

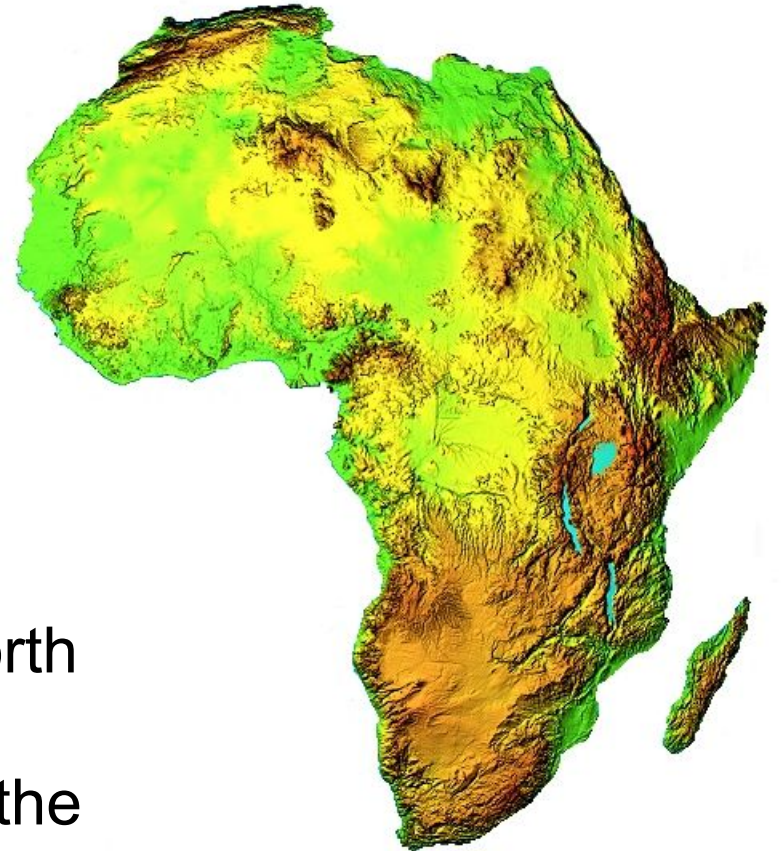


# AFRICA – A Diverse Continent

30 million square kilometres of land – what is it like??

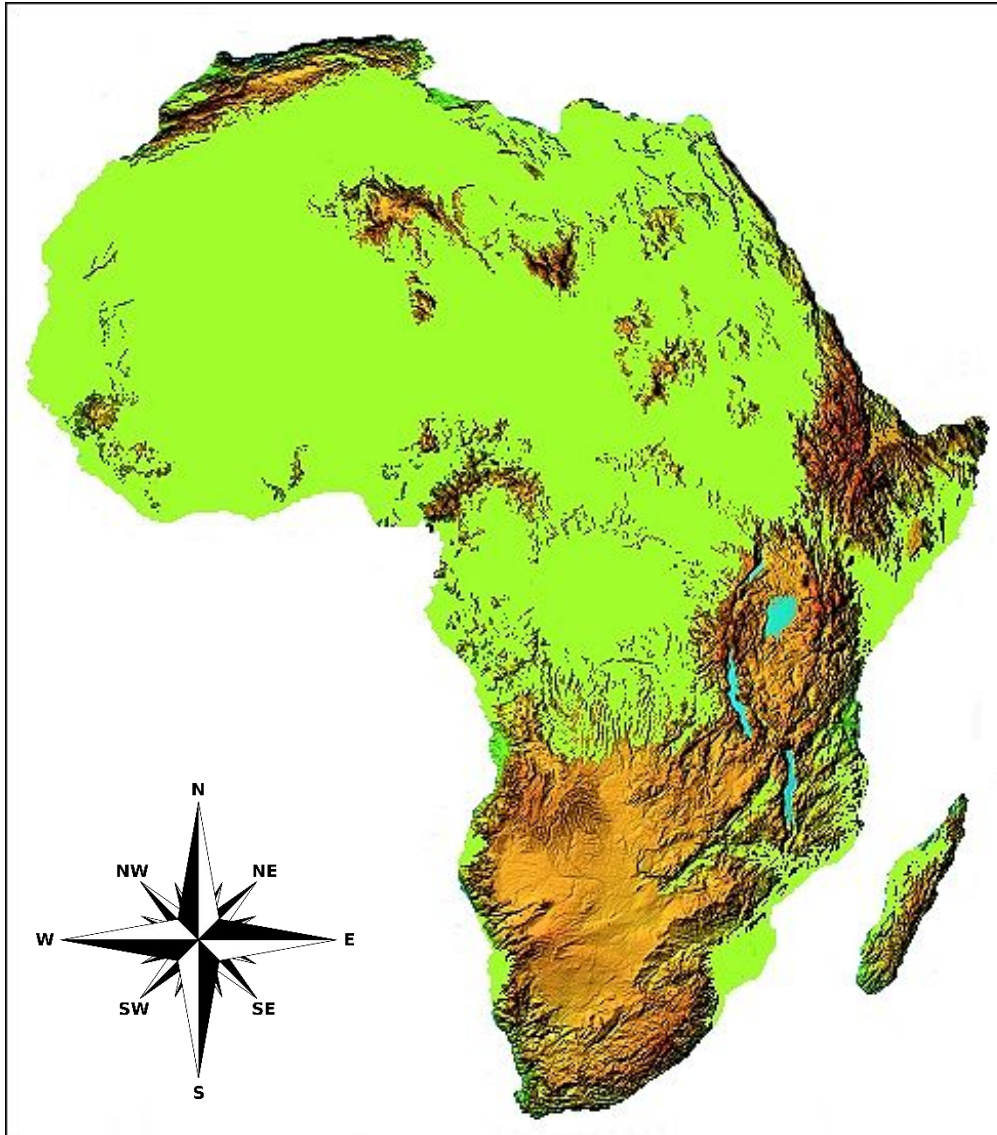
As you travel east to west or north to south, would you see and experience the same things all the time??

[http://www.rgs.org/webcasts/activities\\_0109/what\\_is\\_africa.html](http://www.rgs.org/webcasts/activities_0109/what_is_africa.html)



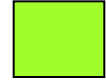


# Relief – the height and shape of the land



**Key:**

Lowland



Mountains



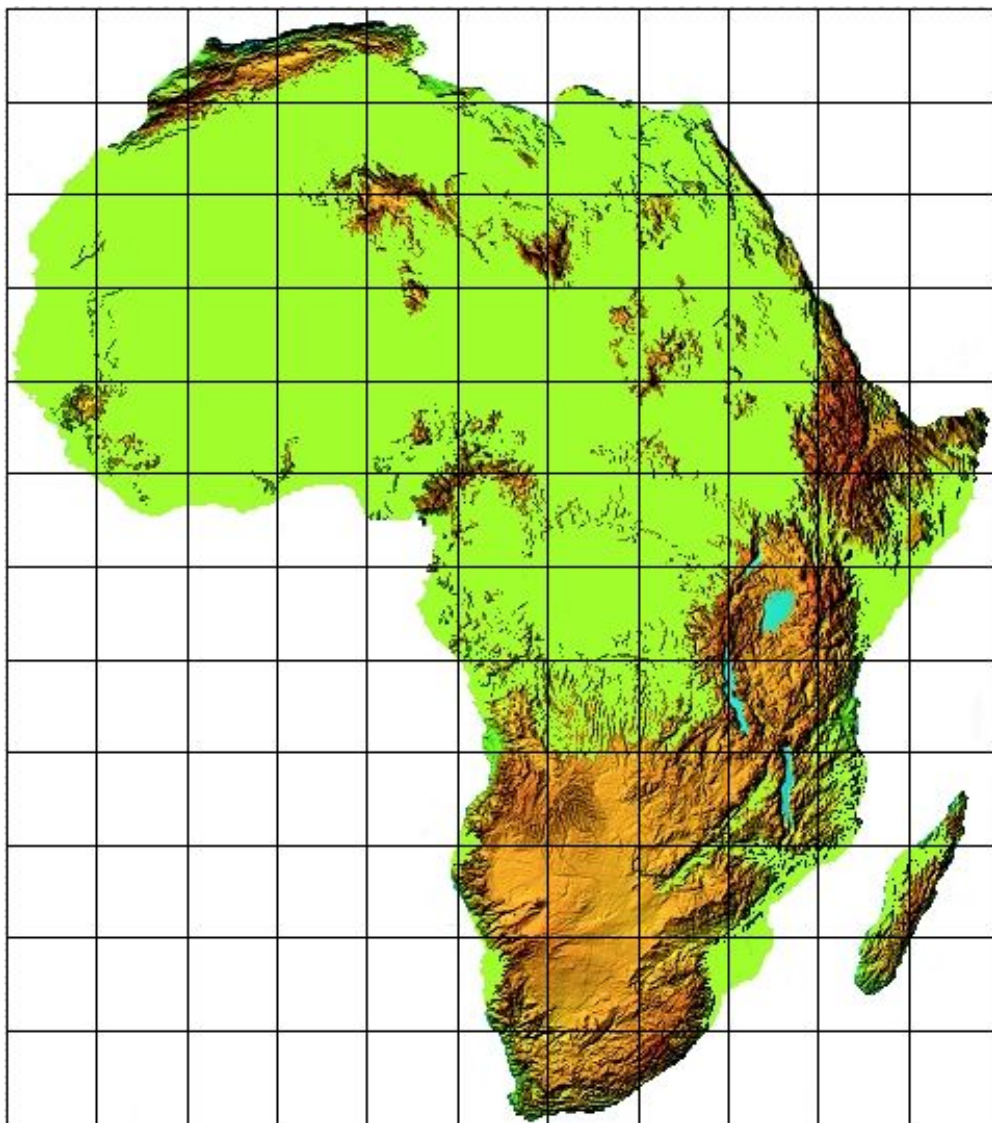
How would you describe the **relief** of the land in Africa?



Geography  
TeachingToday.org.uk



# Relief – the height and shape of the land



**Key:**

Lowland



Mountains



What percentage of Africa (approximately) is mountainous?





Africa has many high mountain ranges with sharp peaks but also has many **plateaus** which are very high but generally flat at the top.

a) Would it be better to live on a **mountain range** or on a **plateau**?



Africa is a continent that is spread either side of the Equator – it is mostly **tropical**.

b) How would the mountains affect the **climate** of some of the tropical countries within Africa?

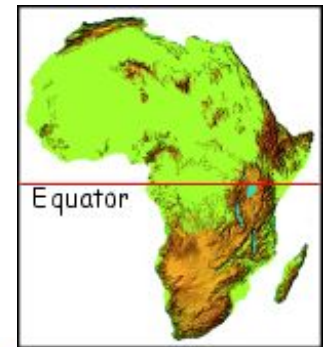


Photo credits: Mountain range – Flickr ([phxpma](#)), Plateau – Flickr ([nchenga](#))



Geography  
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c) If the climate is affected, would you expect to see **snow** anywhere in Africa?

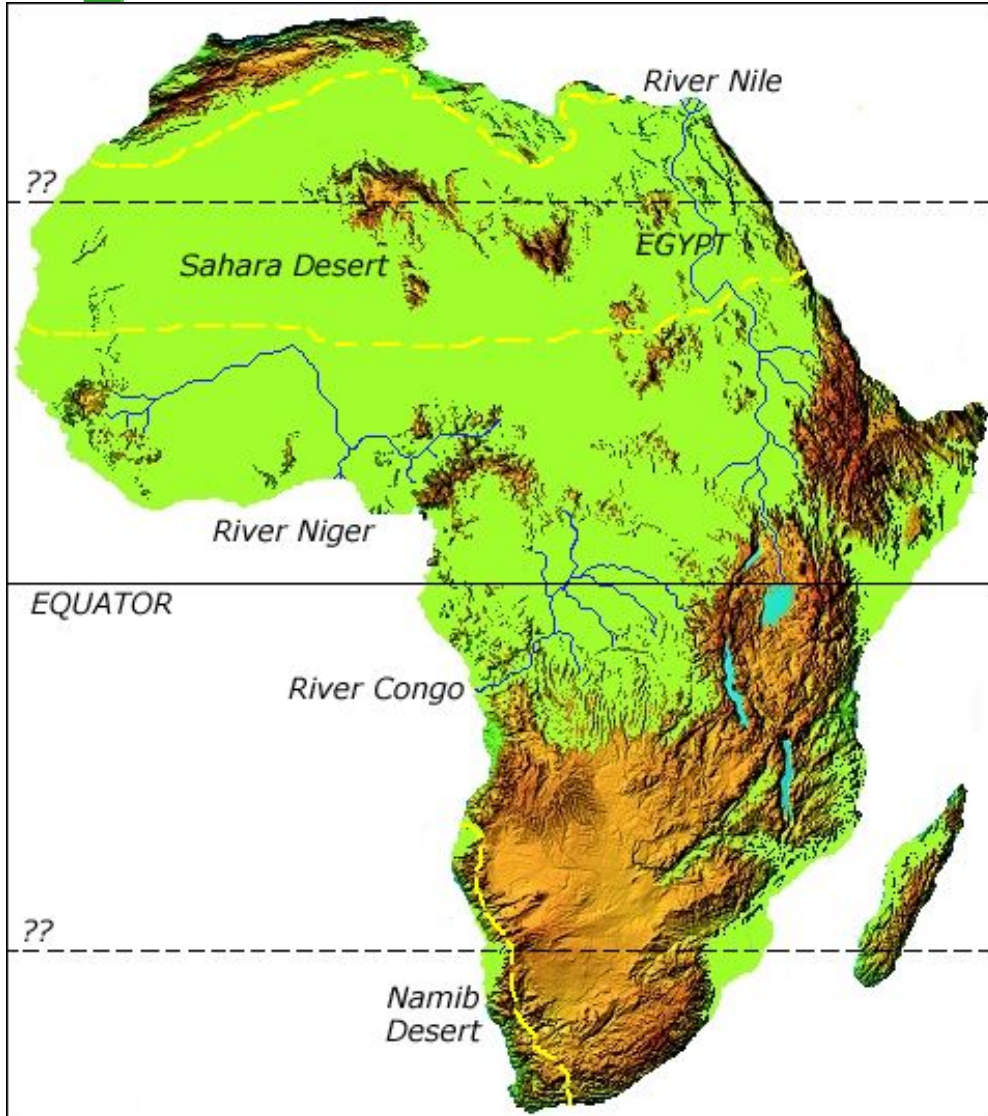
This is a photo of **Mount Kilimanjaro** in **Tanzania, east Africa**. It is just 3 degrees south of the Equator. **Mount Kilimanjaro** is 5895 metres (17,685 feet) high. It has permanent snow and ice at the top – **global warming**, however, is causing the ice to shrink each year and some people believe it may be all gone in a few years time. So, if you want to throw snowballs in Africa, you had better hurry up and save your money.....before it's too late!



This Wikipedia and Wikimedia Creative Commons image is from the user Chris 73  
[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Furtwangler\\_Glacier\\_Mt\\_Kilimanjaro.JPG](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Furtwangler_Glacier_Mt_Kilimanjaro.JPG)



# Water in Africa

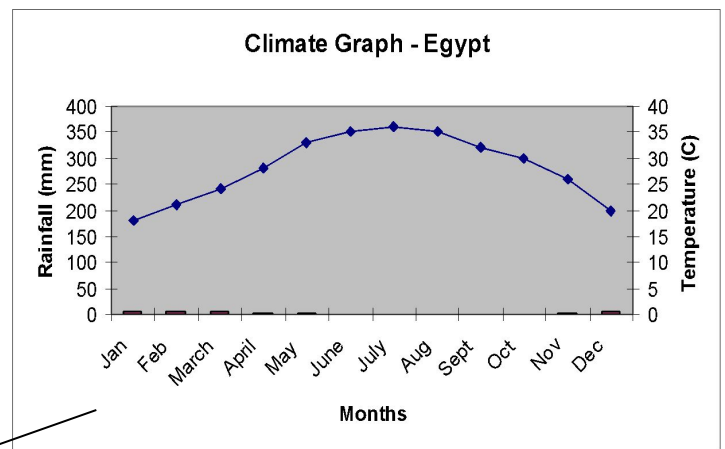
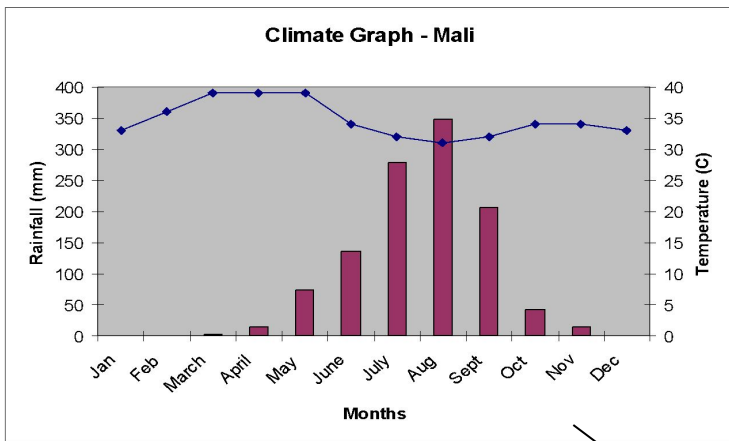


The 53 countries in Africa vary in the amount of water they have available.

The three large rivers shown carry huge quantities of water across the continent (**Nile, Niger and Congo**).

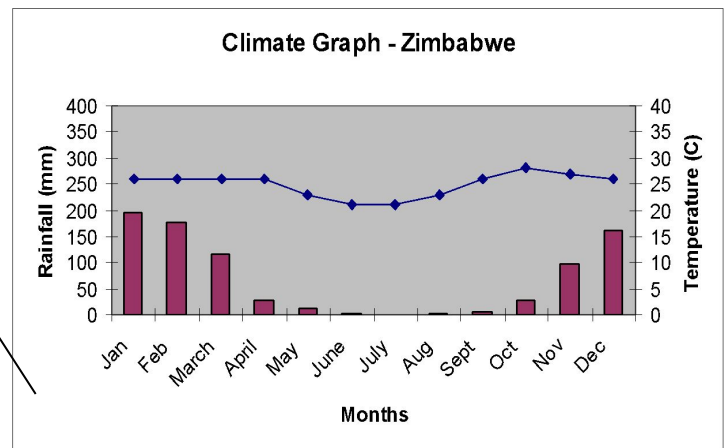
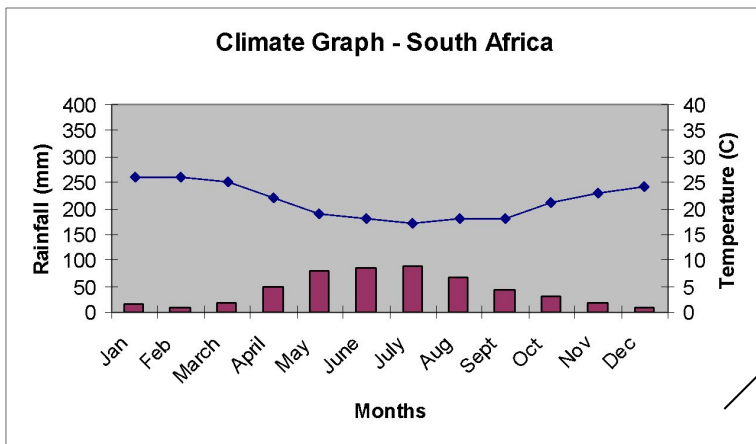
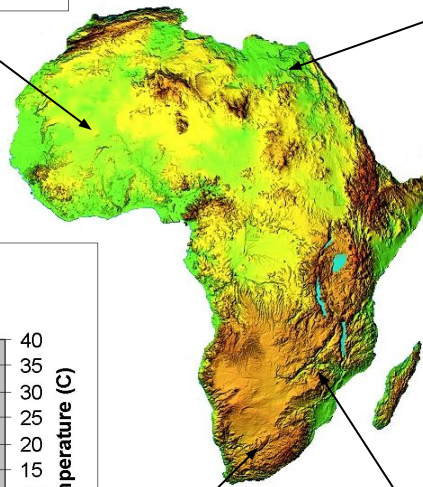
In the northern part of Africa almost half the land is dry **desert**.

- The place where a river begins is called its **source**. Where do all the three major rivers seem to have their **source**?
- Why is it possible in **Egypt** for large numbers of people to live in the dry desert?
- What are the names of the two **lines of latitude** that pass through the two desert areas?



Total rainfall = **1120 mm**  
 Average Temperature = **35 °C**

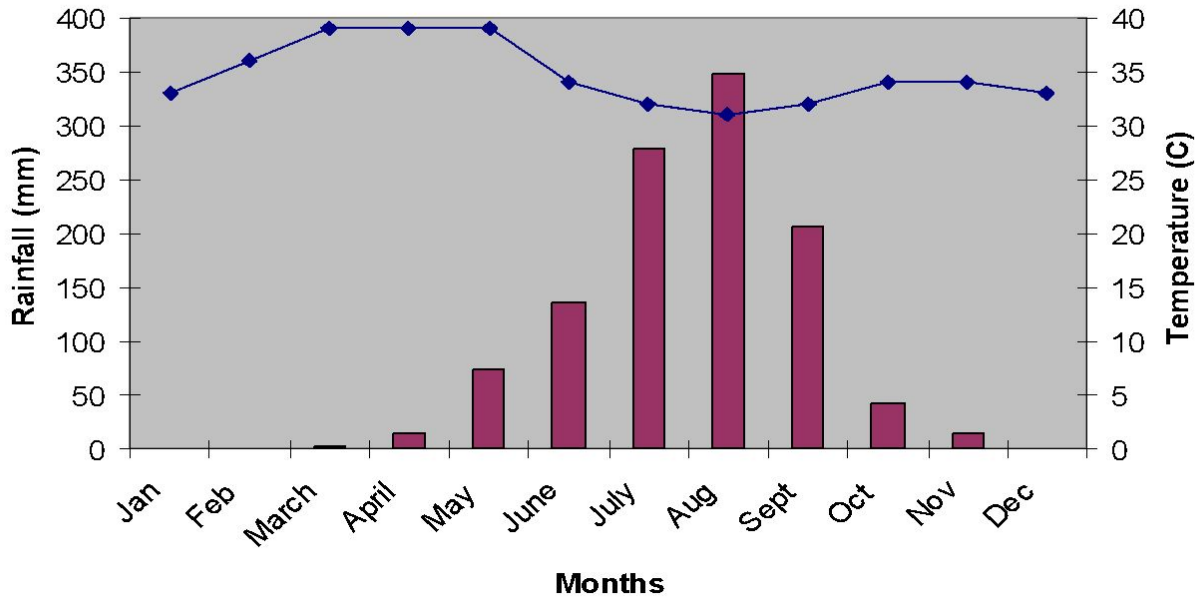
Total rainfall = **29 mm**  
 Average Temperature = **28 °C**



Total rainfall = **509 mm**  
 Average Temperature = **21 °C**

Total rainfall = **831 mm**  
 Average Temperature = **25 °C**

### Climate Graph - Mali



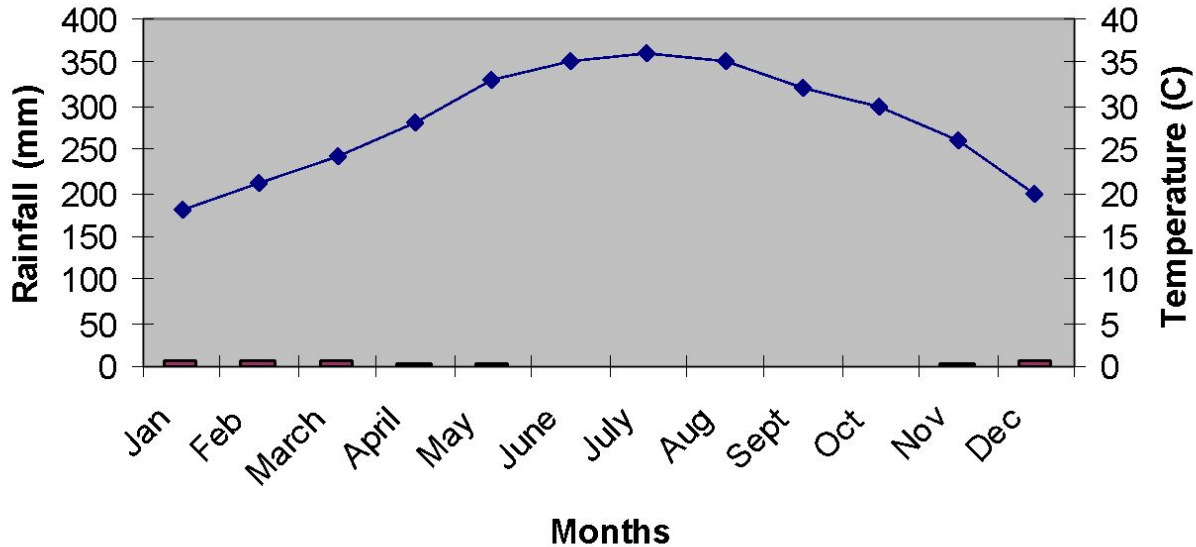
Months	Rainfall	Temperature
Jan	0	33
Feb	0	36
March	3	39
April	15	39
May	74	39
June	137	34
July	279	32
Aug	348	31
Sept	206	32
Oct	43	34
Nov	15	34
Dec	0	33

Total rainfall = 1120 mm

Average Temperature = 35 °C



## Climate Graph - Egypt

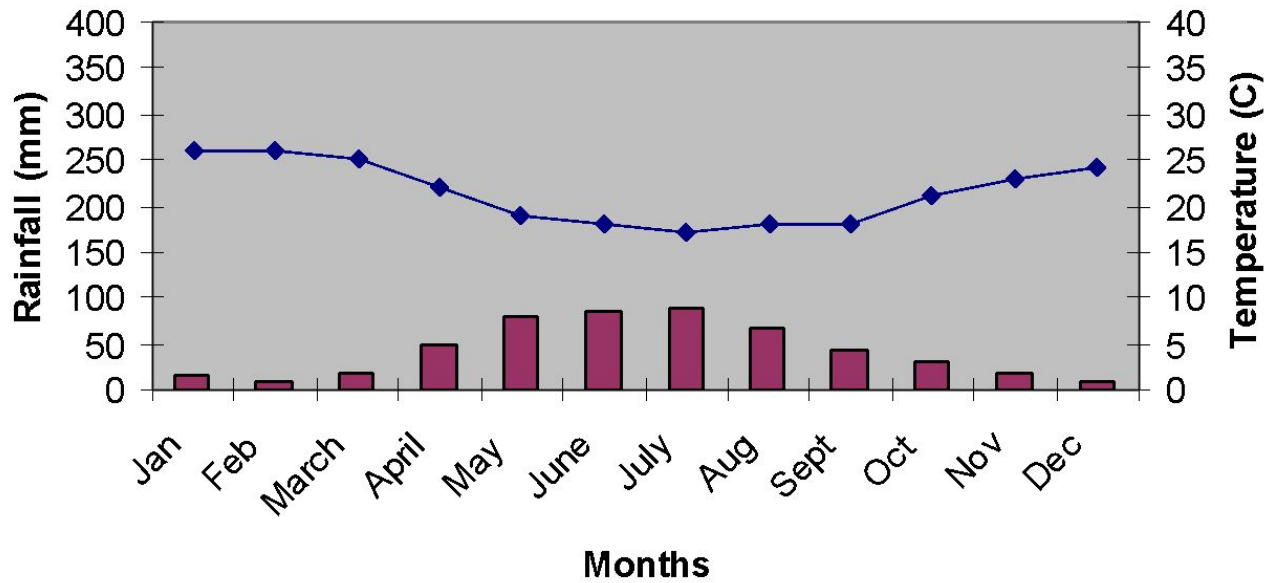


Months	Rainfall	Temperature
Jan	5	18
Feb	5	21
March	5	24
April	3	28
May	3	33
June	0	35
July	0	36
Aug	0	35
Sept	0	32
Oct	0	30
Nov	3	26
Dec	5	20

Total rainfall = 29 mm

Average Temperature = 28 °C

## Climate Graph - South Africa

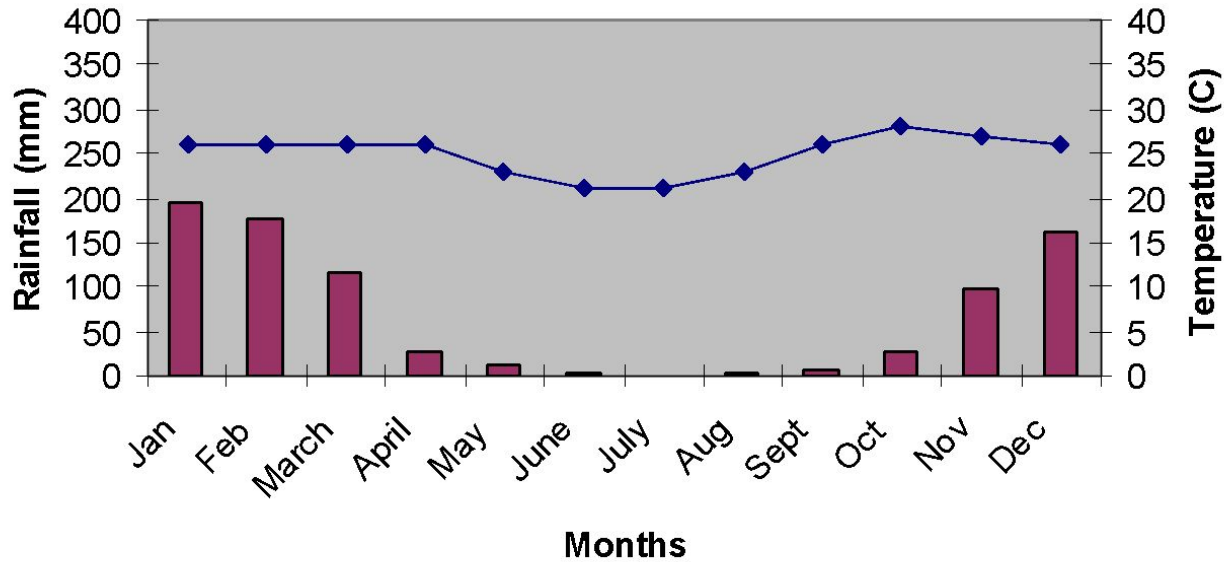


Months	Rainfall	Temperature
Jan	15	26
Feb	8	26
March	18	25
April	48	22
May	79	19
June	84	18
July	89	17
Aug	66	18
Sept	43	18
Oct	31	21
Nov	18	23
Dec	10	24

Total rainfall = 509 mm

Average Temperature = 21 °C

## Climate Graph - Zimbabwe



Months	Rainfall	Temperature
Jan	196	26
Feb	178	26
March	117	26
April	28	26
May	13	23
June	3	21
July	0	21
Aug	3	23
Sept	5	26
Oct	28	28
Nov	97	27
Dec	163	26

Total rainfall = 831 mm

Average Temperature = 25 °C



## Some suggested climate graph questions:

- a) How does the **total rainfall** vary across these four African countries?
- b) What variations are there in the **rainfall pattern** in each country?
- c) What **benefits** and **problems** might come from these rainfall totals and rainfall patterns?
- d) What are the **maximum** and **minimum monthly temperatures** in each of these four African countries?
- e) Which **season** is coldest in South Africa? Why is this?

*There is further data available for other cities and countries within Africa on the BBC weather website:*

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/world/country\\_guides/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/world/country_guides/)





Carlosjwj - Flickr

# Africa – vegetation

[http://www.rgs.org/webcasts/activities\\_0109/contrast\\_africa.html](http://www.rgs.org/webcasts/activities_0109/contrast_africa.html)



Erwint - Flickr

**DESERT**

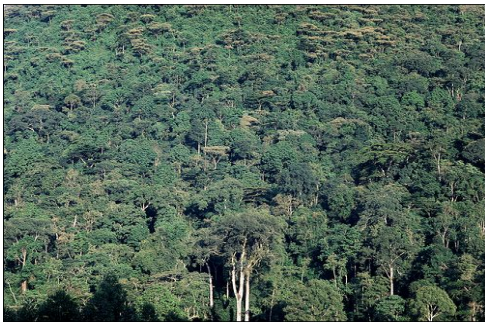
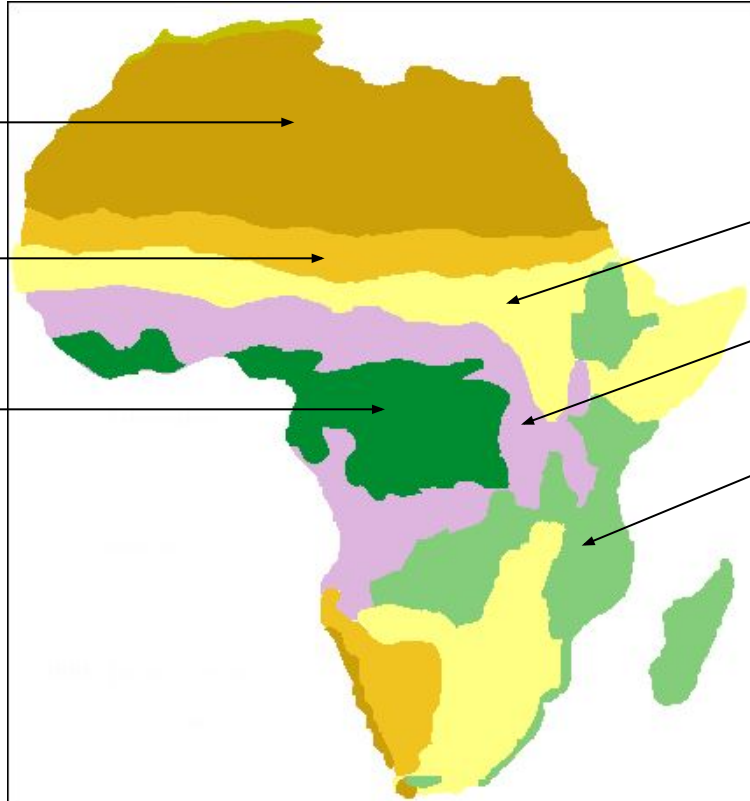
**SEMI-DESERT**

**RAINFOREST**

**GRASSLAND**

**SAVANNA**

**WOODLAND/SCRUB**



Stefan Gara - Flickr



Martin Haigan – Flickr



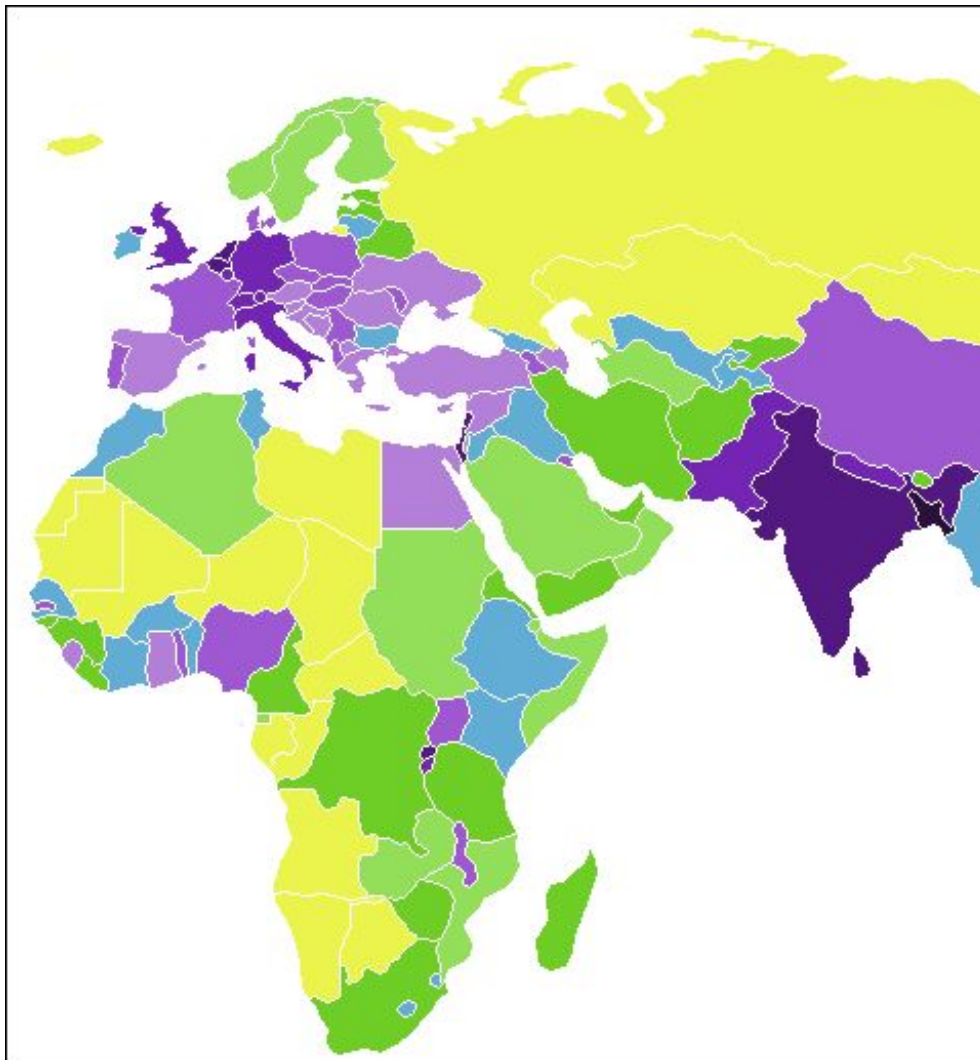
## Some suggested vegetation questions:

- a) How many **vegetation zones** are there across Africa?
- b) Is there a **pattern** to the vegetation zones?
- c) What are the **differences** between each of the named zones?
- d) Which zones are shown in the four example **photos**?

*Further information on each of the vegetation zones or biomes can be found at:*

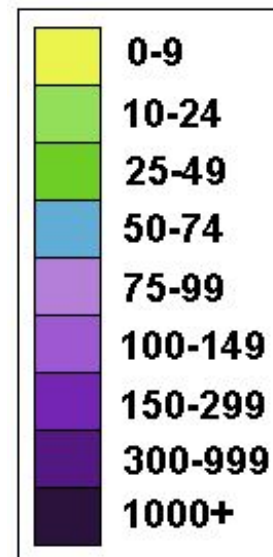
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biomes>

## Africa - population



### Population density map

(number of people per km<sup>2</sup>)



Source: Wikipedia Creative Commons Image

How do the countries of **Africa** compare to the countries of **Europe**?

Mauritius	588
Comoros	283
Rwanda	281
Burundi	229
Seychelles	176
São Tomé and Príncipe	170
Nigeria	141
Gambia	129
Uganda	105
Cape Verde	101
Togo	93

Malawi	90
<b>Ghana</b>	<b>85</b>
Sierra Leone	78
Lesotho	73
Egypt	71
Morocco	70
Swaziland	65
Benin	60
Ethiopia	60
Tunisia	60
Senegal	54

Kenya	53
Côte d'Ivoire	52
Burkina Faso	46
Tanzania	39
Guinea-Bissau	37
Eritrea	37
South Africa	36
Cameroon	34
Guinea	32
Liberia	30
Zimbabwe	29

Madagascar	28
Mozambique	24
Democratic Republic of the Congo	24
Djibouti	21
Equatorial Guinea	18
<b>Sudan</b>	<b>15</b>
Algeria	14
Zambia	13
Somalia	12
Mali	9
Republic of the Congo	9

Angola	9
Niger	8
Chad	7
Central African Republic	6
Gabon	5
Libya	3
Mauritania	3
Botswana	3
Namibia	2

## Population density by country

**Note:** UK population density = **246** people per square kilometre





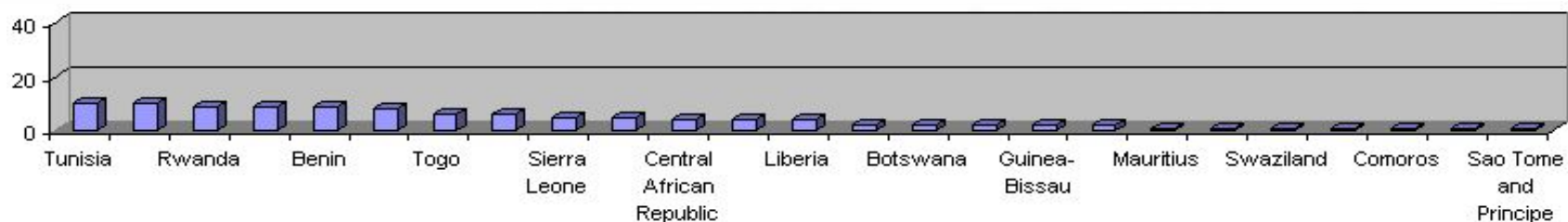
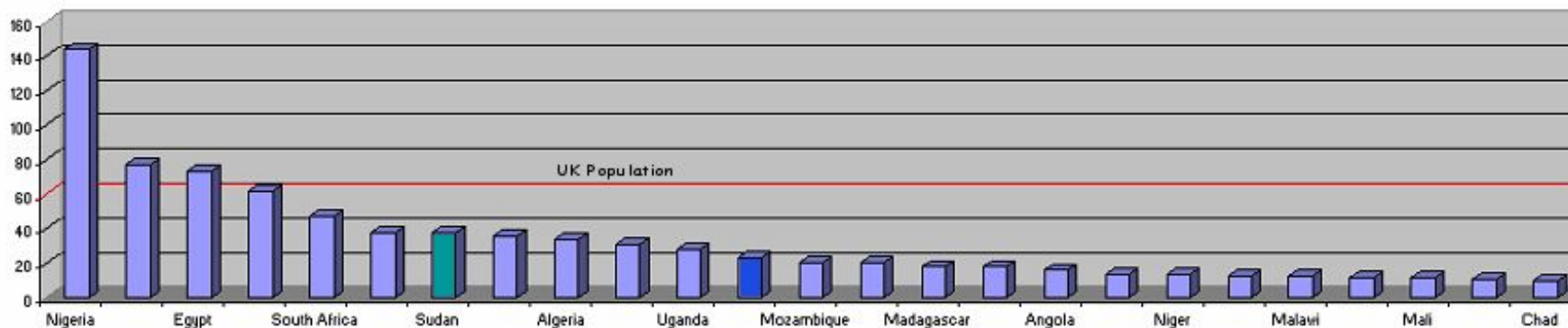
Nigeria	144
Ethiopia	77
Egypt	73
Congo, Dem. Rep. of	62
South Africa	47
Tanzania	38
<b>Sudan</b>	<b>38</b>
Kenya	36
Algeria	34
Morocco	31
Uganda	28
<b>Ghana</b>	<b>23</b>
Mozambique	20
Cote d'Ivoire	20
Madagascar	18

Cameroon	18
Angola	16
Burkina Faso	14
Niger	14
Zimbabwe	13
Malawi	13
Senegal	12
Mali	12
Zambia	11
Chad	10
Tunisia	10
Guinea	10
Rwanda	9
Somalia	9
Benin	9

## Africa – 50 largest countries by population total (in millions)

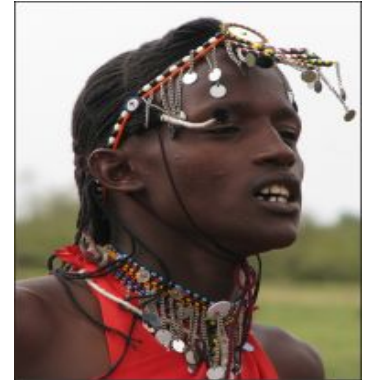
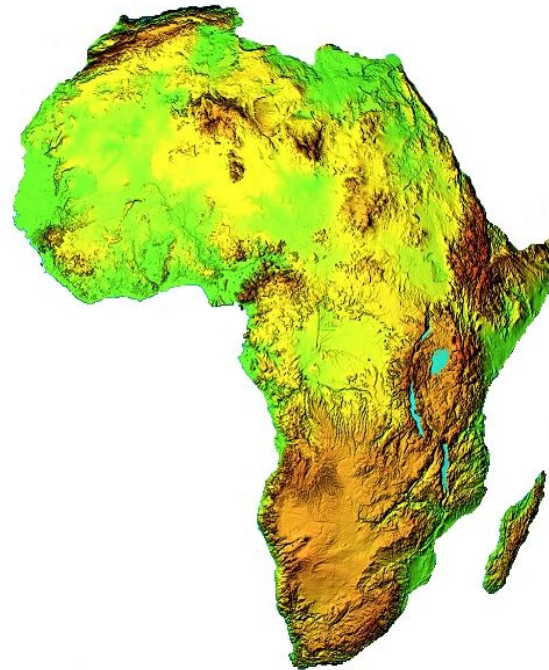
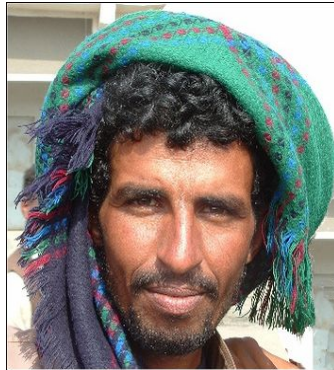
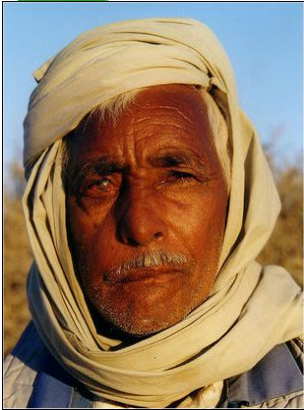
### Note:

*UK population total is about 60 million people*





# Africa – culture, religion and language



Images source: Flickr Creative Commons



## Africa – culture, religion and language

The peoples of Africa belong to hundreds of different **ethnic** groups. Each ethnic group has its own distinct **language, traditions, arts and crafts, history, way of life** and **religion**. There are over 50 countries in Africa, and some of these have 20 or more different ethnic groups living within their boundaries. Over 1000 different spoken **languages** have been identified within the continent of Africa.

The majority of the countries in Africa are inhabited by peoples of African origin. Some ethnic groups have been affected by the migration of **Arab** peoples into northern Africa. There are also many **Europeans** whose families moved to Africa during the **colonial** period and have stayed on. In some parts of East Africa, there are also large numbers of people of **Asian** origin.

A final reminder - Africa is a continent that shows great diversity:

- there is extreme **poverty** and vast **wealth**;
- there are people who suffer from **droughts** and **famine** and people who have **plentiful food**;
- there are vast, magnificent **nature reserves** with an abundance of wildlife and there are highly urbanized areas with **major cities** with high-rise buildings and modern services.