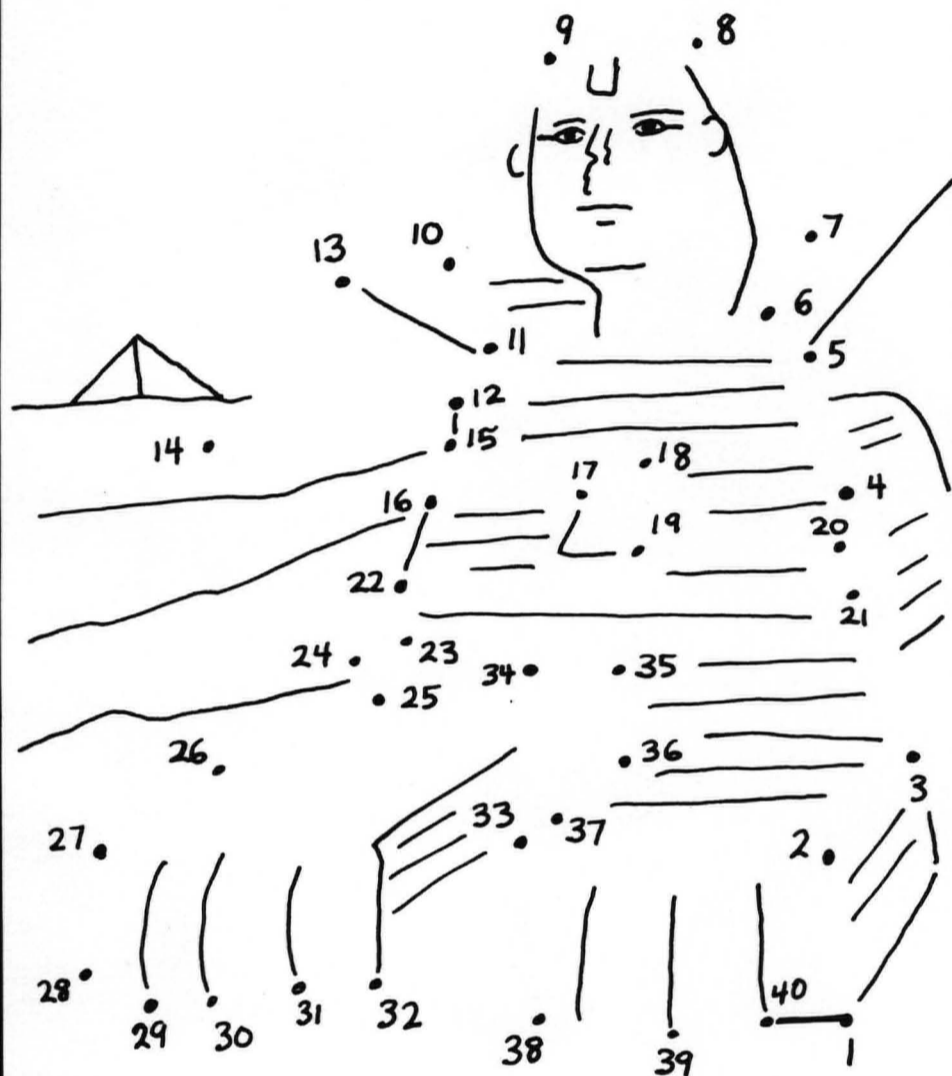
L	A	N	G	U	A	G	E	S	A	H	A	R	A	I
C	M	A	B	H	Q	O	V	A	M	O	A	S	I	S
O	A	N	I	L	E	L	H	V	S	T	Y	E	C	C
P	R	I	L	N	F	D	M	A	C	O	N	G	O	A
P	K	M	J	O	U	R	A	N	I	U	M	C	C	T
E	E	A	D	I	A	M	O	N	D	S	P	U	O	T
R	T	L	C	L	E	Q	U	A	T	O	R	H	A	L
I	S	S	G	U	R	D	E	S	E	R	T	S	J	E

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The Presidents of the United States Poster is an attractive, fun and educational reference. This 22-by-28-inch poster is illustrated with reproductions of the official engraved portraits of each of the 40 presidents. To order, send check or money order only for \$2.00, plus 75 cents (postage and handling) to: Presidents Poster, c/o This newspaper, P.O. Box 419150, Kansas City, Mo. 64141. Make checks payable to Andrews, McMeel & Parker.

Go dot to dot and color.

The Great Sphinx in Giza, Egypt, was built more than 4,800 years ago. It is 240 feet long and almost 66 feet high. Its legs are made of blocks of stone, and its head and body are made of solid rock.



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Ed E. Kitt's Manners



The cat you like to have around.



Beth and Barb Babble talk all during the movie. No one can hear. The Babble sisters are no fun to have around!



Ed E. Kitt and his friends sit quietly during the movie. Everyone can hear and everyone has a good time. Good for you, Ed E. Kitt.

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MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes



(Sent in by Mariana Godwin)

Knock, knock. Who's there? Isabel. Isabel who? Isabel louder than a knock?
(Sent in by Janisha Jurjens)



Q: What rides do ghosts like best at the amusement park?

Mighty Funny: The roller ghoster and the scary-go-round.

(Sent in by Dawn Neeld)

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Attention, Students, Teachers and Parents!

Reprints of The Mini Page Constitution series are available in sets of six. Set 1: Meeting at Mount Vernon, Our Country's First Laws, Our First Laws Were Weak, Life in Philadelphia in 1787, Signers of the Constitution, The Compromises. Set 2: Chief Justice Warren Burger, Adopting the Constitution, The Preamble, Articles 1, 2 and 3. Set 3: Separation of Powers, States and the Constitution, Changing the Constitution, The Bill of Rights 1, The Bill of Rights 2, Other Amendments.

Each issue is 11 by 17 inches and includes a Teacher's Guide.

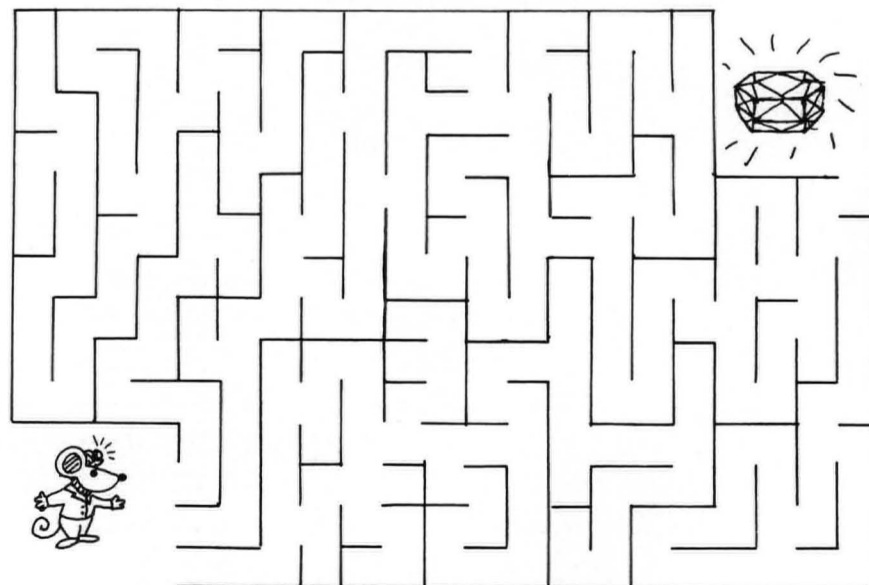
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MAZE

Help the miner find the diamond.



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Northern Africa

We usually think of Africa as having two main areas.

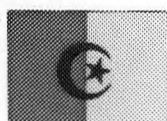
The countries of North Africa are Mauritania, Western Sahara, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. Egypt has civilization that is thousands of years old. Around 300 B.C., Egypt became a part of the Roman Empire. Later, traders from nearby Arab countries of the Middle East began to settle in this area. Today, most of the people in North Africa speak Arabic and are Moslems (their religion is called Islam).

South of the Sahara

The other area is that south of the Sahara Desert. This is also called sub-Saharan Africa.

Most of the people in this area are black Africans. The search for slaves, gold and ivory brought traders from Europe to Africa's west coast beginning in the 1400s. It was not until the late 1700s that Europeans began to explore inland. By the 1920s most of the continent had been divided into European colonies.

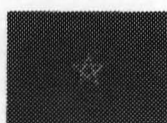
African countries began gaining their independence in the 1950s.



Algeria



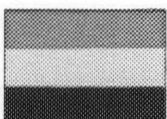
Mauritania



Morocco



Egypt



Ethiopia



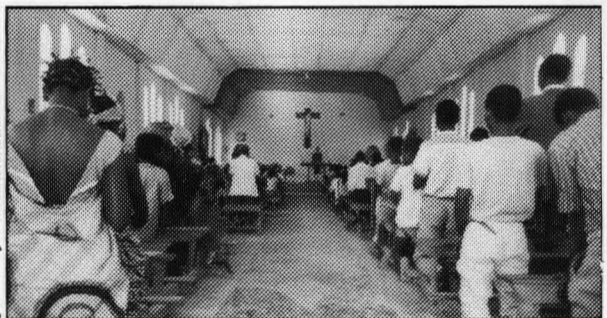
Zimbabwe



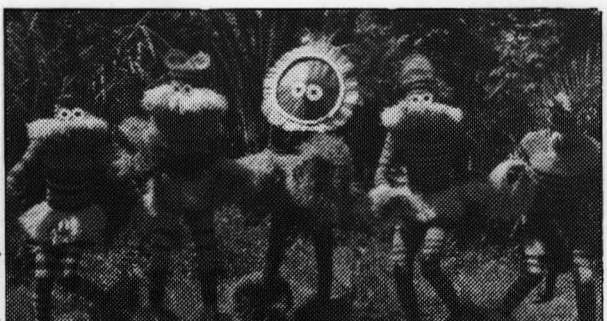
Kenya



About 150 million Africans are Moslems and worship in buildings called mosques.



About 130 million Africans are members of Christian churches.



Many Africans maintain their traditional beliefs and ceremonies.

Agriculture ... Most Africans make their living off the land.



Because of hot weather and lack of water, Africans work hard to grow food to feed themselves and to sell for cash.



Many Africans are herdsmen who raise cattle, sheep and goats.

Crops

Africa is the leading world producer of:

- cocoa
- cashew
- cloves
- nuts
- palm kernels

(used to make soap and margarine)

It also produces:

- peanuts
- coffee
- bananas
- cotton
- sisal

(used to make rope and twine)

Mining Minerals bring in more than half of Africa's income.



Diamond miners in South Africa. Most of the minerals are found in South Africa, Libya, Nigeria, Algeria and Zambia.

Africa produces:

- 65 percent of the world's gold.
- 80 percent of the world's diamonds.
- 20 percent of the world's copper.

It also produces cobalt and many other minerals used to strengthen metals, and uranium used to produce atomic energy.

African problems

Africans are trying to better their world by working on:

- illiteracy (the number of people who can read and write).
- health and diseases.
- overpopulation and poverty.



Teacher's Guide

For use by teachers and parents at home and at school.

For use with issue: The Continent of Africa

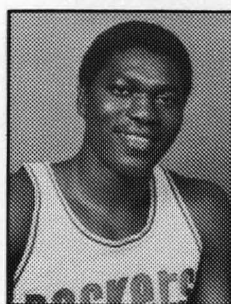
Main idea: This issue is about Africa. The following is a list of activities to be used with this issue. They are listed in order of difficulty, with the easier pre-reader assignments listed first. Ask the children to do the following:

1. Count the number of photos and talk about what you see in each one. What can you learn about Africa from what is pictured in the photos?
2. What do you think the country looks like? What have you seen about the continent on TV? Would you like to visit there? Have you ever met anyone from Africa? What makes the continent interesting to you?
3. Find Africa on a globe or world map. Which African country is the largest? The smallest? What oceans surround it? What different types of land are there?
4. Count the number of countries in Africa. Say the name of each one out loud.
5. Talk about some of the influences Africa has had on our country. One example is art.
6. Find the flag section of the encyclopedia. See how many flags of African countries you can find.
7. Answer the following questions:
 - a. What large desert is located in northern Africa?
 - b. In which African country are the Pyramids located?
 - c. How do most Africans make a living?
8. Look in your newspaper for articles on Africa.
9. Design a poster advertising the Museum of African Art in Washington, D.C.
10. Do further research on an African country you find interesting.



Gus Goodsport's Report

Supersport: Akeem Olajuwon



Height: 7-0

Weight: 250

Birthdate: 1-21-63

College: University of Houston

Akeem Olajuwon was the first player in the country drafted in 1984. He was chosen by the Houston Rockets as their forward.

Last year, Akeem led the team in scoring, rebounding, steals and blocked shots. He was third in the NBA in blocked shots.

He also scored 20 or more points in 52 games. In one game, he scored 49 points.

In college, Akeem took his team to the national championship finals twice. One season, he led the nation in rebounding.

Akeem is from Lagos, Nigeria, in Africa. His last name means "always being on top." He speaks several languages.

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(Note to Editor: Above is the Teacher's Guide for Issue 6.)

(Note to Editor: Above is copy block for Page 3, Issue 6, to be used in place of ad if desired.)