

CHAPTER - 4

AFRICA

Introduction

Area: 3,03,35,000 sq. km (20.4% of total area Madagascar and other islands of Africa)

Population : 778.5 million

Latitude : 37°31'N to 34°52'S

Longitude : 25°11'W to 51°24'E

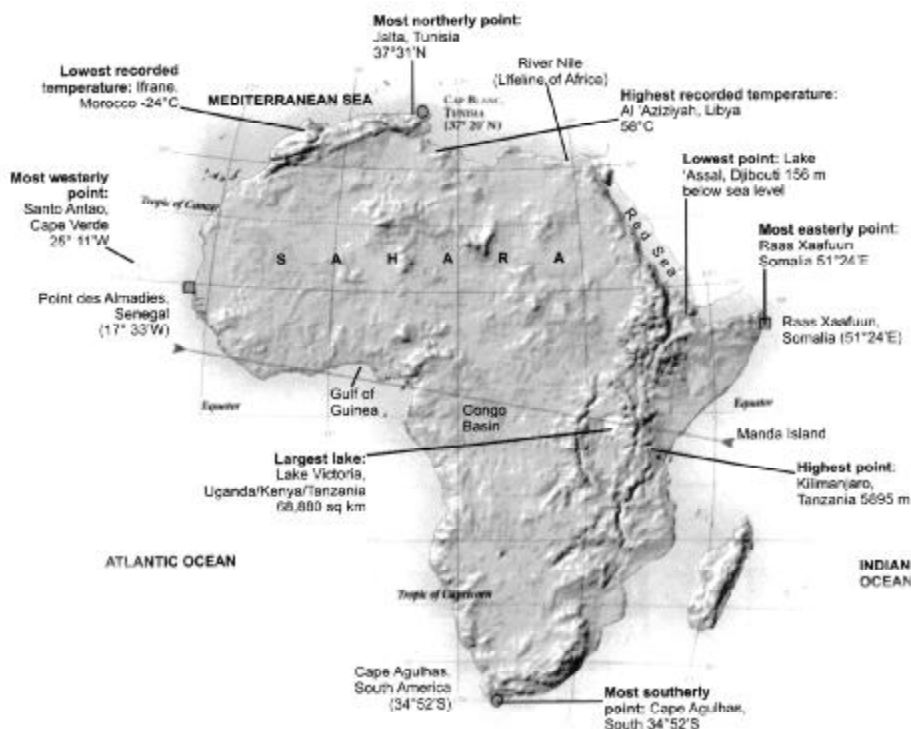
Size : Second largest continent after Asia and nine times the size of India.

Situation : Situated to the south of Europe and south west of Asia. It is bound by the Mediterranean Sea in the north, the Atlantic Ocean in the west and southwest, the Indian Ocean in the east and the Red Sea in the northeast. Africa belongs to all the four hemispheres and bulk of the continent lies in tropics. It is joined to Asia by the narrow isthmus of Suez and separated from Eurasia at three different points (*Strait of Gibraltar, Suez Canal and Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb*). The only continent which is crossed by Tropic of Cancer, Equator and Tropic of Capricorn.

Africa is called as the “*Dark Continent*” because the greater part of its vast interior remained little known to the outside world until the last century.

PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cote D'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Congo, Zambia, Zimbabwe.



- Greatest extent, North-South : 7623 km
- Greatest extent, East-West : 7260 km

Important Seas / Ocean Channels around Africa

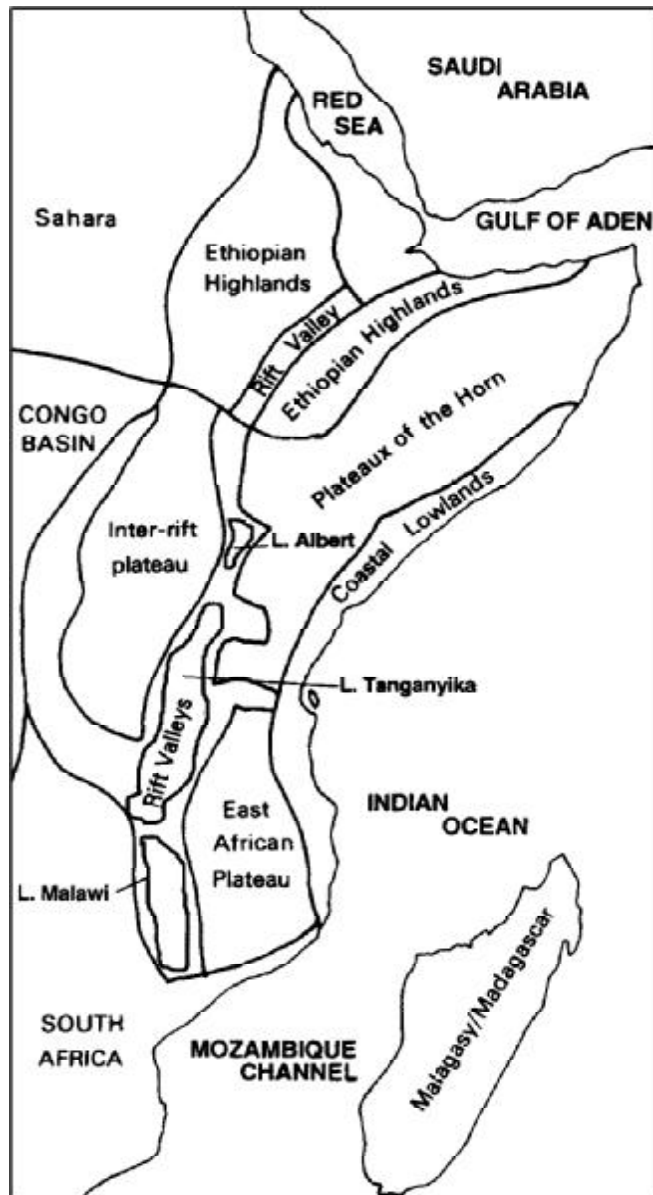
Name	Location	African Countries Along the Sea
Mediterranean Sea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It separates Africa from Europe. Region around are known for its distinct climate. 	North of Africa	Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt.
Red Sea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It separates Africa from Asia. 	North East of Africa	Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea and Djibouti.
Indian Ocean	East of Africa	Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and South Africa
Atlantic ocean	West of Africa	Morocco, Western Sahara, Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Congo, Zaire, Angola, Namibia, South Africa.
Mozambique Channel	East of Mozambique	Mozambique (West) and Madagascar (East).

Important Gulfs and Bays

Name	Location
Gulf of Guinea	South of Ivory coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean.
Walvis Bay	West of Namibia, Atlantic Ocean.
Maputo Bay	South East of Mozambique, Indian Ocean.

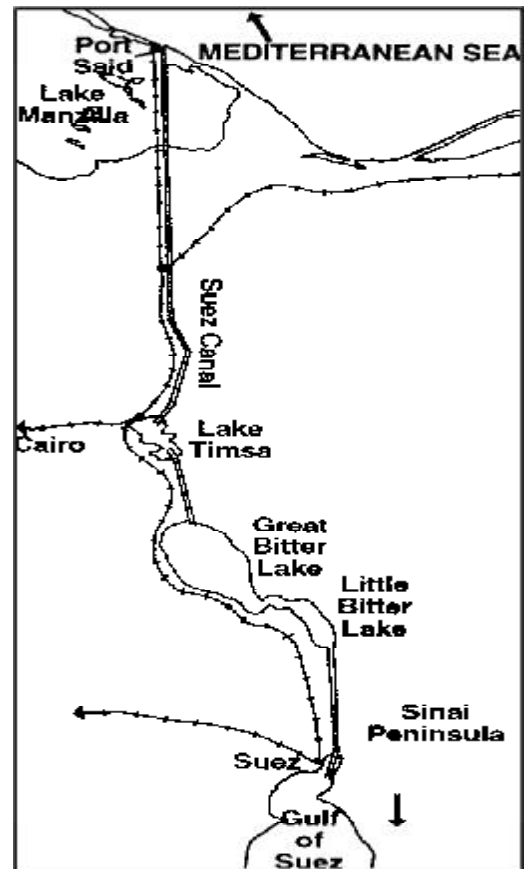
Important Straits

Name	Separates	Connects
Strait of Gibraltar	Europe from Africa	Mediterranean Sea with Atlantic Ocean.
Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb	Djibouti (Africa) from Yemen (Asia)	Red Sea with Gulf of Aden.
Coasts of Africa	Countries	
Grain Coast	Sierra Leone and Liberia	
Ivory Coast	Ivory Coast	
Gold Coast	Ghana	
Slave Coast	Togo, Benin and Nigeria.	



RIFT VALLEY OF AFRICA

- It stretches northwards through Zambia, Malawi (L. Nayasa), Tanzania (L. Tanganyika), Kenya and Ethiopia and extends along the Red sea to Israel and Jordan for about 5,000 km. Most of the lakes fill parts of rift valleys and therefore are long, narrow and deep.



SUEZ CANAL

- Connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Gulf of Suez and Red Sea across the low Isthmus of Suez.
- Total length of canal is 172 Km (107 miles.)
- Sea ports of Port Said on the Mediterranean and Suez on the Gulf of Suez are situated at the opposites ends of the canal.



Important Lakes

Name	Information
Lakes from South to North	
Lake Kariba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southernmost lake which is located on the Zambezi River in Zambia. One of the biggest man-made lake where commercial fishing is done. Largest producer of hydroelectricity in Africa.
Lake Nayasa (Lake Malawi)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rift valley lake, which lies along the Malawi, Mozambique, and Tanzania. Third largest lake in Africa.
Lake Mweru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A small lake which lies along the border of Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire) and Zambia.
Lake Tanganyika	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rift valley lake which lies along the Tanzania, Zaire and Zambia. World's second deepest lake (1435 m) after Ozero, Baikal and also the second largest lake of Africa. It lies 2500 m above sea level.
Lake Edward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located between Uganda and Democratic Republic of Congo.
Lake Victoria Area : 68,880 sq. km. Max. depth : 80 m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Largest lake of Africa which is located between Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. Source of White Nile River. It does not lie in the rift valley. A large lake through which equator pass. World's third largest lake after Caspian Sea and Lake Superior. It contains numerous islands coral reefs.
Lake Turkana (Lak Rudolf)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rift valley lake of Kenya.
Lake Tana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake situated in the Ethiopian highlands. Source of Blue Nile River.
Lake Nasser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake lies on the River Nile. Man-made lake, which is located between Egypt and Sudan.
Lake Chad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Largest lake (shallow fresh water lake) of Sahara in Chad. Actually an example of deflation hollow which is formed due to wind erosion. A lake of inland drainage where the <i>Chari</i> River drains.
Lake Volta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the largest man-made lakes on the <i>River Volta</i> in Ghana.
Lake Assal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located in Djibouti. The lowest point in Africa.

Important Rivers

Nile

Source : Blue Nile : Lake Tana (Ethiopian Highlands)

White Nile : Lake Victoria

Outflow : Arcuate

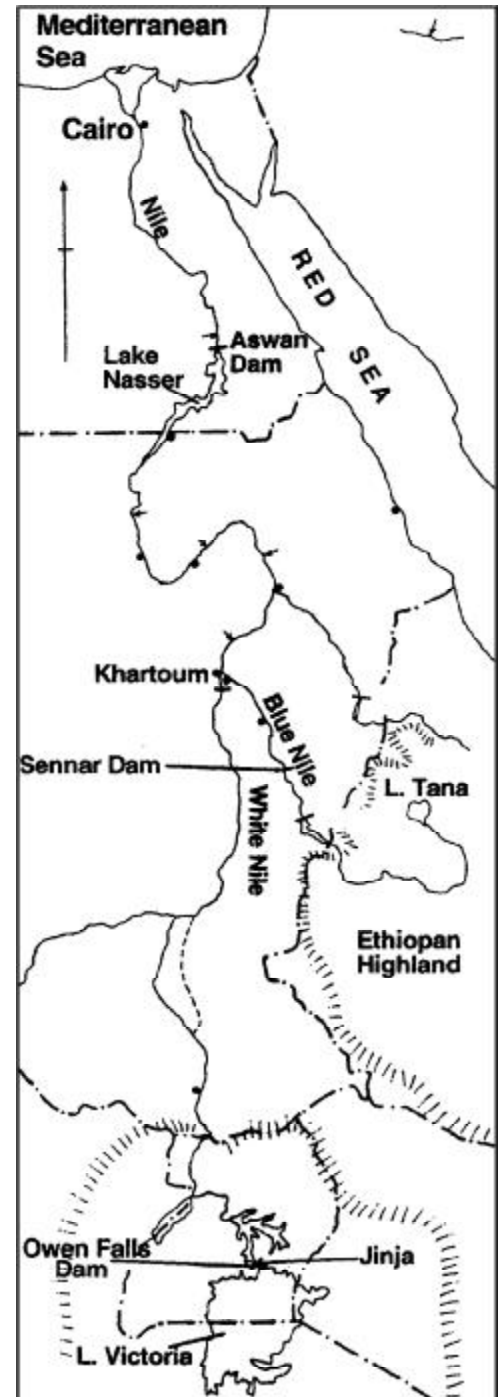
- The White and Blue Nile meet at Khartoum (Sudan) to form the Nile.
- Longest river in the world, life blood of Egypt.

Dams

- (1) *Owen Dam* near the Owen falls, on the White Nile, where it leaves Lake Victoria.
- (2) *Sennar Dam* on the Blue Nile in Sudan.
- (3) *Aswan Dam* on the Nile in Egypt— Controls the flow of the great river.

Zaire Or Congo

- Confluence of Lualaba and Luapula River.
- Joins the Atlantic Ocean near the port of Matadi.
- Carries the largest amount of water among all the rivers of Africa.
- Navigable only in part because it has numerous waterfalls and rapids (small waterfalls).
- It cuts equator twice.
- The Kasai and the Oubangi are the main tributaries of Zaire.
- Half the world's supply of industrial diamonds comes from the alluvial deposits of the Kasai river.
- Stanley Fall and Living Stone Fall are on the Zaire River.
- Inga Dam is located on the Zaire River.
- Cities located : Brazzaville, Kinshasa, Matadi and Boma.
- Country's only outlet to the ocean.



NIGER RIVER

Source : Guinea

Outflow : Gulf of Guinea

- It starts in Sierra Leone flow north-east through guinea and Mali turns south-eastwards, across West Nigeria to Lokoja where it is joined by its main tributary, the Benue.
- The third longest river in Africa.
- Port Harcourt of Nigeria is located on the Niger Delta.

ZAMBEZI RIVER

Source : Katanga Plateau

Outflow : Mozambique Channel (Indian Ocean)

- Its original name in the local language means the smoke that thunders'.
- The Zambezi's course includes the spectacular Victoria falls, one of the largest in the world and Lake Kariba, Kariba Dam is built on it.
- Coborra Bassa Dam in Mozambique is also located on the Zambezi River.
- It is also a natural political boundary between Zambia and Zimbabwe.



ORANGE RIVER

Source : Drakensberg Mts. (Lesotho)

Outflow: Atlantic Ocean.

Tributary : Vaal

- Aughrabies Falls in located on the river.
- It forms a natural boundary between South Africa and Namibia.

LIMPOPO RIVER

Outflow: Indian Ocean.

- The Limpopo river cuts tropic of Capricorn.
- It separates South Africa from Botswana and Zimbabwe.

Important Mountains and Plateaus

Name	Information
<p>Atlas Mountains</p> <p>Divided into five separate running to each other-</p> <p>(i) High (Haut) Atlas Mts. (ii) Anti-Atlas (iii) Middle Atlas (iv) Sahara Atlas (v) Maritime Atlas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest peak- Jbel Toubkal (4165m) located in High Atlas Mountains. • Dominates in the rugged country of Morocco. • These mountains sweep across the centre from north east to south-west and rising 2,750 m in the Middle Atlas to over 4,000 m in the High Atlas and to the south the Anti-Atlas (the uplifted edge of the Saharan platform) reaches 2,000 m. • An example of fold mountain.
<p>Ethiopian Highlands</p> <p>Highest peak : Ras Dashan (4,620 m) is the Africa's third highest peak.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High plateau of volcanic origin. • The high plateau is split by the Great Rift valley along a north east-southwest line. • Source of the Blue Nile River.
Mt. Kenya (5,200 m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa's second highest peak, volcanic in origin.
Mt. Elgon (4,210 m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest peak of Kenya, lies on the Uganda border.
Mt. Kilimanjaro (5,895 m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also known as Mount Kibo. • It stands alone, not apart of mountain range. • Africa's highest peak located in Tanzania. • An example of extinct volcanoes. • Coffee is grown on the slopes of Kilimanjaro. • Just 322 km from the equator, mountain peaks covered with perpetual snow throughout the year.
Drakensberg Scarpland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High escarpment in Southeast Africa caused by lava flow. • An example of continental plateau, formed due to epirogenic (continental building) movement. • From the escarpment rim, the land slopes inwards down to the Kalahari desert in the north.
Mount Rouwenzori (5,109 m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situated near the Lake Mobutu or Lake Albert in Zaire. • Known as the 'The Mountains of the Moon'.
Mount Cameroon (4,070 m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only active volcanic mountain of Africa, dominates the coastline of Cameroon. • Known for iron ore deposits. • Wettest place in Africa along slopes of Mt. Cameroon.
Tibesti Massif (3,400 m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desert Mountains which is situated in the south east of Sahara in Northern Chad.

Name	Information
Ahaggar Massif	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desert mountains of Algeria.
Bomi and Nibas hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main hills of Liberia, known for Iron ore deposits.
Katanga Plateau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the largest copper and diamond producing region of Zaire.
Jos Plateau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The northern half of Nigeria consists of undulating Jos Plateau which rises to over 1,500 m in the centre. Tin is the main mineral of this region.
Mount Sinai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desert mountain of Egypt.
Sahara desert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lies between 15° to 30° N latitudes. The largest stretch of desert, which is 5150 km from east to west and at least 1610 km in area. <i>Erg</i>: Sandy desert of Sahara (9.1 sq. km) is undulating plain of sand, produced by wind deposition. <i>Hamada</i>: Rocky desert of Sahara is bare rock surface formed by deflation. Cities located in the desert fringe are <i>Zinder</i> (Niger), <i>Timbuktu</i> (Mali), <i>Kano</i> (Nigeria), and <i>Kumasi</i> (Ghana).
Libyan desert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vast arid land of north-east of Africa in Libya. <i>Serir</i>: Stony desert of Libya is covered with boulders, angular pebbles and gravels which have been produced by high diurnal temperature range.
Arabian desert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arid region of North-East Egypt.
Nubian desert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an extension of Sahara which occupies a third of the Sudan's territory in the north.
Namib desert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A narrow, dune-covered desert belt, runs 1,600 km along the entire Atlantic Sea board of Namibia.
Kalahari desert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi desert region of Botswana lies to the east of Namib desert. Home of one of the Africa's oldest races, the Kalahari Bushmen.