

GEOGRAPHY

CLASS – VII

AFRICA

D. Answer these questions in 10 – 20 words.

1. What is the latitudinal and longitudinal extent of Africa?

Ans: Latitude: 37°N to 35°S

Longitude: 17°W to 51°E

2. Name the water bodies that surround Africa.

Ans: Africa is surrounded by water bodies on almost all sides, to the north of Africa lies the Mediterranean Sea, to the north–east is the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean is to the east and the Atlantic Ocean is to the west.

3. Africa consists of a number of plateaus of varying heights. Name them.

Ans: The plateaus of Africa are:

- The Ethiopian Highlands
- The South African Plateaus
- The East African Plateaus

4. List the names of three important lowland regions located in Africa.

Ans: Three important lowland regions located in Africa are:

- The Congo or Zaire Basin
- The Chad basin
- The Nile Basin

5. How are rift valleys formed?

Ans: Rift valleys are formed when cracks or faults occur on the earth's crust and the blocks in between two faults subside, resulting in deep valleys with steep sides.

6. Name two large waterfalls of Africa and mention the rivers that form them.

Ans: Two large waterfalls of Africa are:

- The Victoria Falls – River Zambezi
- The Stanley Falls - River Zaire River.

7. Where is Lake Chad located? Why is it an area of inland drainage?

Ans: Lake Chad is situated on the southern fringe of the Sahara.

This is an area of inland drainage because the rivers draining this region enter the Lake Chad, instead of reaching the sea.

E. Answer these questions in 50 – 60 words.

1. Name the important mountains of Africa and mention where they are located.

Ans: The important mountains of Africa are:

- **The Atlas Mountain** lies in the North West region of Africa, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.
- There are a number of volcanic mountains in the eastern part of the continent, of which **Mt Kilimanjaro** and **Mt Kenya** are highest.
- Along the south-eastern coast of the continent, **the Drakensberg Mountains** form the steep edge of the plateau.

2. Describe the Great Rift Valley of Africa.

Ans: The Rift Valleys are the most prominent physical feature of Africa. These are found in the eastern part of the continent and are collectively known as the Great Rift Valley. It is an elongated narrow valley, with steep walls.

The Great Rift Valley of Africa stretches for a distance of about 8000 km from River Zambezi in the south to the Red Sea in the north and then further into Asia, up to the Dead Sea. Lake Victoria, the largest lake in Africa, lies between the two arms of the Great Rift Valley.

3. Where is the Sahara Desert located? Describe its landscape.

Ans: The Sahara Desert is stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea, it covers the entire northern Africa.

Sahara Desert is the largest desert in the world. There are few highlands here, like the Tibesti Range and the Ahaggar Plateau. Sahara is dotted with several oases where water is available. In the southern part of Africa, lies the Namib Desert and the Kalahari Desert.

F. Answer these questions in 75 – 100 words.

1. Explain why Africa remained unexplored for a long time.

Ans: Africa remained unexplored for a long time because of the following reasons:-

- The hot and humid climate and the dense forests and marshes teeming with wild animals and dangerous insects discouraged the explorers from entering the interior of the continent.
- Plateaus rising steeply from the coasts and lack of natural harbours made it difficult for ships to land. Even if explorers managed to land on the continent, they could not travel to the interior as the rivers were not navigable.
- These big, swift rivers dropped down the steep slopes of the plateaus, forming huge waterfalls.
- The vast Sahara Desert in the northern part of the continent was another obstacle.
- Fear of diseases such as malaria and sleeping sickness further kept them away.

2. Give a description of the important rivers of Africa.

Ans: i. **The River Nile** is the most important river in Africa. It is the longest river in the world. It originates from Lake Victoria and flows northward, draining into the Mediterranean Sea.

ii. **The Zaire** is another important river which flows through central Africa and drains into the Atlantic Ocean. It carries the largest volume of water and drains a very large area.

iii. **The Niger, Zambezi, Orange and Limpopo** are the other important rivers of Africa.

G. Why do you think so?

1. The Europeans coined the term ‘Dark Continent’ for Africa.

Ans: Africa was referred to as Dark Continent because very little was known about this continent till the middle of the nineteenth century.

2. The Suez Canal has benefitted international trade.

Ans: The Suez Canal has benefitted international trade because:

- i. It has shortened the route from Europe to India by more than 10,000 km.
- ii. Earlier the sea route from India to Europe was Via Cape Of Good Hope which is the southern tip of Africa. This route was very long.

3. The coastal plains of Africa are very narrow.

Ans: The coastal plains of Africa are very narrow because the plateaus drop to the sea abruptly.

4. Most rivers of Africa are unsuitable for navigation.

Ans: Most rivers of Africa are unsuitable for navigation because:

- i. Rivers of Africa drop down from the steep edges of the plateaus forming waterfalls.
- ii. Rapids are formed in the course of rivers which again hinders navigation.

HOMEWORK

H. Draw a neat and labelled diagram to show the formation of rift valley.
