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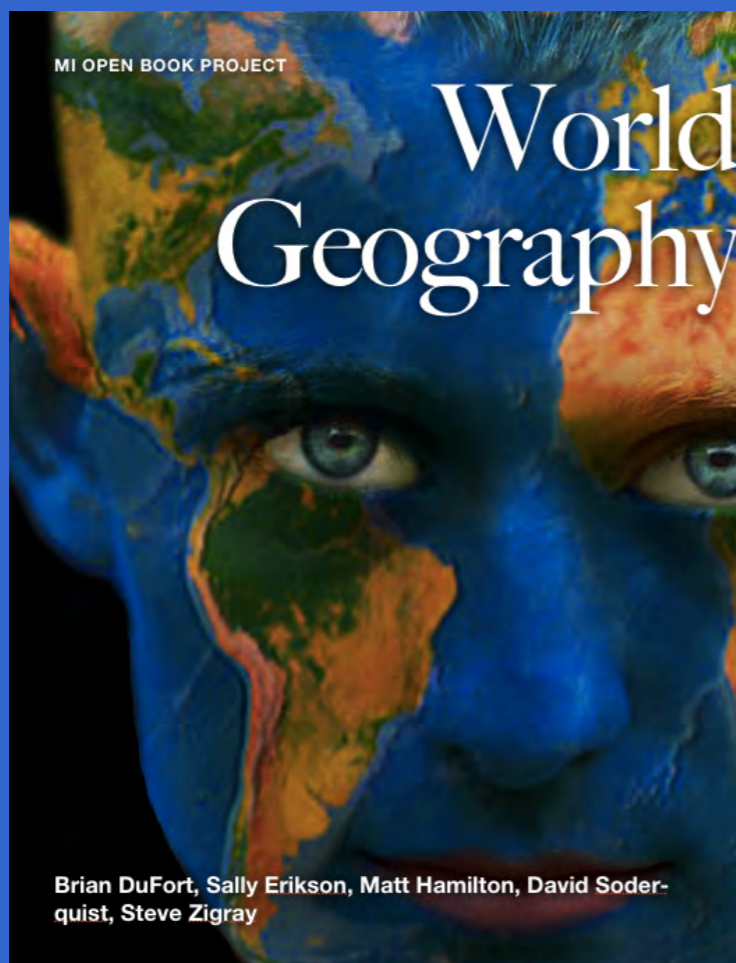
World Geography

Brian Dufort, Sally Erickson, Matt Hamilton,
David Soderquist, Steve Zigray

World Geography



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Shepherd Public Schools

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Brian is originally from Midland, MI and is a graduate of Northern Michigan University. He has spent his entire teaching career at Odyssey Middle/High School, an alternative education program in the Shepherd Public School system. In 2001, his environmental studies class was one of seven programs from the United States and Canada to be chosen as a winner of the Sea World/Busch Gardens Environmental Excellence Award. Brian is also the Northern Conference director of the Michigan Alternative Ath-

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Sally has taught grades 3-6, as well as special education. She has served as a district literacy leader for many years and participated in the Galileo Leadership Academy in 2001-03. She is proud to be a teacher.

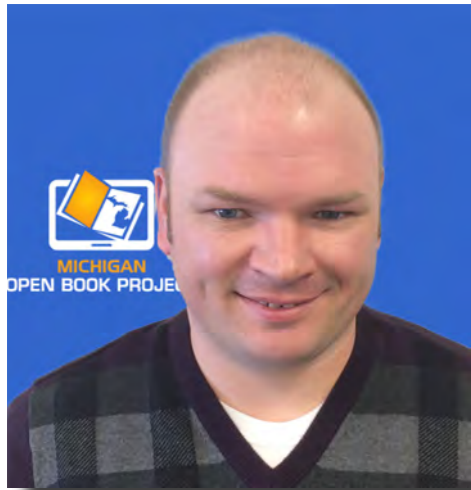


Matt Hamilton

East Jordan Public Schools

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Matt grew up in Cadillac, MI. He holds a bachelor and masters degree from Michigan State University. He currently teaches middle school History and Geography. Matt started and advises a club at his school called the Shoe Club to inspire his students to Dream Big. His wife and two daughters enjoy traveling and spending time in the outdoors.



David Soderquist

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Three Rivers Middle School

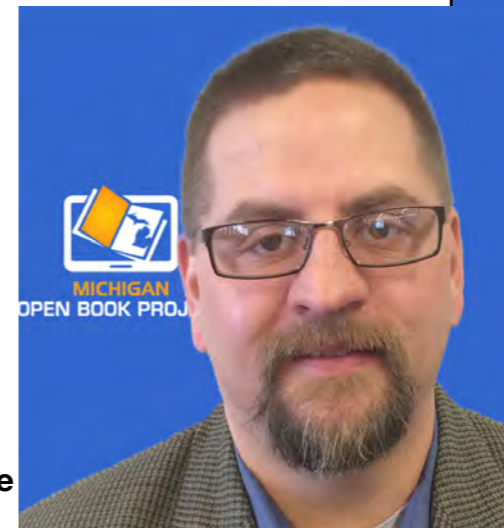
For the Past 11 years David has taught 6-8 grade Social Studies for Three Rivers Middle School. He serves as Department Head, School Improvement Member and Social Studies Rep for his area. Over the past few years he has completed his Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction and become a state recognized Instructional Coach.

Steve Zigray

Concord Community Schools

Concord Middle School

Steve Zigray is a 6th grade teacher. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from Central Michigan University and a Masters Degree in K-12 Administration from Eastern Michigan University. Honors Steve has been awarded are the 2001 Junior Achievement Educator of the Year and he was nominated for Jackson Magazine's, Educator of the year in 2014. He has also coached high school and middle school sports, worked on various school improvement committees, wrote the 6th grade Common Assessment tests for Jackson County ISD and is an active member in the community as well as the PTO. He lives in southeast Jackson County with his beautiful wife and three fantastic daughters.



**MICHIGAN
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Sub-Saharan Africa

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. How are we, as members of a global society, connected?
2. How does history impact the culture of a region?
3. How do the people of Sub-Saharan Africa overcome the many challenges they face?

Introduction - Africa South of the Sahara

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. How are we, as members of a global society, connected?
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Movement

How do we move from place to place?
How do ideas move from place to place?
How do products move from place to place?



Regions

What region do we live in?
What are a region's characteristics?
What type of region is it?
What makes a region?



Human/Environment Interaction

How have we adapted to or changed our landscape?



Location

Where are we?
Where is a place?



Place

What kind of place is it?
What is it like there?



Where is it?

Point A: It is about 8,356 miles (13448 km) from Lansing, Michigan to Cape Town, South Africa.

Interactive 5.1 Trip to South Africa



Explore the route from Lansing Michigan to one of the Southern most tips of Africa.

Place - What is it like there?

In the introduction to this book you learned briefly about the five themes of geography, and previous chapters have covered the geographic themes of Movement (North America), Human/Environment Interaction (Latin America), and Location (North Africa and the Middle East). This chapter will help you begin to think more about the theme of “place.” Geographers define the study of place as the conditions at a location, or more simply, a study of what it’s like there. If you look back at the chapters on North America, Latin America, and North Africa and the Middle East you’ll notice in the sections on physical geography that this question has really been answered.

Introduction: Africa South of the Sahara

Africa is a large landmass, second only to Asia in size. The continent is a land of diverse physical features including high mountain peaks, great valleys, large deserts, great rivers and tropical rain forests. Sub-Saharan Africa is a region that geographically lies south of the Sahara Desert. Approximately 90% of the region lies within the Tropics Zone, giving the region a warm climate. In this unit, you will learn how the environment impacts the way people live. You will discover how people have adapted to living in this diverse landscape.



As you build your knowledge of Sub-Saharan Africa, keep these essential questions in mind:

- “How does history impact the culture of a region?”

Over time, the people of the region have had to face many challenges as a result of their history.

“How do the people of Sub-Saharan Africa overcome the many challenges they face?”

People of Africa South of the Sahara face many challenges such as surviving in dense tropical rainforests and living in the harsh desert. They deal with the change in governments, war, and the threat of starvation.

With an area about three times the size of the United States, Africa South of the Sahara accounts for almost one-fifth of the total land in the world. The land area totals 10.3 million square miles. It is not surprising that a region this large is made up of 54 countries.

Sub-Saharan Africa is a region comprised of many cultural groups. Some 2,000 different languages have been accounted

for in the region. Some, like Arabic and English, are used all over the region by many different cultures. Others, such as Hadza, are isolated to remote areas of the continent. Despite these extreme differences, Africans share a long, storied history.

The region is home to some of the oldest groups of people found. Scientists have found bones dating back to the earliest of times. With this evidence, many have called Africa the birthplace of the human race. These early peoples were hunter-gatherers, moving from place to place to find their food. Later on, they learned to farm and began raising animals and growing crops.

For centuries great African empires rose and fell in the region, as well as small kingdoms and city-states. Vast trade networks connected Sub-Saharan Africa with Europe and Asia. In the 1400s, European explorers looking for a sea route to India and China began to visit Africa. The Portuguese were the first to set up trade along both the west and east coasts of Africa. In the Mid to late 1800s European countries began to carve up Africa into colonies. By 1914 only Ethiopia and Libera were independent nations.

Interactive 5.2 Countries in Sub Saharan Africa



This page from the Library of Congress provides a list of countries in Sub Saharan Africa. Choose one country from this list and use the Internet to do a little research on this country. In one paragraph, describe “What is it like there?” Share your findings with a classmate.



Image source: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flag_map_of_Colonial_Africa_\(1945\).png](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flag_map_of_Colonial_Africa_(1945).png)

The age of African Independence began in the late 1950s. Ghana was the first to gain its independence from European rule. Over the next decade many African colonies were able to fight to gain their freedom from colonial rule. Unfortunately many were not prepared to self-govern. Since that time, many countries have found it difficult to establish strong, stable governments.

Section 2

Physical Geography

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. How are we, as members of a global society, connected?
2. How does history impact the culture of a region?
3. How do the people of Sub-Saharan Africa overcome the many challenges they face?



Image source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e7/Volta_lake_from_the_Saint_Barbara_Church.JPG

Physical Geography

Sub-Saharan Africa is a huge region in size and has a great diversity of physical features. Many geographers describe it as a land of plateaus. There are also large basins, coastal plains, and many mountain ranges in the region. Mt. Kilimanjaro, located in the country of Tanzania, is the highest mountain in Africa and also the highest free-standing mountain in the world. A free-standing

mountain is a mountain that is not part of a mountain range. Another impressive feature is the Great Rift Valley. This massive valley was formed when tectonic plates moved to create a gash in the continent extending from the country of Mozambique to the Red Sea.

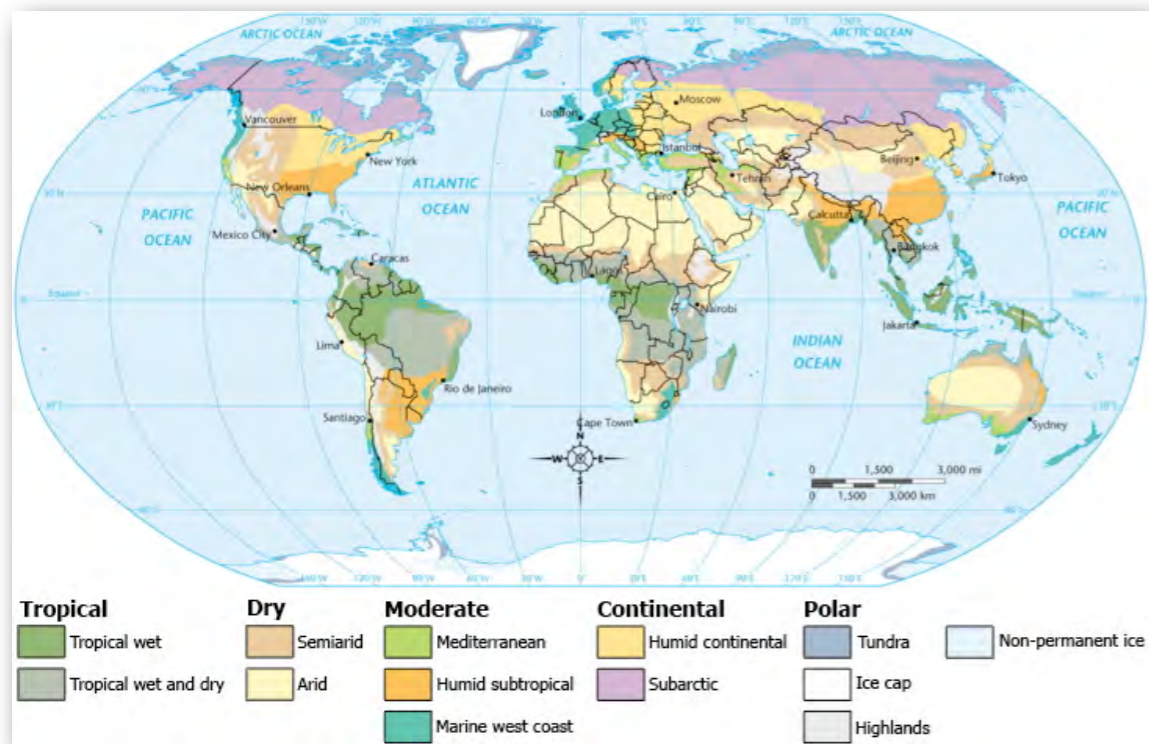


Image source: <http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c2/ClimateMapWorld.png>

Using the map above, determine other places in the world that have similar climates as this region? What location characteristics do they share?



Image source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ciat/5207540264/>

Vegetation varies greatly across the massive region. To the north, the Sahara gives way to the Sahel, a large area of mostly dry grassland. In the west, the Niger river cuts through the Sahel. This area is also home to the Congo river basin and the large rainforest that surrounds the river system. To the east, tropical grassland covers much of the region. Here the Great Rift Valley gives way to three large freshwater lakes and the two forks of the Nile River: the White and Blue Niles. The Southern portion of Africa is made up of a large low-lying area. Here drops in the elevation create many beautiful waterfalls. As you move further south the Namib and Kalahari deserts make up much of the far Southern region.

Critical Thinking Question:

Access to clean water is a huge issue throughout the world.
Why is clean water important?

Importance of Water

Water is present all over Michigan. There are lakes and rivers with millions of gallons surrounding our communities. We live in a state that is surrounded by the largest freshwater ecosystem in the world. It is safe to say we take the access to freshwater for granted. Not only do we have access to all this water, but we have full access to clean water. Unfortunately this is not the case in many parts of Sub-Saharan Africa.



Image source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flickr_-_usaid.africa_-_Water_pump.jpg

Apartheid

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. How are we, as members of a global society, connected?
2. How does history impact the culture of a region?
3. How do the people of Sub-Saharan Africa overcome the many challenges they face?



Image source: <http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/12/ApartheidSignEnglishAfrikaans.jpg>

History of Apartheid

Imagine living in a place where signs like this are a daily sight. Imagine a country where the government has enacted a policy of total separation based on race. This policy would decide where you could live and work, along with who you could marry. Such a place existed.

For almost 50 years the white minority ruled the country of South Africa under a system of racial separation called Apartheid. This policy of racial segregation forced whites and nonwhites to live apart from each other. It offered few economic resources and less political power to the nonwhite ethnic groups. South Africa was a multiracial society made up of many different ethnic groups. Most ethnic groups fit into four classifications blacks, whites, colored and Asian. Apartheid then separated all these into white and nonwhite.

How did South Africa become a multiracial society? People have occupied the area for thousands of years. Some of the earliest black Africans began migrating to the area from Central Africa some 2,000 years ago. This group was made up of many smaller groups of black Africans which varied by ancestry and language.



Image source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coloured#/media/File:Coloured-family.jpg>

In the mid 1600s Europeans needed a place to stop along the long trade routes to the east. South Africa was just the place. Here they could stop to restock on freshwater, food and goods they needed. Soon the tip of Africa became the first white colony in South Africa. Dutch colonists, known as Boers or Afrikaners, began to flood in. Over time the colony grew, attracting settlers

from other parts of Europe. Dutch remained the language of the colonists and later they would begin to adapt many words from the other settlers as well as black African languages to blend into a new language called Afrikaans.

In the early 1800s, Great Britain took over the colony and South Africa became part of the British Empire. Soon the discovery of gold and diamonds attracted more colonists to the area. Both the Boers and British saw the wealth that could be obtained and began fighting over land. South Africa gained independence from Great Britain in 1934. By 1948 the official policy of apartheid was fully in place.

Life Under Apartheid

As the colonial period came to an end, South Africa became an independent country in 1910. The new country's government wasted no time and enacted a constitution giving whites complete control over the national government. Separation became a way of life for the people living in South Africa. For decades it continued as a way of life, until 1948 when the ruling whites enacted a government policy making apartheid official.



Image source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Apartheid_Museum_Entrance,_Johannesburg.JPG

Under the policy many laws were created to keep ethnic groups separated and limit the right of the black South Africans. For example, the right to vote was only granted to people of European descent. Blacks had to live in areas known as “homelands” where there were fewer jobs and resources. There were separate schools, hospitals, restaurants and movie theaters for Whites and people of color. Public transportation was segregated and signs appeared all over public parks and beaches declaring “For Whites Only.”



Image source: http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apartheid_in_South_Africa#/media/File:Apartheid.jpg

Whites lived very well under the policy of apartheid. White schools were the best in the country. Whites had access to the best jobs, the best health care and the best overall living conditions. They of course controlled the government as well.

Asians and coloreds were second class to the Whites. Schools and other public services were limited. Their political rights, such as voting, were limited as well.

However, no group had it as difficult as the black South Africans. They were forced to move into the “homelands.” These areas were made up of some of the worst rural areas that South Africa had to offer. There were few jobs and the ones available did not pay well at all. Schools were very bad and there was little to no access to health care. Black South Africans were also limited on where and how they could move throughout the country. Free movement was not allowed, however, those who worked in the

cities could travel from their ‘homelands’ to work. In other areas of the country, poor townships or slums were where many Blacks lived. They were allowed in the cities during the day time, but at night were required to return to the slums.

Apartheid Ends



Image source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disinvestment_from_South_Africa#/media/File:Boycott_-_Contaminated_with_apartheid_-_South_African_goods.jpg

Apartheid did not go unchallenged; many groups fought for decades trying to gain equality for Blacks in South Africa. The most prominent group to protest was the African National Congress (ANC). Founded in 1912, the ANC began fighting against the unfair treatment by Whites prior to apartheid becoming an official government policy. By the early 1950s the struggle for equality and fair treatment was drawing the attention of the world.

Black South Africans protested the laws and unfair treatment. The white government responded by arresting many of the protestors



Image source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ixtla/2362881762/>

and black leaders. In 1952, an ANC lawyer named Nelson Mandela took the lead in the fight for equality. Mandela and the ANC began a campaign to end the unfair treatment under apartheid. Soon many black leaders, including Mandela, were jailed. As the world took

notice, the United Nations condemned the policies of South Africa and, with the support of many countries, cut off trade to South Africa.

By 1989 many people around the world had become aware of the unfair treatment of Blacks under apartheid. F.W. de Klerk, an Afrikaner, became the elected president of South Africa. In the past, de Klerk had been an outspoken supporter of segregation. Eventually, he began to realize that South Africa would never see peace under apartheid. He made the decision to free Nelson Mandela and other leaders who had been jailed under the apartheid laws. Finally, by 1991 South Africa had abolished all apartheid laws.



Image source: <http://pixabay.com/en/nelson-mandela-quote-mural-belfast-539834/>

In 1994 democratic elections were held in South Africa for the first time in history. South Africans of all colors were allowed to vote. Nelson Mandela was elected as the first black president in their nation's history. From there he worked with many prominent leaders, such as Desmond Tutu, to help heal the divisions that had been created between the people of South Africa. Their program, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, took the next several years to examine the human rights crimes that were committed during the apartheid years. In 1998 the commission's report condemned violations of human rights by both white and black South Africans. The commission also granted amnesty or forgiveness to some people who carried out some of the crimes.

Their work helped to create the groundwork South Africa needed to begin moving forward and recover from its past.

Critical Thinking Activity:

Use the links for Nelson Mandela Struggle in Posters. Answer the questions using the materials on the webpage. Use the Google doc to analyze the different posters.

Interactive 5.4 Historical Poster Analysis



Use this Google Doc to analyze the posters in the other link.

Interactive 5.5 Mandela in Posters



Use the posters on this website to answer the questions in the Google Doc

Sub Saharan Africa Today

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. How are we, as members of a global society, connected?
2. How does history impact the culture of a region?
3. How do the people of Sub-Saharan Africa overcome the many challenges they face?

South Africa Today

Despite all the changes, still has a long way to go. The government has created new programs and opened up many new job opportunities since apartheid ended. The government has passed the Employment Equity which identified the had been unfairly past. Groups like blacks,

South Africa

Act groups who denied jobs in the

coloreds, Asians, women and the disabled

are now given equal opportunity under the law. Business must look at all people equally when they apply and give fair pay to all workers.

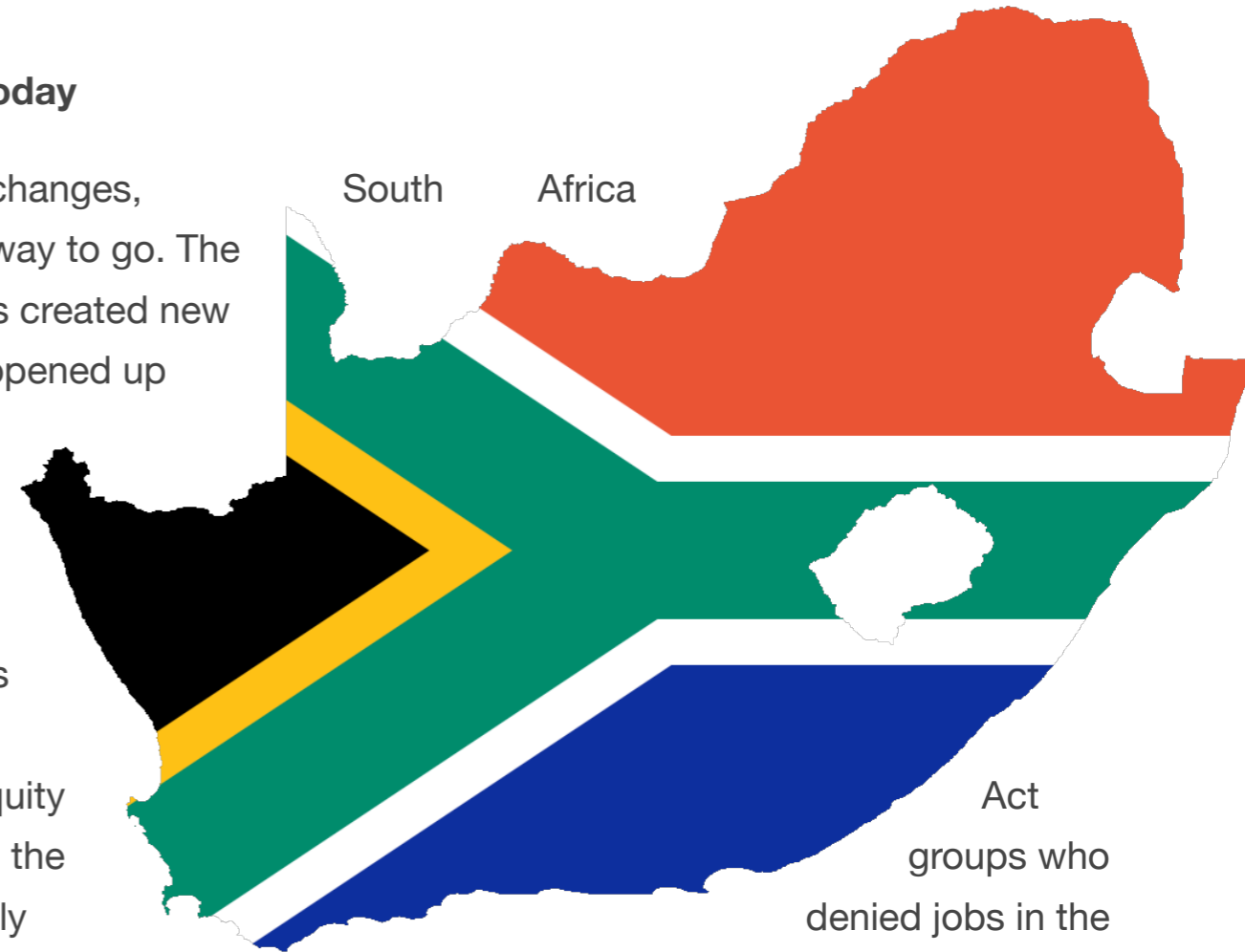




Image source: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:SouthAfricanStub.png>

However, there are still not enough jobs being created to supply all the people who need work. The growth in the economy has been slow. The number of unemployed people who are white has increased, however the majority are still blacks, coloreds and Asians. This slow economic growth has led to an increase in poverty. People all over the country are struggling to meet the most basic of needs.



Image source: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:South-african-school-children.jpg>

One answer to the issue of poverty is education. For the most part, the more years a person has finished in school, the more money he or she will earn as an adult. Under apartheid, nonwhites had limited educational opportunities. Schools were poor, in disrepair and didn't have the resources or qualified teachers to offer a good education. Once apartheid ended,

change came to the educational system. Students of all racial groups now attend the same school. More South Africans than ever are finishing high school and more are attending college. As more and more nonwhites receive an education, opportunities for better jobs and a higher quality of life will continue to increase.

Interactive 5.6 South Africa Steps Up Campaign to Create More Jobs



Learn more about how South Africa is trying to create more jobs to address one of their major problems at this website.

Other areas of society are improving as well. More and more cities are becoming less segregated. Even with cities opening up to all people, many nonwhites are not able to afford to live in the nicer areas of the city. Many still live in the poor townships and slums surrounding the cities. The government has been making an attempt to correct this issue. Over the years the South African government has

provided many homes. The government is also working to improve the township and slum areas. Streets and other areas of infrastructure are being updated and installed. There are also new schools, police stations, and health clinics being built in these areas.

Interactive 5.7 Changes since Apartheid



Click here to learn more about how the people of South Africa view the changes since Apartheid.

The People of Sub-Saharan Africa Today

Sub-Saharan Africa has a rapidly growing population. Today the region's people number around 800 million and it has been estimated that with the current rate of growth, the region could be looking at 1.5 billion by 2050. With this rapid rate of population



Image source: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Africa_at_night_\(Cropped_From_Entire_Earth_Image\).jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Africa_at_night_(Cropped_From_Entire_Earth_Image).jpg)

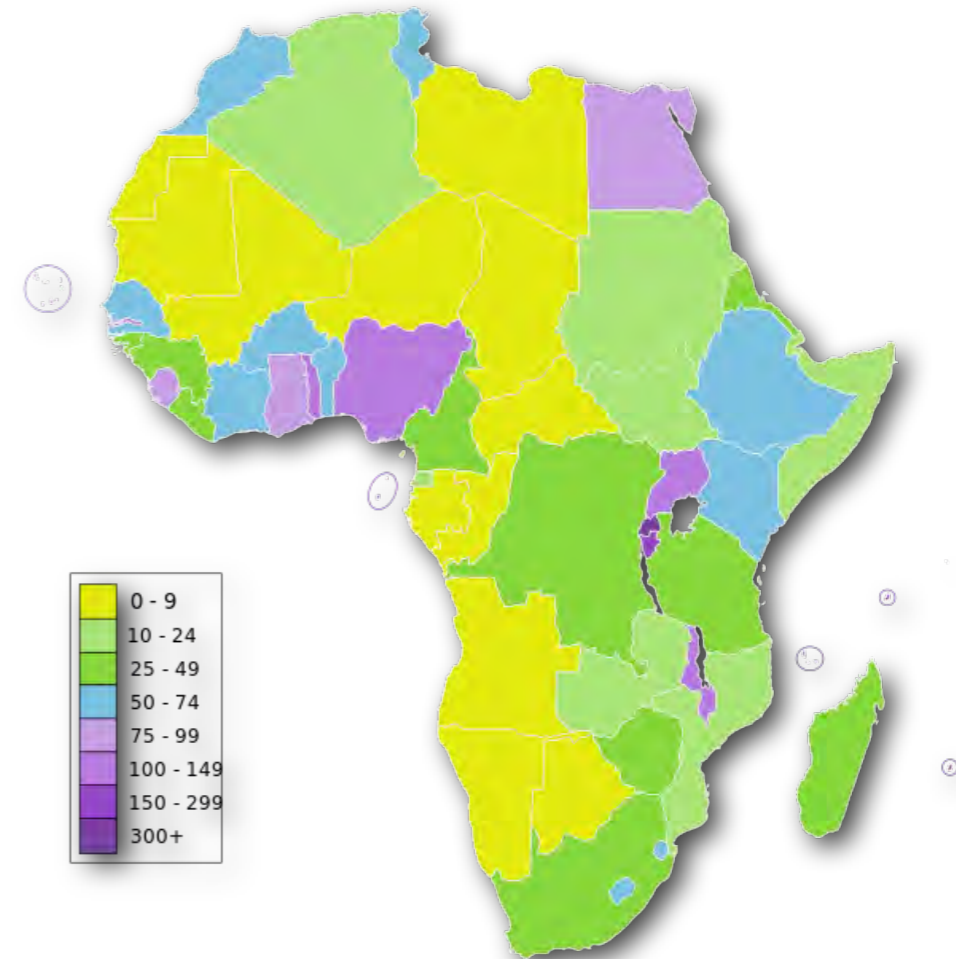


Image source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Africa_densidade_pop.svg

growth, Sub-Saharan Africa rates as one of the largest areas of growth in the world.

Why has there been such an increase in population over the past few years? There are several reasons. First, better medical care and sanitation have lowered the death rates for all people, especially children. Second, during this time the region have seen some of the highest birthrates ever. More than wealth and privilege is the idea that large families are viewed as a necessity

in agricultural families. Visit the World Population Data Sheet to learn more about the population of the region, World Population Data

This rapid population growth has brought on challenges to the region. Many of the cities are overcrowded, leading to poor living conditions. Basic services like clean water and electricity are not provided everywhere. Many areas are also seeing stressed farmland. Most people still rely on farming for jobs and food,



Image source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sahel#/media/File:Sahel_forest_near_Kayes_Mali.jpg

however much of the farmland in the region is being ruined by overuse, drought and erosion.

Interactive 5.8 Africa: Cities on Frontline of Sustainable Development



*Read more about sustainable
developments in Africa here.*

So where do all these people live? The population is not evenly distributed throughout the region. The main cause of the uneven distribution is because of areas where the land and climate are not welcoming to people. Many of these areas are desert where it is too dry to support either herding or farming. As a result, many of the region's people

live along the coast. Not only do coastal areas provide friendlier landforms for living conditions, but the climate is much milder and the soil fertile.

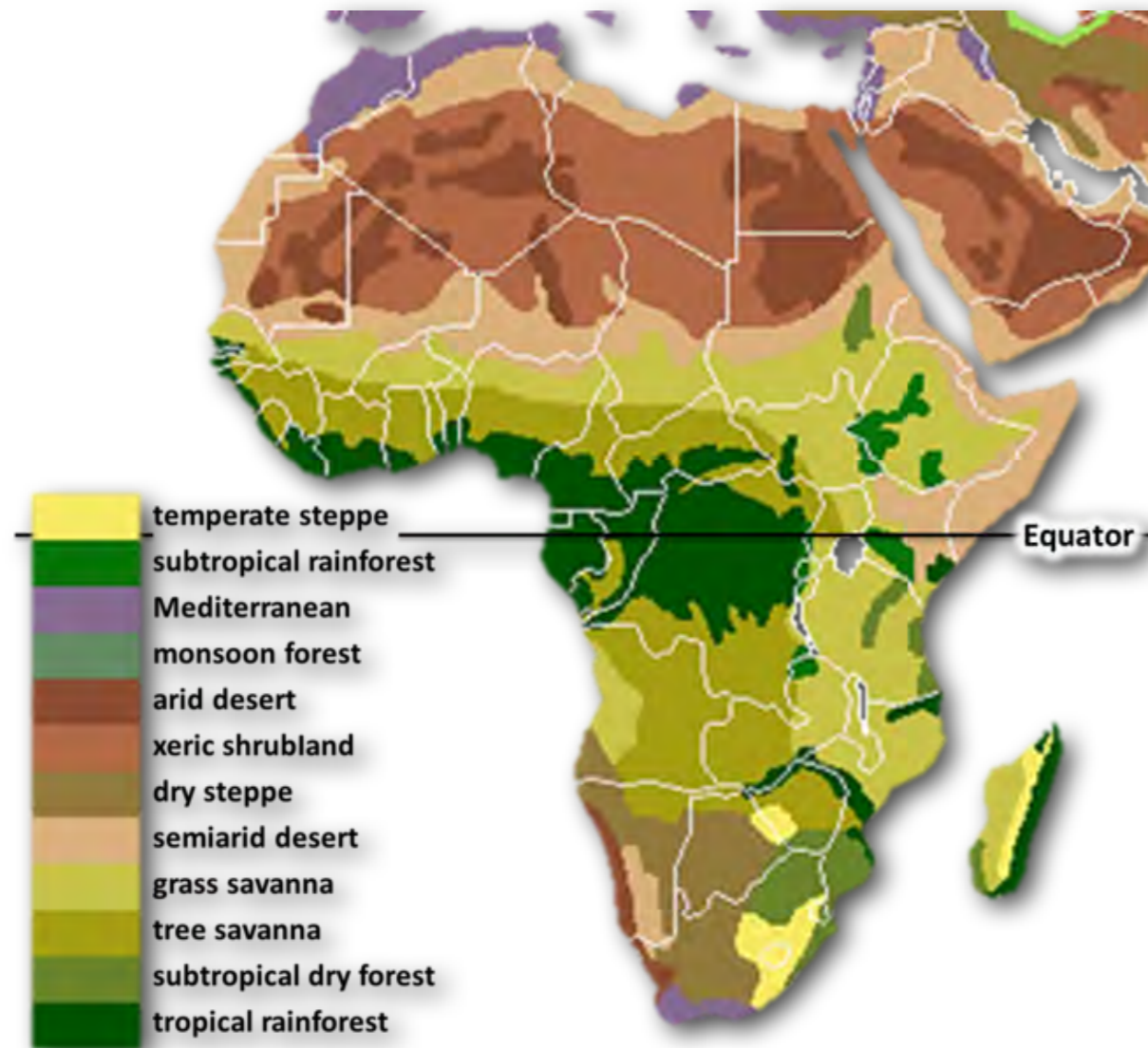


Image source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Vegetation_Africa.png

Although many still rely on subsistence farming to provide for their needs, there is a growing trend in the region towards urbanization. Urbanization is the movement from the rural areas to the urban . The major pull factor towards urban growth is the hope of steady income. The hope of better jobs, healthcare and education opportunities lead many to leave their old lives behind and move in pursuit of a better tomorrow.

The challenge of Health Care

As mentioned before, one cause of the rapid population growth in Sub-Saharan Africa is the advancement of health care. More hospitals, clinics and medical centers are now open than in any point in the region's history. Along with access to medical facilities, more drugs and medical supplies are available to the people. Even with this access, the death rates in the region remain high in comparison with the rest of the world. People still suffer from malnutrition, poor health, as a result of not eating the right food or enough food.

Another health-related issue is the lack of access to clean water to drink or good sanitation services. While widespread famines have killed many people, diseases such as malaria and ebola have as well. These and other diseases are a few of the major issues created due to the substandard health care found in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Economic Challenges

How do the challenges of the environment and physical features in Africa affect the economic activities of the people? The lives of the people living in Sub-Saharan Africa are always impacted by the physical environment surrounding them. The region is ever changing. One recent area of change is the involvement in the global economy. The people of the region face ever increasing odds, but this change in economic activities offers some hope for new opportunities. For many this may mean leaving their rural villages for the larger cities for work.

Many factors have gone into Sub-Saharan Africa being mostly a collection of agricultural societies. The natural resources of the



Image source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Niger_millet_Koremairwa_1214.jpg

area are very imbalanced. Due to unstable governments and the effects the colonization period had on the region's economy and society, many people rely on some type of agriculture to provide for their needs.

Farming is the main economic activity in Sub-Saharan Africa. Somewhere around two-thirds of the workforce are involved in some aspect of agriculture. Even though farming methods and crop production have changed, many still use traditional methods when farming. Most people in the region still use subsistence farming to provide for the needs of the family.



Image source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_and_agriculture_in_Su
File:Guinea_Sigui_farmer_woman.jpg

Once their crops meet their families needs, anything else is taken to a local market to be sold or traded for items the family cannot



Image source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agriculture_in_Angola#/media/File:Angolan_Potato_Farmers_\(5687186090\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agriculture_in_Angola#/media/File:Angolan_Potato_Farmers_(5687186090).jpg)

produce on their own. These families live on small plots of land spread all throughout the African countryside. A small portion of the workforce has begun to work on commercial farms. These large scale farms grow cash crops, or crops sold for profit. Most of these farms are owned by large, foreign companies. They grow peanuts, cacao, and coffee. This method of farming came about due to the colonial economic system that was put into place during the time of European control. Both commercial and subsistence farming can be risky. The region lacks good farmland and one unfavorable growing season or a drop in the demand of a product can have a disastrous affect on the family or the economy of the area.

With so many people reliant on farming, how do the farmers meet the challenges of living in Sub-Saharan Africa? Challenges like



Image source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:C3%81rboI_Cacao.JPG

overgrazing, overworking the soil, and lack of modern farming equipment make farming difficult. The use of commercial machinery, frequent use of the soil, and the clearing of forests have created an erosion and desertification problem. This particular issue relates to the growth of the desert due to the soil losing natural nutrients and turning to sand. Farmers have begun to use new methods to protect the land. They have begun to use different techniques of land-management to conserve the land. These methods include crop rotations, better fertilizers and seeds, and modern irrigation.

How does an economy based heavily on agriculture join in with the global economy? As Sub-Saharan Africa has looked to



Image source: http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=https://farm6.staticflickr.com/5168/5367322642_458bff8f01_o_d.jpg&imgrefurl=https://www.flickr.com/photos/ciat/5367322642&h=2848&w=4288&tbnid=qSf7EisM4veazM:&zoom=1&docid=ln8QZZ4GsgofFM&ei=m8FIVdfeLtjjoASsiYCgCA&tbn=isch&ved=0CCAQMygEMAQ

modernize itself, the people have looked towards different economic opportunities. The region has begun to develop more manufacturing but with the lack of trained workers, facilities and the equipment to process the natural resources they have, many countries have to develop industry from the ground up. To do this, many have to look to foreign loans and investments. Unfortunately the process has been slow.

Today the region's industry produces many products that just a few years back needed to be imported into the region. Food products and textiles, paper, leather and building materials are all areas of industry now produced in Sub-Saharan Africa. To produce these, business have had to meet the challenges facing them to create an industry infrastructure. Educational systems are still developing to provide people with the skill and education needed to work these skilled jobs. New challenges seem to arise when others are met. Power shortages cannot meet the growing demand for electricity and political conflict causes interruption in economic planning and resource allocation. Even with a growing list of challenges, the people of Sub-Saharan Africa are finding ways to meet them.

Critical Thinking Questions

5 Themes Review - The last few pages have discussed challenges in farming in the region. How have sub-saharan Africans adapted to or changed their environment?

The people of Africa face many different challenges. What are some ways people around the world could help the people of Africa? What are ways that you, living in Michigan, could help?

Section 5

The Global Connection

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. How are we, as members of a global society, connected?
2. How does history impact the culture of a region?
3. How do the people of Sub-Saharan Africa

Global Connections- World's growing deserts

Are the deserts of the world growing? The US Department of

Agriculture map on this page shows the different areas of the world that are threatened by desertification. Desertification is a process where land that is relatively dry becomes

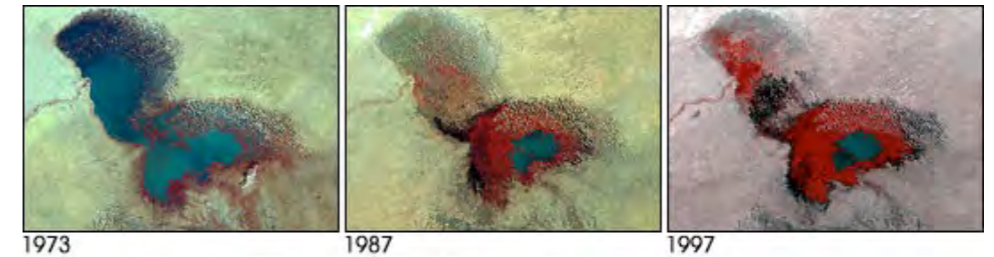


Image source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desertification#/media/File:ShrinkingLakeChad-1973-1997-EO.jpg>

Lake Chad is shrinking. In the photo you can see how Lake Chad has reduced in size over the past 30 years. The blue area in the middle is the water, as desertification has taken place, the water has dried up.)

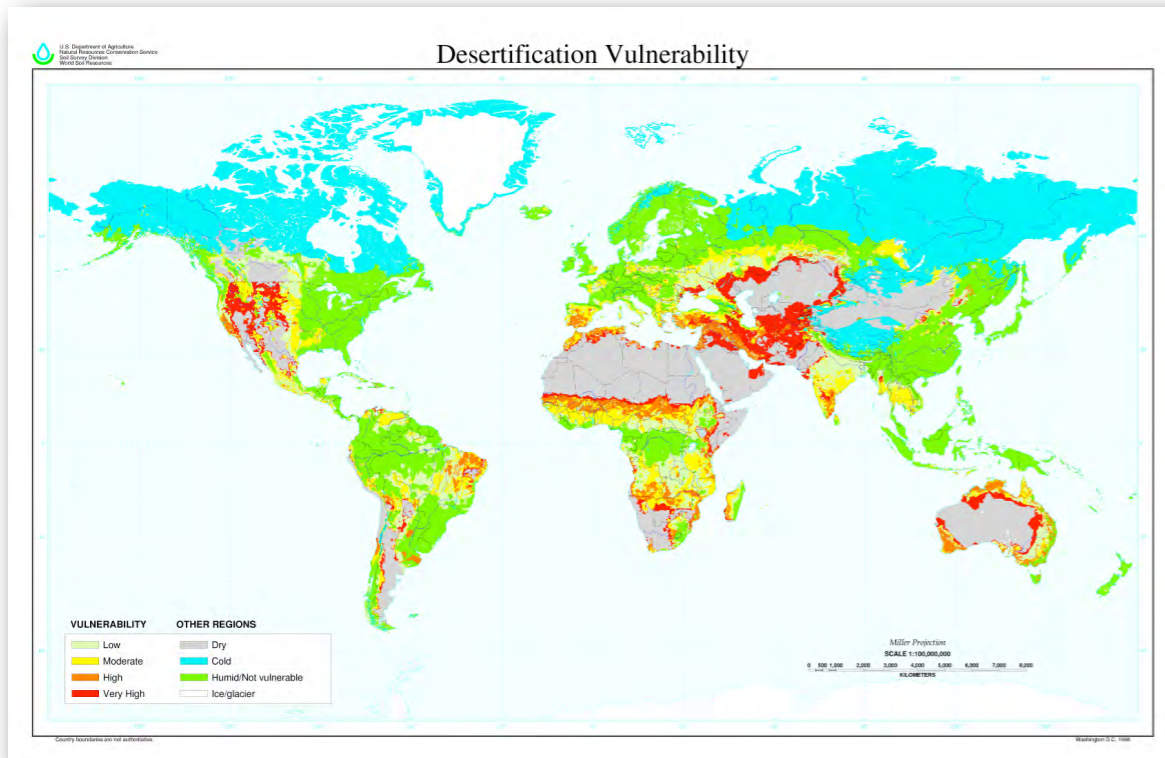


Image source: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/68/Desertification_map.png

more and more arid. Typically these areas begin to lose their bodies of water as well as the vegetation and wildlife that relies on the fresh water and fertile soil.

There are a number of factors that cause desertification, some are created by human activities others are due to larger processes.

Climate change is believed to be one factor in this process. In a number of areas long periods of drought has sped up the process. The other major factor is human activities. The way that people use the lands around the desert, known as marginal land,



Image source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desertification#/media/File:Cabrasnortechico.JPG>

Herd of goats in Chile, overgrazing is one activity that has led to desertification worldwide.

has an impact on the growth of deserts. Poor farming methods, overgrazing, deforestation and nonnative plant life can all leave marginal land open to erosion.

How can people adapt to living in these areas? What can be done to prevent further harm? All over the world people are dealing with the issue of desertification. In areas around China, people are trying multiples farming methods. One example is using crop rotation or a resting season, so that farm land can become fertile again and erosion can be reduced. In other areas, programs to prevent land from drying out as well as programs designed to prevent forest fires have ben created to keep the forests and grasslands from being destroyed. Less developed countries struggle with ways to afford these large scale projects.



Image credit: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desertification#/media/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desertification#/media/File:North_Sahara_Anti_sand_shields.jpg)

File:North Sahara Anti sand shields.jpg

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Interactive 5.10 USGS



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Looking through the Eyes of the World Your interactive journey through geography: Record your thoughts to the essential questions in your journal.

Interactive 5.11 Interactive Journal



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