Africa

A lot of people think that Africa is a country, but it is not. In actual fact, Africa is a continent, which is a group of countries. Altogether, there are 54 countries in Africa. Unbelievably, Africa measures about 5,000 miles from north to south and approximately 4,600 miles from east to west.

Location (where is it?)

Africa is one of seven continents in the world. Spanning the equator, Africa is one of the hottest continents and the second largest continent in the world. It is separated from Europe by the Meditteranean Sea. Can you spot it on this world map?

Climate (What is the weather like?)

Although Africa is the hottest continent, not all countries are as dry as you would think. The far north and south are dominated by desert, but the central regions (near the equator) are humid and sub-tropical, which means they have a rainy season for about six months of the year! Unbelievably, snow even falls in the higher mountain regions.

Famous Landmarks

Although it's not the highest mountain in the world, Africa's tallest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro, stands proudly over the plains of Africa at a whopping 5898 metres above sea level. The largest lake in Africa is Lake Victoria and amazingly, the lake covers five countries in this huge continent! Did you know that Lake Victoria once dried out? This was 17,300 years ago however it refilled again 2000 years later!

Mount Kilimanjaro, at 5898 metres above sea level

Did you know?

There are hundreds of rivers which flow through Africa. The longest of these is the River Nile however this is divided into many smaller rivers.