

16. Africa – regional geography

- = 2nd largest continent in the world
- = highest number of countries (states)
- = climate from equatorial to temperate

Location and main geomorphological units

Surroundings:

- between Atlantic (W) and Indian Ocean (E)
- Mediterranean Sea (N) – Gibraltar Strait, Suez Canal and Suez Strait
- Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
- Mozambique Strait

Main geomorphological units:

- *Deserts* – Sahara, Nubian, Namib, Kalahari
- *Mountains* – Atlas mts., Ahaggar mts., Ethiopian Highlands, Drakensberg mts., Mt. Kilimanjaro
- *Rivers* – Nile, Niger, Congo, Zambezi, Limpopo, Orange
- *Great Rift Valley* stretching from East Africa and Red Sea to Syria

Major African regions

Classification by location

- *North-Western Africa* (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Lybia)
- *North-Eastern Africa* (Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Djibouti, Eritrea)
- *West Africa* (Mauritania, Niger, Mali, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Togo, Nigeria, Benin)
- *Central Africa* (Cameroon, CAR, Equatorial Guinea, Chad, Sao Tome and Principe, DR Congo)
- *East Africa* (Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi)
- *South Africa* (Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia)

Classification by development

- *More developed countries* – RSA, Egypt, Tunisia
- *Less developed countries* – other

Classification by religion

- *Muslim Africa* = N + NE Africa
- *Christian Africa* = other

Main characteristics of Africa

- large areas with *poor soil fertility*
- majority of population employed in *agriculture*, low URB = <40%
- majority of population doesn't have *access to goods and services* of the world's economy
- highest natural increase* of population in spite of the *diseases*
- 1/3 of all the *refugees* come from Africa
- vast *raw material reserves* (oil, non-ferrous metals)
- growing of coffee, tea, cacao, cotton, (dry) rubber
- lot of *civil wars*
- corruption* (Nigeria)

Borders

Many of African borders were just “drawn“ by European colonists with no respect to tribal distribution => many armed conflicts (civil and international wars) – *religious* (Sudan), *ethnic* (Rwanda), *political* (Angola), *for profit* (Sierra Leone, Liberia).

