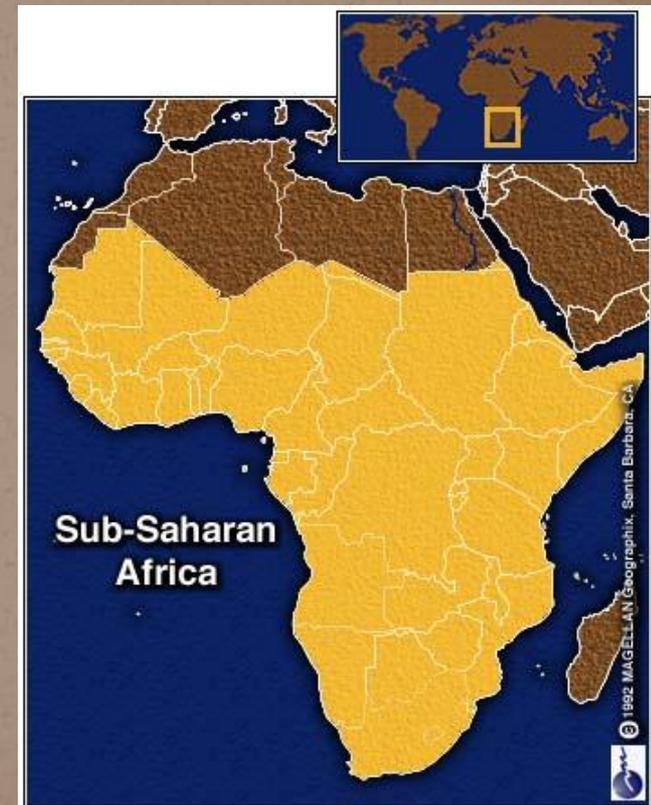


# The African Continent



# The African Continent

- Africa is the second largest continent
- a fifth of the earth's landmass
- divided into 55 different countries
- the equator cuts the continent's into two nearly equal halves
  - generally divided into two regions with reference to the Sahara (the world's largest desert)
    - north of the Sahara
    - sub-Saharan region

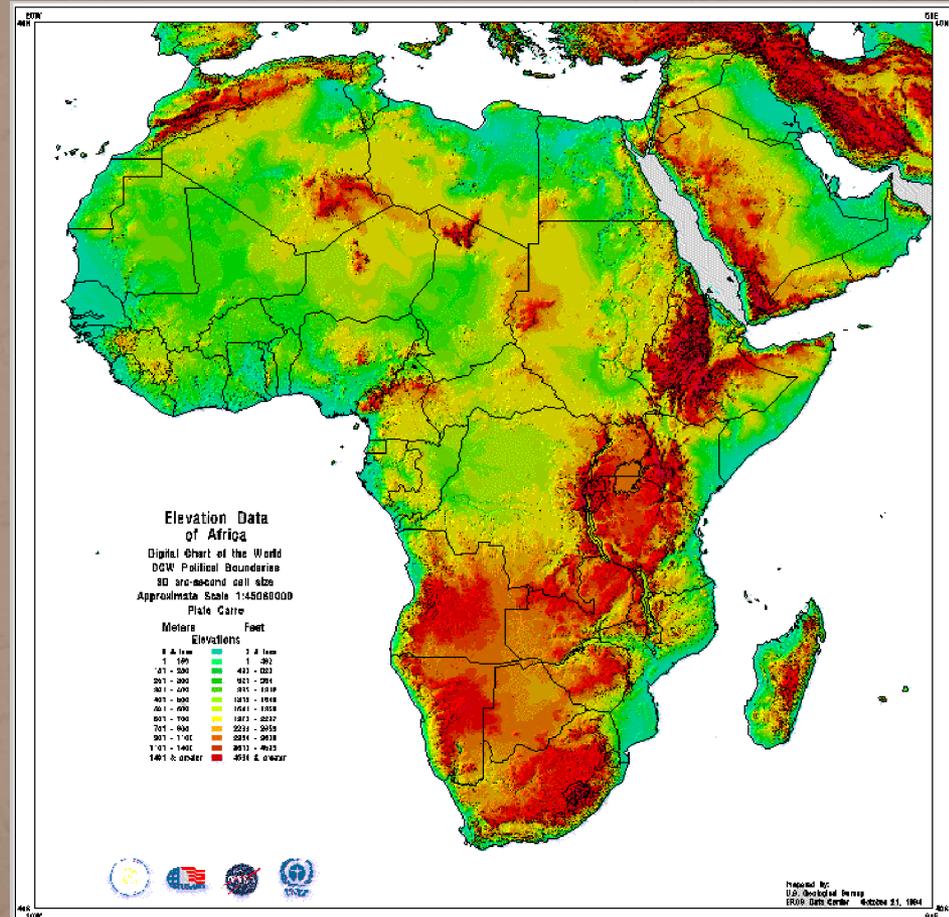


# The African Continent

- landmass largely consists of plateau land

- plateau can be divided into two regions
  - southeastern portion includes the Ethiopian Plateau, the East African Plateau and the Drakensberg Range.
  - northeastern portion contains the Sahara Desert with the Ahaggar Mountains, and in northwestern Africa, the Atlas Mountains

- Several basins (bowl shaped areas) within the plateaus



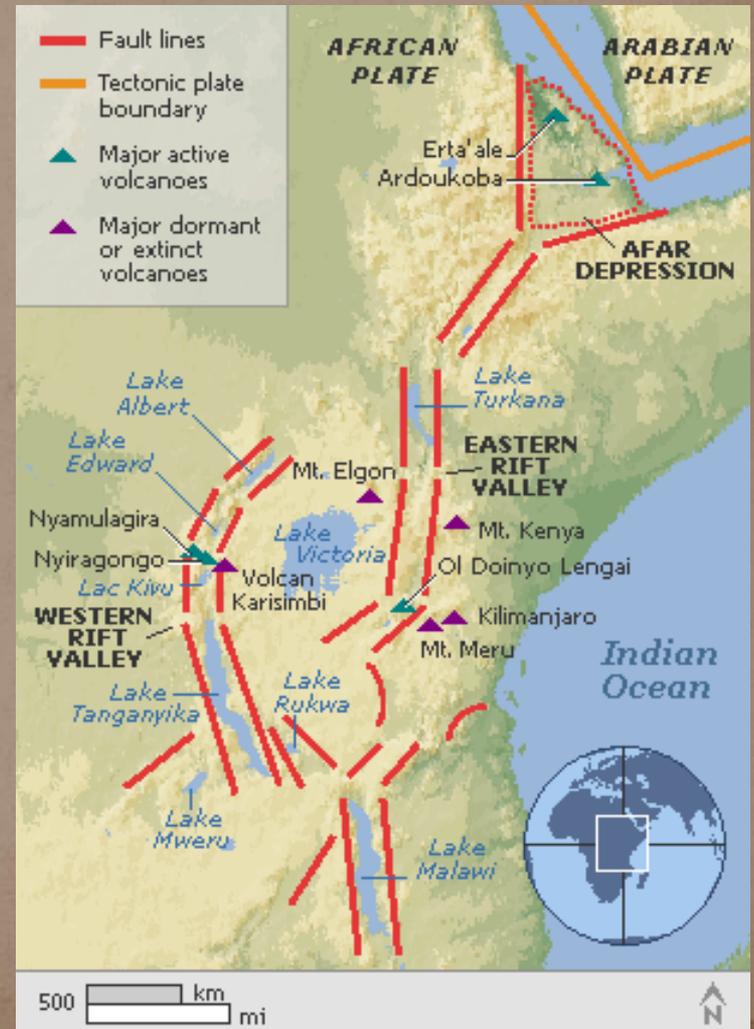
# The African Continent

- there are several mountain ranges in Africa
  - the Atlas Mountains in the northwest
  - Mt. Kilimanjaro is the most well known
- presence of many rivers
  - the Nile – Africa AND the world's longest
  - Congo River
  - The Niger River
  - The Zambezi River
- many large lakes
  - Lake Victoria
  - Lake Tanganyika
  - Lake Malawi
  - Lake Chad



# The African Continent

- The Ituri Forest
  - a dense tropical rain forest in the northern part of the Congo River Basin in the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire)
- A desert
  - The Sahara Desert – Africa's AND the largest desert in the world
  - Kalahri Desert
  - Namib Desert
- The Great Rift Valley
  - runs from the north to the south of the continent





# The Africa Climate

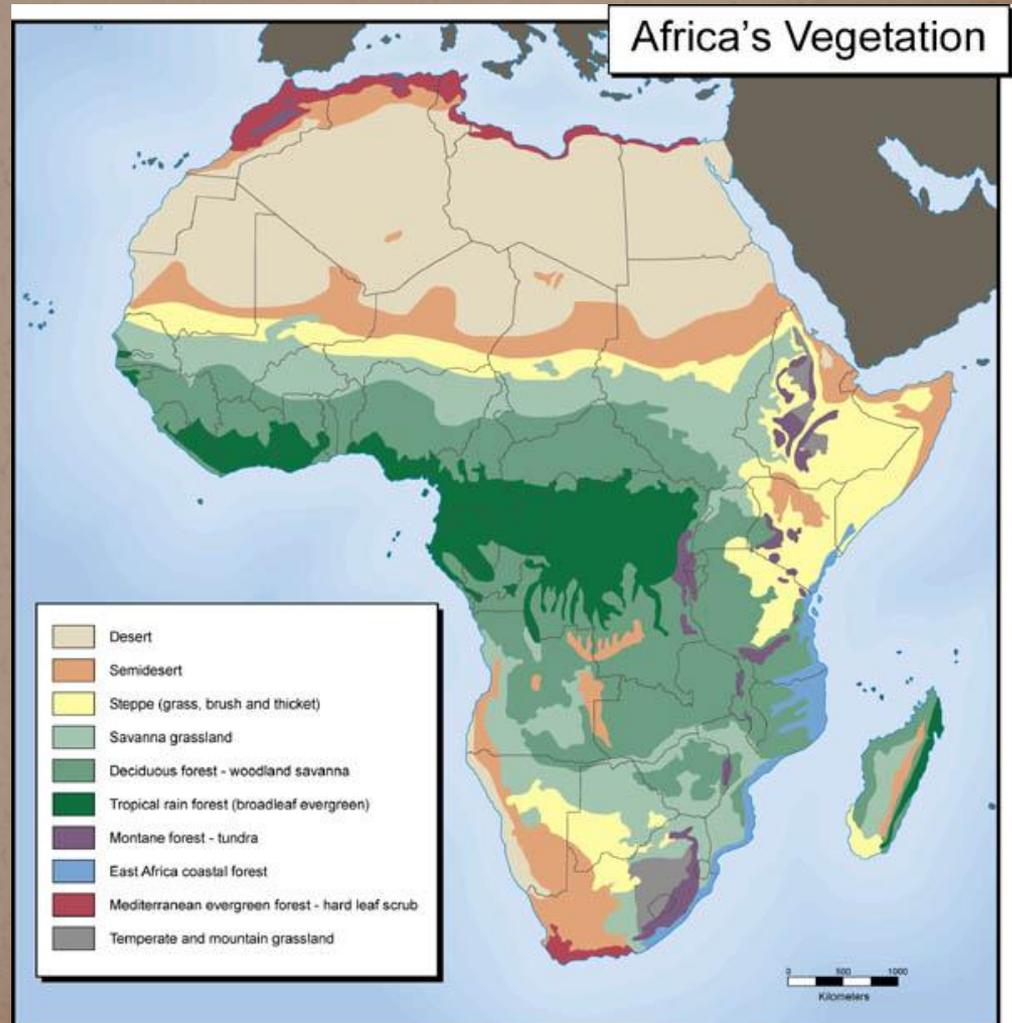
- Largest climate zone = Tropical Wet and Dry
  - Savanna (grassland) covers almost half the continent'
  - Home to most Africans
  - Rain is unpredictable
    - Heavy or light
    - Early or late
    - Or not at all = drought
  - Desertification is a serious problem
    - Turning semiarid lands into desert
    - Caused by droughts, over grazing and people moving onto the land



Dead vegetation in drought-stricken area, Senegal.

# The African Vegetation Regions

- Rain forest
- Grassland
- Desert and dry shrub
- Temperate grassland
- Mediterranean shrub



# Desertification



The Tanout, Niger area, situated just south of the Sahara desert

# The African People

- 12% of the world's population
- Is large and growing rapidly
  - Second largest and fastest growing in the world
- More than 1,500 different languages/cultural groups
- In the North (close cultures ties to the Middle East)
  - mostly Arabs
- In the South (Sub-Sahara)
  - Amhara, Mossi, Fulani, Yoruba, Igbo, Kongo Zulu, Akan, Oromo, Hausa, and the Masai
  - Europeans – due to colonization
- Africa is sparsely populated in parts
- Africa has some of the most densely populated places on Earth
  - Egypt along the Nile River (95% of Egypt's pop.)
- principal cities of Africa are usually the national capitals and the major ports



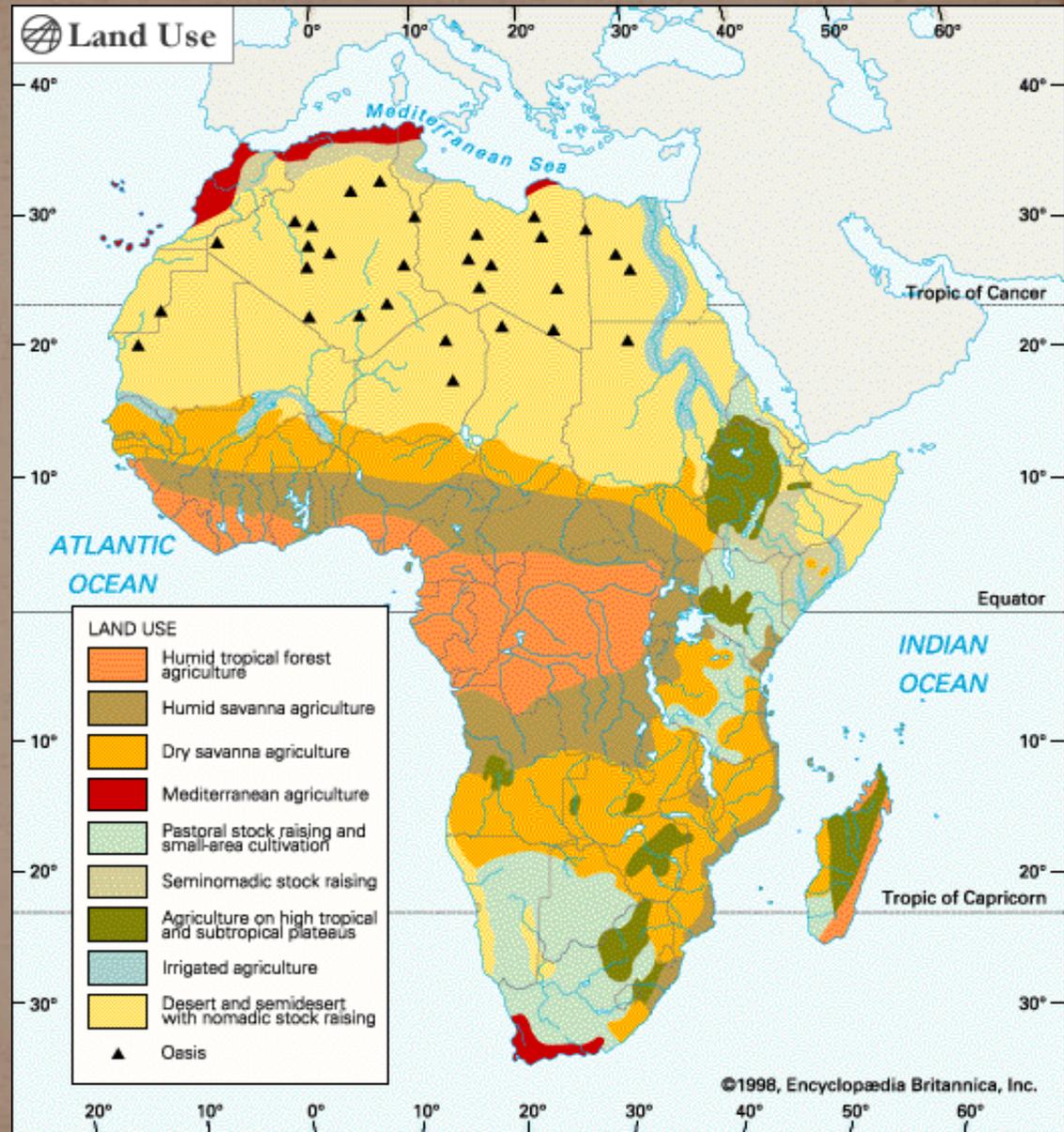
# The African Economy

- Farming
  - Subsistence farming (60%) vs cash crop
- Herding
  - Cattle on the savannas (grassland)
- Fishing
- Hunting and gathering
  - Very few remain today
- Mining
  - Gold and diamonds
- Urban (cities)
  - Along the coast, capital
  - Growing quickly
  - Move for a better life
  - Slums



Himba, nomadic pastoralists,  
girl herding goats, Namibia

# Agriculture and herding in Africa



# Africa's Resources

- Oil is most valuable
  - Algeria, Kenya, Libya, Egypt, Angola, Nigeria
- Diamonds
  - 40% of the world's
- Gold
  - 50% of the world's gold
- Rich in resources



# Pictures of Africa

# The Nile

## The world's longest river



# The Sahara



# Camel Caravan crossing the Sahara



# Atlas Mountain Northwest



# Ethiopian Plateau



# Great Rift Valley



# Mount Kilimanjaro



# Lake Victoria



# Serengeti



# Flamingoes in Ngorogoro Crater part of the Serengeti National Park



# The Masai



# Congo River



# The Niger River



# The Zambezi River Lake Kariba



# Victoria Falls



# Ituri Forest

northern part of the Congo River Basin



# *Kalahari Desert*



# *Kalahari Desert*



*Kalahari Desert*  
*A black-maned lion*



# Africa



**55 countries.**

**Over 1000 languages.**

**1,256,550,000 (1.25 billion) people.**