To learn more about the people and places of Central and East Africa, view *The World and Its People* Chapters 20 and 21 videos.

Chapter Overview  Visit *The World and Its People* Web site at twp.glencoe.com and click on *Chapter 20—Chapter Overviews* to preview information about Central and East Africa.
**Rich in Heritage**

Some of Africa’s most important early civilizations flourished in the location that is now part of Central and East Africa. These societies grew to become large and complex as they developed the skills to master the region’s difficult environment. They were successful farmers, herders, metalworkers, artisans, and merchants. Today the people of this region are facing difficult challenges just to survive.
Central Africa includes seven countries. They are the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, and São Tomé and Príncipe. Africa’s second-longest river—the Congo River—flows through the center of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the very heart of Africa.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

One-fourth the size of the United States, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has only about 23 miles (37 km) of coastline. Most of its land borders other African countries—nine in all.

High, rugged mountains rise in the eastern part of the country. Here you will find four large lakes—Lake Albert, Lake Edward, Lake Kivu, and Lake Tanganyika. Lake Tanganyika is the longest freshwater lake in the world. It is also the second deepest, after Russia’s Lake Baikal. Savannas, or tropical grasslands with few trees, cover the highlands in the far north and south of the country. In these areas, lions and leopards stalk antelopes and zebras for food.
One of the world’s largest rain forests covers the center of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The treetops form a canopy, or an umbrella-like forest covering. The canopy is so thick that sunlight rarely reaches the forest floor. More than 750 different kinds of trees grow here. The rain forests are being destroyed at a rapid rate, however, as they are cleared for timber and farmland.

The mighty Congo River—about 2,800 miles (4,506 km) long—weaves its way through the country on its journey to the Atlantic Ocean. The river current is so strong that it carries freshwater about 100 miles (161 km) into the ocean. The Congo River and its tributaries, such as the Kasai River, provide hydroelectric power, or electricity generated by flowing water. In fact, these rivers produce more than 10 percent of all the world’s hydroelectric power. The Congo River is also the country’s highway for trade and travel.

Resources and Industry  The Democratic Republic of the Congo has the opportunity to be a wealthy nation. The country exports gold, petroleum, diamonds, and copper. It is a main source of diamonds, as shown on the graph below. Most of these diamonds are used in strong industrial tools that cut metal. The country’s factories make steel, cement, tires, shoes, textiles, processed foods, and beverages.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has not been able to take full advantage of its rich resources, however. Why? One reason is the difficulty of transportation. Many of the minerals are found deep in the country’s interior. Lack of roads and the thick rain forests make it hard to reach these areas. Another reason is political unrest. For many years, power-hungry leaders kept the nation’s wealth for themselves. Then a
civil war broke out in the late 1990s. This war hurt efforts to develop the country’s economy. In 2002 an agreement was signed by all remaining warring parties to end the fighting.

**The Congolese People**  The Democratic Republic of the Congo’s 56.6 million people consist of more than 200 different ethnic groups. One of these groups is the Kongo people, after whom the country is named. The country’s official language is French, but many people speak local languages, such as Lingala or Kingwana. More than 75 percent of Congolese are Christians, mostly Roman Catholic.

Most Congolese people live in rural, or country, areas. Less than one-third are city dwellers. Still, Kinshasa, the capital, has about 6 million people. Because of civil war, life in this country is unsettled. Many people in the cities are without work.

In rural areas, people follow traditional ways of life. They plant seeds, tend fields, and harvest crops. Most of the harvest goes to feeding the

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**Applying Map Skills**

1. Which three countries share Lake Victoria?
2. Which country is cut off from the sea by Eritrea, Djibouti, and Somalia?

Find NGS online map resources @ www.nationalgeographic.com/maps
family. Any extra goes to the local market—or to the boats moving along the rivers—to sell or trade for goods the people need.

**History and Government** The Congo region was first settled about 10,000 years ago. The Bantu people—ancestors of most of the Congolese people today—moved here from Nigeria around the A.D. 600s and 700s. Several powerful kingdoms arose in the savannas south of the rain forests. The largest of these was the Kongo.

In the late 1400s, European traders arrived in Central Africa. During the next 300 years, European and African agents enslaved many people from the Congo region. Most of these Africans were transported to the Americas.

The current Democratic Republic of the Congo was once a European colony. It became independent in 1960 and was named Zaire. A harsh dictator named Mobutu Sese Seko ruled Zaire until civil wars in neighboring Rwanda and Burundi sparked a civil war in Zaire. In 1997 Mobutu’s government was finally overthrown, and again the country was given a new name. Zaire became the Democratic Republic of the Congo and another dictator took power. In 2002 the country began to set up a representative government and is still working on the transition.

**Reading Check** What was the Democratic Republic of the Congo formerly called?

**Cameroon and the Central African Republic**

Find Cameroon and the Central African Republic on the map on page 572. These countries lie just north of the Equator. Most people in the Central African Republic and Cameroon farm for a living. A few large plantations raise cacao, cotton, tobacco, and rubber for export. Some people herd livestock in areas that are safe from tsetse flies. A parasite that is often transmitted by the bite of the tsetse (SEET•see) fly causes a deadly disease called sleeping sickness. Turn to page 576 to find out more about sleeping sickness.

These two countries are only beginning to industrialize, or base their economies more on manufacturing and less on farming. Cameroon has had greater success in this effort. It has coastal ports and forest products, petroleum, and bauxite. The Central African Republic can claim only diamond mining as an important industry.
A colony of France from 1910 until 1960, the Central African Republic recognizes French as its official language. Yet most of its people speak Sango, the national language of the Central African Republic. This helps ease communication among the many ethnic groups. Cameroon was divided between the British and the French until 1960. As a result, it uses both English and French as its official languages.

Why has Cameroon had greater success than the Central African Republic in industrializing?

Congo and Gabon

Congo and Gabon both won their independence from France in 1960. A plain stretches along the Atlantic coast of Congo and rises to low mountain ranges and plateaus. Here the Congo River supports most of the country’s farmlands and industries. To the north, a large swampy area along the Ubangi River supports dense vine thickets and tropical trees. Both the Ubangi and Congo Rivers provide Congo with hydroelectric power. They also provide access to the Atlantic Ocean for trade and transport.

More than half of Congo’s and Gabon’s people farm small plots of land. Both countries’ economies rely on exports of lumber. They are beginning to depend more on rich offshore oil fields, however, for their main export. Congo also exports diamonds. Gabon suffers from deforestation, or the widespread cutting of too many trees. Gabon also has valuable deposits of manganese and uranium.

Only about 1.3 million people live in Gabon—mainly along rivers or in the coastal capital, Libreville. Congo’s 3.7 million people generally live along the Atlantic coast or near the capital, Brazzaville.

What two exports are most important to Congo and Gabon?
Island Countries

Once a Spanish colony, Equatorial Guinea won its independence in 1968. Equatorial Guinea includes land on the mainland of Africa and five islands. Today the country is home to about 500,000 people. Most live on the mainland, although the capital and largest city—Malabo (mah•LAH•boh)—is on the country’s largest island.

Farming, fishing, and forestry are the country’s main economic activities. For many years, timber and cacao grown in the islands’ rich volcanic soil were the main exports. Oil was recently discovered and now leads all other exports.

The island country of São Tomé and Príncipe gained its independence from Portugal in 1975. The Portuguese had first settled here about 300 years earlier. At that time, no people lived on the islands. Today about 200,000 people live here, with almost all of them living on the main island of São Tomé.

São Tomé and Príncipe are volcanic islands. As a result, the soil is rich and productive. Farmers on the islands grow various crops, including coconuts and bananas for export. The biggest export crop is cacao, which is used to make cocoa and chocolate.

Which of these island countries is also located on the African mainland?
Battling Sleeping Sickness

Since the 1300s, people in Africa south of the Sahara have battled a disease now commonly called sleeping sickness. Yet it was not until the early 1900s that scientists began to understand the disease and that it was transmitted through the bite of an infected tsetse fly.

The Tsetse Fly

Found only in parts of Africa, the tsetse fly is the common name for any of about 21 species of flies that can transmit sleeping sickness. The flies are larger than the houseflies common to the United States. Tsetse flies thrive in forests and in areas of thick shrubbery and trees near lakes, ponds, and rivers.

Although the bite of a tsetse fly is painful, the bite itself is not necessarily harmful. What gives the tsetse fly its dreadful reputation is the disease-causing parasite it may carry.

Sleeping Sickness

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that more than 60 million people in Africa are at risk of being infected with sleeping sickness. As many as 500,000 people carry the disease. If left untreated, the disease leads to a slow breakdown of bodily functions and, eventually, death. Sleeping sickness is not always fatal. When the disease is treated in its early stages, most people recover. Treatment is expensive, however, and many of those infected lack medical care. Even if they are cured, they may become infected again.

Governments Work Together

Preventing the spread of sleeping sickness requires a united action on the part of the governments of the many African nations affected by the disease. Thirty-seven African countries lie within the African tsetse belt. This belt covers a total of more than 6 million square miles (10 million sq. km) in an area stretching from Senegal to South Africa. African leaders have met in conferences and passed a resolution to get rid of tsetse flies from the continent. Perhaps working together to fight a common enemy will encourage the governments to consult on other regional issues as well.

Making the Connection

1. Where do tsetse flies live?
2. What causes sleeping sickness?
3. Drawing Conclusions Why is treatment of infected humans only part of the solution to eliminating sleeping sickness?

Children in Central Africa have learned to report bites of the tsetse fly.
Guide to Reading

Main Idea
Kenya and Tanzania are countries in East Africa with diverse landscapes and peoples.

Terms to Know
• coral reef
• poaching
• free enterprise system
• cassava
• sisal
• habitat
• ecotourist

Reading Strategy
Create a chart like this one. Then list facts about the land, economy, and people of Kenya and Tanzania.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fact</th>
<th>Kenya</th>
<th>Tanzania</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Both traditional and modern cultures meet in the East African country of Kenya. The Masai follow ways of life similar to their ancestors, whereas city dwellers live in apartments and work in offices.

Kenya

Kenya is about two times the size of Nevada. The country’s Indian Ocean coastline has stretches of white beaches lined with palm trees. Offshore lies a coral reef, a natural formation at or near the water’s surface that is made of the skeletons of small sea animals. In the central part of the country, lions, elephants, rhinoceroses, and other wildlife roam an upland plain. Millions of acres are set aside by the government to protect plants and wildlife. Still, in recent years there has been heavy poaching, or the illegal hunting of protected animals.

In the western part of the country are highlands and the Great Rift Valley. This valley is really a fault—a crack in the earth’s crust.
The Great Rift Valley begins in southeastern Africa and stretches about 3,000 miles (4,825 km) north to the Red Sea. Lakes have formed in many places, and volcanoes also dot the area. One of them—Mt. Kenya—rises 17,058 feet (5,199 m) high. It is in the Great Rift Valley that fossils of early human ancestors have been found. These fossils date back about 4 million years.

Kenya’s Economy  
Kenya has a developing economy based on a free enterprise system. This means that people can start and run businesses with limited government involvement. Kenya’s capital, Nairobi (ny•ROH•bee), has become a center of business for all of East Africa. The city’s good transportation and communications systems have encouraged foreign companies to set up regional headquarters here.

Many Kenyans remain poor, however. Farmers raise corn, bananas, cassava, and sweet potatoes. Cassava is a plant whose roots are ground to make porridge. Some larger farms raise coffee and tea for export. In recent years, corrupt practices of government officials have hurt the economy.

One of the fastest-growing industries in Kenya is tourism. Thousands of tourists visit each year. Visitors often take tours called safaris in

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Literature

A CHANGING KENYA

As developing countries modernize, traditional ways of life often change. In the following poem, Kenyan poet and playwright Micere Githae Mugo expresses the challenge of living in a changing world.

WHERE ARE THOSE SONGS?

by Micere Githae Mugo

Where are those songs  
my mother and yours  
always sang  
fitting rhythms  
to the whole  
vast span of life?

. . . . . . . .

I have forgotten  
my mother’s song  
my children  
will never know.

This I remember:  
Mother always said  
sing child sing  
make a song  
and sing  
beat out your own rhythms  
the rhythms of your life  
but make the song soulful  
and make life  
sing

. . . . . . . .

From “Where are those Songs” by Micere G. Mugo. Reprinted by permission of the author.

Analyzing Literature

What do you think the poet’s mother meant when she said to “beat out your own rhythms”? 

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(See the photo on page 40.)
jeeps and buses to see the country’s wildlife in its natural surroundings.

**History and Government** In the A.D. 700s, Arab traders from Southwest Asia settled along the East African coast. As Arab culture blended with African, the Swahili language eventually emerged. The name *Swahili* comes from an Arabic word meaning “of the coast.” The language has features of several African languages, as well as Arabic. Today Kenya’s two official languages are Swahili and English.

The British made Kenya a colony in 1920 after World War I. They took land from the Africans and set up farms to grow coffee and tea for export. By the 1940s, Kenya’s African groups, such as the Mau Mau, fought in violent civil wars to end British rule. Kenya finally won its independence in 1963 and became a republic. The country’s first president, Jomo Kenyatta (JOH•moh kehn•YAHT•uh), won respect as an early leader in Africa’s movement for freedom. Under Kenyatta, Kenya enjoyed economic prosperity and had a stable government. In recent years, the economy has weakened. In response, many Kenyans have demanded democratic changes.

**Kenya Today** Kenya’s roughly 31 million people are divided among 40 different ethnic groups. The Kikuyu (kee•KOO•yoo) people are Kenya’s main group, making up almost one-fourth of the population. Most Kenyans live in rural areas where they struggle to grow crops. Many people have moved to cities in search of a better life.

The people of Kenya believe in *harambee*, which means “pulling together.” The spirit of *harambee* has led the different ethnic groups to build schools and clinics in their communities. They have raised money to send good students to universities.

About one-third of Kenya’s people live in cities. Nairobi is the largest city, with about 2.3 million people. Mombasa (mohm•BAH•sah) is Kenya’s chief port on the Indian Ocean. This city has the best harbor in East Africa, making it an ideal site for ongoing trade.

**Tanzania**

Tourists flock to Tanzania’s *Serengeti* (SEHR•uhn•GEH•tee) Plain. It is famous for its wildlife preserve, huge grasslands, and patches of trees and shrubs. To the north, near the Kenyan border, a snowcapped
A mountain called Kilimanjaro towers over this region. It is the highest point in Africa. The Great Rift Valley cuts two gashes through Tanzania, one in the center of the country and the other along the western border. Unusual fish swim in the deep, dark waters of Lake Tanganyika (TAN•guhn•YEE•kuh). Lake Victoria, also in Tanzania, is Africa’s largest lake and one of the sources of the Nile River.

Tanzania’s Economy  More than 80 percent of all Tanzanians work in farming or herding. Important export crops are coffee and sisal, a plant fiber used to make rope and twine. Do you enjoy eating baked ham? If so, you might have tasted the spice called cloves, often used to flavor ham. The islands of Zanzibar and Pemba, off the coast of Tanzania, produce more cloves than any other place in the world.

Tourism is a fast-growing industry in Tanzania. The government has set aside several national parks to protect the habitats of the country’s wildlife. A habitat is the type of environment in which a particular animal species lives. Serengeti National Park covers about 5,600 square miles (14,504 sq. km). Lions and wild dogs hunt among thousands of...
zebras, wildebeests, and antelopes. The park attracts many ecotourists, or people who travel to another country to view its natural wonders. Tanzania’s leaders are also taking steps to preserve farmland. In recent years, many trees have been cut down. Without trees, the land cannot hold soil or rainwater in place. As a result, the land dries out, and soil blows away. To prevent the land from becoming desert, the government of Tanzania has announced a new policy. For every tree that is cut down, five new trees should be planted.

**History and Government**  In 1964 the island country of Zanzibar united with the former German colony of Tanganyika to form Tanzania. Since then, Tanzania has been one of Africa’s more politically stable republics. During the 1960s, Tanzania’s socialist government controlled the economy. By the 1990s, however, it had moved toward a free enterprise system. In taking this step, Tanzania’s leaders hoped to improve the economy and reduce poverty. Meanwhile, the government also moved toward more democratic elections with more than one political party.

**Culture**  Tanzania’s 35.4 million people include more than 120 different ethnic groups. Each group has its own language, but most people also speak Swahili. The two main religions are Christianity and Islam. Tanzanian music and dance dominate much of East Africa’s culture. In **Dar es Salaam**, Tanzania’s capital, you can hear strong rhythms and Swahili lyrics performed by local dance bands.

**Assessment**

1. **Defining Terms**  Define coral reef, poaching, free enterprise system, cassava, sisal, habitat, ecotourist.

2. **Recalling Facts**  Describe the Great Rift Valley.

3. **Culture**  What are Kenya’s official languages?

4. **Culture**  What are the two major religions of Tanzania?

5. **Critical Thinking**  Why might two countries such as Tanganyika and Zanzibar unite?

6. **Drawing Conclusions**  Why would the government of Tanzania put so much effort into preserving its national parks?

7. **Organizing Information**  Review the information about the history and government of Kenya. Then, on a time line like the one below, label four important events and their dates in Kenya’s history.

8. **Analyzing Maps**  Study the political map on page 580. Name the four bodies of water that border Tanzania. On which body of water is Dar es Salaam located?

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**I Am a Samburu**

Nimfa Lekuuk is a member of the Samburu of northern Kenya. The word **Samburu** means “the people with the white goats.” Nimfa wears the traditional clothes of Samburu women. She is in standard 7 now. “Standard” is the Kenyans’ term for grade. She studies language, math, history, geography, science, arts and crafts, and religions.
Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi have suffered much conflict in recent years.

Terms to Know
- plantains
- autonomy
- watershed
- endangered species
- genocide
- refugee

Reading Strategy
Make a chart like this one. On the left, write the cause of conflict in each country under that country’s name. Then write the effects of that conflict.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause of conflict in:</th>
<th>Effects of conflict</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you walk through the mountain rain forests of Rwanda, you might feel you are being watched. Who’s watching you? It could be one of the world’s 600 remaining gorillas—the rarest and largest of the great apes. Every day these gorillas face the threat of death from poachers, loss of their habitat, disease, and civil war.

West of Kenya and Tanzania lie Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. All three are landlocked—they have no land touching a sea or an ocean. Instead, they use three large lakes for transportation and trade.

Uganda

Once called “the pearl of Africa,” Uganda is a fertile, green land of mountains, lakes, and wild animals. About the size of Oregon, the country consists mainly of a central plateau. South of the plateau is Lake Victoria. Although Uganda lies on the Equator, temperatures are mild because of the country’s high elevation.

Uganda’s rich soil and plentiful rain make the land good for farming. About 80 percent of Uganda’s workers are employed in agriculture. The map on page 583 shows that most farmers work on subsistence farms. They grow plantains—a kind of banana—cassava, potatoes, corn, and grains. Some plantations grow coffee, cotton, and tea for
export. Coffee makes up nearly three-fourths of Uganda’s exports. Uganda’s few factories make cement, soap, sugar, metal, and shoes.

The Ugandans    Uganda’s 25.3 million people live mainly in rural villages in the southern part of the country. Kampala, the capital, lies on the shores of Lake Victoria, making it a port city for local trade.

About two-thirds of Ugandans are Christians. The remaining one-third practice Islam or traditional African religions. At one time there were large numbers of Hindus and Sikhs from South Asia living in the country. A dictator, Idi Amin, drove them out in 1972. Recently, the Ugandan government has invited them back, and many have returned.

Ugandans belong to more than 40 different ethnic groups. They have a rich cultural heritage of songs, folktales, and poems. In the past, these were passed only by word of mouth from one generation to the next. Today this heritage is also preserved in books. Traditions are also reflected in the Ugandans’ diet. Meals often include beans, beef, goat, mutton, cornmeal, and a variety of tropical fruits.

History and Government    For much of the 1900s, the British ruled Uganda. After Uganda won its freedom in 1962, fighting broke out among ethnic groups. Under their kings, these ethnic groups had enjoyed autonomy, or self-government, in their local territories. These kings lost power in 1967, and the ethnic regions were tightly bound to the central government. The dictator Idi Amin’s cruel rule...
hurt Uganda throughout much of the 1970s. Since the mid-1990s, the national government has allowed ethnic groups to once again have kings, but only as local ceremonial leaders.

Uganda’s economy has recently seen solid growth. Uganda also has a stable government. It is a republic with an elected president and legislature. Still, the future is clouded. Uganda, along with other African countries, faces the threat of the disease called AIDS. Hundreds of thousands of Ugandans have died from it, and many more are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

What kind of government does Uganda have today?

Rwanda and Burundi

Rwanda and Burundi are located deep in inland East Africa. Each of the two countries is about the same size as Maryland. They both have mountains, hills, and high plateaus. They sit on the ridge that separates the Nile and Congo watersheds. A watershed is a region that is drained by a river. To the west of the ridge, water runs into the Congo River and flows to the Atlantic Ocean. To the east, water eventually becomes part of the Nile River and flows north to the Mediterranean Sea.

As in Uganda, high elevation gives Rwanda and Burundi a moderate climate even though they lie near the Equator. Heavy rains allow dense forests to grow. Within these forests live gorillas. Scientists have classified gorillas as an endangered species—a plant or an animal threatened with extinction. Learn more about protecting gorillas on page 76.

Farmers in Burundi and Rwanda work small plots that dot the hillsides. Coffee is the main export crop. The people who live along Lake Kivu and Lake Tanganyika also fish. Because Burundi and Rwanda are
landlocked, they have trouble getting their goods to foreign buyers. Few paved roads and no railroads exist. Most goods must be transported by road to Lake Tanganyika, where boats take them to Tanzania or the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Another route is by dirt road to Tanzania and then by rail to Dar es Salaam.

Ethnic Conflict  Rwanda and Burundi have large populations and small areas. As a result, they are among the most densely populated countries in Africa. Rwanda, for example, has an average of 817 people per square mile (315 per sq. km). Yet only 5 percent of the people live in cities.

Two ethnic groups—the Hutu and the Tutsi—form most of the population of Rwanda and Burundi. The Hutu make up 80 percent or more of the population in both countries, but the Tutsi traditionally controlled the governments and economies. A constant power struggle between these two groups erupted into a full-scale civil war and genocide in the 1990s. Genocide is the deliberate murder of a group of people because of their race or culture. A Hutu-led government in Rwanda killed hundreds of thousands of Tutsi people. Two million more became refugees, or people who flee to another country to escape persecution or disaster. The fighting between the Hutu and Tutsi has lessened, but both countries face many challenges as they try to rebuild with the help and cooperation of the international community.

Reading Check  Which ethnic group makes up the majority of the population in Rwanda and Burundi?

Assessment  

Defining Terms  
1. Define plantains, autonomy, watershed, endangered species, genocide, refugee.

Recalling Facts  
2. Location  Explain the factors that affect Uganda’s climate.
3. Place  What is the capital of Uganda?
4. Region  What endangered species lives in the forests of Rwanda and Burundi?

Critical Thinking  
5. Understanding Cause and Effect  How could a deadly epidemic, such as AIDS, affect a country’s economy?
6. Analyzing Information  How have ethnic differences created problems for Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi?

Graphic Organizer  
7. Organizing Information  Draw a diagram like the one below. Then write two facts about Uganda under each of the category headings in the outer ovals.

Applying Social Studies Skills  
8. Analyzing Maps  Study the economic activity map on page 583. Which countries in East Africa have gold resources?
The northern part of East Africa is a region called the Horn of Africa. This region got its name because it is shaped like a horn that juts out into the Indian Ocean. The countries here are Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, and Somalia.

**Sudan**

Sudan is the largest country in Africa—about one-third the size of the continental United States. The northern part is covered by the sand dunes of the Sahara and Nubian Desert. Nomads raise camels and goats here. The most fertile part of the country is the central region. In this area of grassy plains, the two main tributaries of the Nile River—the Blue Nile River and the White Nile River—join together at Khartoum, Sudan's capital. The southern part of Sudan receives plenty of rain and has some fertile soil. It also holds one of the world's largest swamps, which drains into the White Nile.

Most of Sudan's people live along the Nile River or one of its tributaries. They use water from the Nile to irrigate their fields. Farmers grow sugarcane, grains, nuts, dates, and cotton—the country’s leading...
export. Sheep and gold are other important exports. Recently discovered oil fields in the south offer another possibility of income.

**Sudan's Past and Present** In ancient times, Sudan was the center of a powerful civilization called Kush. The people of Kush had close cultural and trade ties with the Egyptians to the north. Kushites traded metal tools for cotton and other goods from India, Arabia, and China. They built a great capital at Meroë (MAR•oh•EE). It had huge temples, stone palaces, and small pyramids. Kush began to lose power around A.D. 350.

During the A.D. 500s, missionaries from Egypt brought Christianity to the region. About 900 years later, Muslim Arabs entered northern Sudan and converted its people to Islam. From the late 1800s to the 1950s, the British and the Egyptians together ruled the country. Sudan became an independent nation in 1956. Since then, military leaders have generally taken over.

In the 1980s, the government began a “reign of terror” against the southern Christian peoples. The fighting has disrupted the economy and caused widespread hunger, especially in the south. A recent drought—a long period of extreme dryness and water shortages—made the situation...
worse. Millions have starved to death, and major outbreaks of diseases have swept through the country. The war continues despite occasional peace talks aimed at granting the south greater independence. The TIME Perspectives feature on pages 591–597 looks at Sudanese refugees.

**Reading Check** What is the main export of Sudan?

### Ethiopia

Landlocked Ethiopia is almost twice the size of Texas. Ethiopia’s landscape varies from hot lowlands to rugged mountains. The central part of Ethiopia is a highland plateau sliced through by the Great Rift Valley. The valley forms deep river gorges and sparkling waterfalls. Mild temperatures and good soil make the highlands Ethiopia’s best farming region. Farmers raise grains, sugarcane, potatoes, and coffee. Coffee is a major export crop. The southern highlands are believed to be the world’s original home of coffee.

Rain is not consistent in many parts of Ethiopia. Low rainfall can lead to drought, and then Ethiopia’s people suffer. In the 1980s, a drought caused famine, which attracted the world’s attention. At that time, a drought turned fields once rich in crops into seas of dust. Despite food aid, more than 1 million Ethiopians died from starvation and disease.

**Ethiopia’s History and People** Scientists have found what they believe to be the remains of the oldest known human ancestors in Ethiopia. Recorded history reveals that, thousands of years ago, Ethiopian officials traveled to Egypt to meet with the pharaohs of that land. Later, Ethiopia developed important trade links to the Roman Empire. In the A.D. 300s, many Ethiopians accepted Christianity.

For centuries, kings and emperors ruled Ethiopia. During the late 1800s, Ethiopia successfully withstood European attempts to control it. The last emperor was overthrown in 1974, and the country suffered under a military dictator. Now it is trying to build a democratic government. This goal was hindered by warfare with neighboring Eritrea, a small country that broke away from Ethiopia in 1993.

With 70.7 million people, Ethiopia has more people than any other country in East Africa. The capital, Addis Ababa (AH•dihs AH•bah•BAH), is the largest city in the region. About 85 percent of Ethiopians live in rural areas.

Muslims form about 45 percent of Ethiopia’s population. About 40 percent are Ethiopian Orthodox. Others practice traditional African religions. Almost 80 languages are spoken in Ethiopia. Amharic, similar to Hebrew and Arabic, is Ethiopia’s official language.

**Reading Check** What crisis brought Ethiopia to the world’s attention?

### Eritrea

Ethiopia may be one of Africa’s oldest countries, but Eritrea is certainly the newest. In 1993, after 30 years of war, Eritrea won its independence from Ethiopia. Eritrea sits on the shores of the Red Sea. It has
a narrow plain that stretches about 600 miles (966 km) along the coast. When Eritrea became a country, Ethiopia became landlocked. Most of Eritrea’s 4.4 million people farm. Farming here is uncertain work because the climate is dry. The long war with Ethiopia also hurt farming. The war did have a positive effect on some of Eritrea’s people, however. Women formed about one-third of the army that won the war. After the war ended, the new government passed laws that gave women more rights than they ever had before.

**Djibouti**

Evidence that the earth is undergoing change can be seen in Djibouti. This country lies at the northern tip of the Great Rift Valley, where three of the earth’s plates join. Plates are huge slabs of rock that make up the earth’s crust. In Djibouti, two of these plates are pulling away from each other. As they separate, fiery hot rock rises to the earth’s surface, causing volcanic activity.

Djibouti wraps around a natural harbor at the point where the Red Sea meets the Gulf of Aden. This tiny country is one of the hottest, driest places on the earth. Its landscape is covered by rocky desert. Here and there, you will find the desert interrupted by salt lakes and rare patches of grassland.
Djibouti’s 700,000 people are mostly Muslims. In the past, they lived a nomadic life of herding. Because of Djibouti’s dry climate, farming and herding are difficult. In recent years, many people have moved to the capital city, also called Djibouti. Here they have found jobs in the city’s docks, because the city is a busy international seaport.

Why does Djibouti experience volcanic activity?

Somalia

Somalia borders the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean. Shaped like the number seven, the country is almost as large as Texas. Like Eritrea and Djibouti, much of Somalia is hot and dry, which makes farming difficult. Most of Somalia’s people are nomadic herders on the country’s plateaus. In the south, rivers provide water for irrigation. Farmers here grow fruits, sugarcane, and bananas.

Nearly all the people of Somalia are Muslims, but they are deeply divided. They belong to different clans, or groups of people who are related to one another. In the late 1980s, disputes between these clans led to civil war. When a drought struck a few years later, hundreds of thousands of people starved to death. The United States and other countries tried to restore some order and distribute food. The fighting continued, however, and often kept the aid from reaching the people who needed it. Even today, armed groups control various parts of Somalia. There is no real government that is in charge.

What kind of conflict led to civil war in Somalia?

Defining Terms
1. Define plate, clan.

Recalling Facts
2. Place What is the capital of Ethiopia?
3. History What is the only country of East Africa that was never colonized by Europeans?

Critical Thinking
5. Making Inferences What factors do you think might have led to the settlement of Khartoum, Sudan’s capital?
6. Understanding Cause and Effect How did a war bring increased rights to women in Eritrea?

Graphic Organizer
7. Organizing Information On a diagram like the one below, list the major religions practiced in countries of the Horn of Africa. Write the religions under each country’s name.

Applying Social Studies Skills
8. Analyzing Maps Study the ethnic groups map on page 589. What major ethnic groups are found in the Horn of Africa?
Refugees On the Move

The Lost Boys of Sudan

Compiled and adapted from TIME.
In November 1987, William Deng was tending cattle several miles from his village in southern Sudan. Two brothers and some cousins were with him. One afternoon they heard distant gunfire but ignored it. “The next morning,” William said, “we saw the smoke. I climbed a tree and saw that my whole village was burned.”

They raced to the village. There they learned that government troops had swept through. “Nobody was left standing,” William said. “Some were wounded; some were killed. My father was dead. So we just ran away. I was 5.”

The boys headed toward Ethiopia. Crossing marshlands and desert, they joined thousands of other Sudanese, mostly boys. They walked for two months. They ate berries, dried leaves, birds, and mice—anything they could find. Thousands died. “You think that maybe later that will be you,” said one boy.

Into Ethiopia

The survivors finally reached a refugee camp in Ethiopia. Refugees are people forced by fear to find refuge, or shelter, outside their countries.

In 1991 Ethiopia closed its camps. Soldiers forced all of the “Lost Boys of Sudan,” as they came to be called, back to their homeland.

After a year in Sudan, 10,000 of the boys fled to a refugee camp in Kenya. And there they stayed—some for as long as 10 years.

All Too Common

Sadly, William’s experience is not unique. Throughout Africa south of the Sahara, millions of people have had to flee their homes. Most live in crowded camps set up by groups such as the United Nations. There they wait—until it is safe to go home, or until another country lets them stay.
The Lost Boys are victims of a Sudanese civil war that began in 1983. U.S. president George W. Bush explained in 2001, “Some 2 million Sudanese have lost their lives; 4 million more have lost their homes.” The Sudan, he concluded, is a “disaster area for human rights.”

**Human rights** include the right to safety, to food, and to shelter, among other things. In democracies, they also include the rights of citizens to choose their own leaders and to express opinions that are different from the government’s.

**Defining Refugees’ Rights**

In 1951, members of the United Nations agreed to guarantee basic human rights to refugees. They signed a **convention**, or special document, that gives refugees a unique legal status, or position. That status gives them the right to **asylum**, or safety, in foreign countries. It also gives them the right to be treated like any other foreign resident of their host country.

The convention defines refugees as people who leave their countries to flee **persecution**. Persecution is unfair treatment based on such characteristics as race, religion, or ethnic background. Recently the United Nations expanded this definition. Today people whose governments can’t protect them from the dangers of war are also entitled to refugee status, the UN says.

**Environmental Refugees**

People who flee natural disasters, such as floods and famines, aren’t refugees. They are “displaced persons” or “environmental refugees.” Immigrants aren’t refugees, either. Immigrants may leave their countries to get an education or find a better job. Refugees like the Lost Boys of Sudan have little choice. They flee their countries to find safety.
Refugees have existed in many places, not only countries in Africa. Yet rarely has the flow of refugees been as widespread as it is today. Worldwide, about 35 million people were on the move in 2002. Nearly 22 million of them were internally displaced persons (IDPs)—people who flee to safety inside their own countries. About 13 million more were refugees seeking freedom from war and persecution outside their countries. During 2002, Africa alone held more than 3 million refugees and at least 11 million IDPs.

The Impact of Violence

The presence of these uprooted people is reshaping Africa. Away from their villages, refugees no longer grow crops, worsening food shortages. The crush of refugees drains the resources of the already poor countries that host them. And refugees sometimes spread AIDS, a disease that by 2001 had killed the parents of 12 million African children.

Many experts trace Africa’s refugee problem back to the late 1800s. That’s when European nations began to carve the continent into colonies. Africa’s 2,000 ethnic groups speak around one thousand languages. But European colonizers failed to respect those differences. They set up boundaries that split individual ethnic groups into many pieces. Other borders forced traditional enemies such as Rwanda’s Hutu and Tutsi to share the same space.

How America Is Different

Colonists living in Britain’s 13 colonies didn’t face such problems in 1776. When the U.S. was born, most Americans spoke English and shared similar values. They were ready to rule themselves as a democracy.

Africa’s colonies became independent nearly two centuries later. But they contained groups that had little interest in working together. That made it hard for democracy to take root. In many nations, armed groups muscled their way to power. Such struggles for control turned millions of Africans into refugees.
Struggling to Survive

When refugees enter another country, they may face dangers. In 1997, for example, soldiers rounded up refugees who had lived many years in Tanzania. They forced the refugees into camps. “I never thought the Tanzanian government would do this to us,” said a woman who fled Burundi in 1971. “I am now held in a refugee camp, but my children are still outside. They have no money to come here.”

Even refugees allowed to stay in private homes face risks. “We are frequently arrested by the police,” said an Ethiopian who fled to Kenya. “They require bribes before they will release us.”

Refugee Children

For children, refugee life brings special problems. Those separated from their parents must fend for themselves. Some girls and boys are forced to become soldiers. Others must work for little or no pay. Abby, 14, fled the war in Sierra Leone. Now she lives in a refugee camp in Guinea. “In the morning,” she said, “I fetch water, sweep, and pray. Then I go find a job for the day. I usually pound rice. I get no food, only [a tiny amount of money]. I will be in the sun until evening. I feel pain all over my body. I don’t go to school. I live with my grandmother, and she is very old. I need to take care of her.”

Many of the overcrowded camps are dirty and unhealthy. But until their countries become safe again, the refugees have few choices. Either they stay in the camps, or they return home to the horrors they fled.

exploring the issue

1. Drawing Conclusions What do you think makes many refugee camps so difficult to live in?

2. Problem Solving Gather information from the text to identify problems faced by refugees in camps. Consider changes that might be made to the camps to improve life there.
Helping Refugees: What Can One Person Do?

Countries that offer asylum to refugees are known as host countries. Starting life over in a host country can be hard for refugees and their families. William Deng and Joseph Maker are among more than 3,000 Lost Boys of Sudan who have found refuge in the United States. William lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Joseph lives in Houston, Texas, as do 170 other Lost Boys. In both places, local people taught them how to take buses, shop, and even use faucets and refrigerators. Many of those helpers were volunteers.

Eventually, many refugees who get such help grow to love their adopted country. They come to love it as much as or even more than people born there.

Strangers in a New Land

Joseph Maker and fellow Lost Boys felt they had landed on another planet when they reached Houston, their new home. They had to be taught to use electricity, running water, air conditioners, flush toilets, stoves, and telephones.

Packaged foods baffled them. At the refugee camp in Kenya, they had eaten the same meal—beans and lentils—every day for nine years. In Houston they discovered junk food—and the fear of getting fat.

“I’ve heard in America, people can become big,” said Joseph’s friend James Thon Aleer.

The newcomers also had to learn new ways to act. In Sudan, it’s disrespectful to look into the eyes of the person you’re speaking to. In America, it’s impolite to look away. Joseph and his friends adopted the American way, something they think helped all of them get jobs.

One thing they picked up quickly was American humor. The tag on James Thon Aleer’s key chain says “Don’t Mess with Texas.”

EXPLORING THE ISSUE

1. Categorizing If you were an African refugee in your community, what things might confuse you the most?

2. Problem Solving How might volunteers help refugees adapt to life in your community?
Around the world in 2002, some 13 million people lived as refugees. This table lists the 15 nations that most of them fled. Besides refugees, nearly 22 million others are internally displaced persons (IDPs). IDPs seek safety inside their nations’ borders but far from their homes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Refugees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>3,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestinians</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burma</td>
<td>510,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>475,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>410,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo-Kinshasa</td>
<td>410,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>302,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>294,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>290,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>280,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>251,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>203,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>178,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,803,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Committee for Refugees

Where the World’s Refugees Come From

(Top Sources of Refugees as of January 1, 2003)

Building Skills for Reading Tables

1. **Categorizing** Use your text to categorize the 15 nations listed here under one of five regions: Africa, Central America, Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia, and Southwest Asia.

2. **Analyzing Data** Which of the above regions have the greatest and smallest number of refugees?

3. **Transferring Data** Create a bar graph based on the country data in this table.

For updates on world issues go to www.timeclassroom.com/glencoe
Making Predictions

Predicting consequences is sometimes difficult and risky. The more information you have, however, the more accurate your predictions will be.

Learning the Skill

Follow these steps to learn how to better predict consequences:
• Gather information about the decision or action that you are considering.
• Use your knowledge of history and human behavior to identify what consequences could result.
• Analyze each of the consequences by asking yourself: How likely is it that this will occur?

Practicing the Skill

Study the graph below, and then answer these questions:

1. What is measured on this graph? Over what time period?
2. In what year did the fewest tourists visit Kenya?
3. What trend does the graph show?
4. Do you think that this trend is likely to continue?
5. On what do you base this prediction?
6. List three possible consequences of this trend.

Applying the Skill

Analyze three articles in your local newspaper. Predict three consequences of the actions in each of the articles. On what do you base your predictions?
Section 1

Central Africa

Terms to Know
- canopy
- hydroelectric power
- tsetse fly
- deforestation

Main Idea
Central Africa has rich natural resources that are largely undeveloped because of civil war and poor government decisions.

✓ Movement The Congo River—the second-largest river in Africa—provides transportation and hydroelectric power.

✓ Economics The Democratic Republic of the Congo has many resources but has not been able to take full advantage of them.

✓ Culture Sango is the national language of the Central African Republic. It eases communication among the many ethnic groups.

✓ Economics The economies of Congo and Gabon rely on exports of lumber.

Section 2

People of Kenya and Tanzania

Terms to Know
- coral reef
- poaching
- free enterprise system
- cassava
- sisal
- habitat
- ecotourist

Main Idea
Kenya and Tanzania are countries in East Africa with diverse landscapes and peoples.

✓ Place Western Kenya is marked by highlands and the Great Rift Valley.

✓ Economics Many people in Kenya are farmers. Coffee and tea are grown for export. Tourism is also a major industry in Kenya.

✓ Culture Kenya’s people speak Swahili and English.

✓ Economics Farming and tourism are Tanzania’s main economic activities.

✓ Government Tanzania’s government has been stable and democratic.

Section 3

Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi

Terms to Know
- plantains
- autonomy
- watershed
- endangered species
- genocide
- refugee

Main Idea
Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi have suffered much conflict in recent years.

✓ Place Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi are landlocked countries with high elevation and rainy, moderate climates.

✓ Economics Most people in all three countries practice subsistence farming.

✓ History Rwanda and Burundi suffered a brutal civil war in the 1990s between the Hutu and the Tutsi ethnic groups.

Section 4

The Horn of Africa

Terms to Know
- plate
- clan

Main Idea
The countries of the Horn of Africa have all been scarred by conflict in recent years.

✓ History Sudan has been torn by a civil war between the northern Muslim Arabs and the southern African peoples.

✓ Place Ethiopia has good farmland, but scarce rainfall can cause drought.

✓ Government Eritrea recently won its independence from Ethiopia.

✓ History Civil war and drought have caused suffering in Somalia.
Using Key Terms

Match the terms in Part A with their definitions in Part B.

A.
1. canopy
2. tsetse fly
3. poaching
4. endangered species
5. habitat
6. genocide
7. hydroelectric power
8. clan
9. refugee
10. ecotourist

B.
a. electricity created by flowing water
b. family, or group of related people
c. deliberate murder of a group of people because of race or culture
d. person who flees to another country for safety
e. hunting and killing animals illegally
f. topmost layer of a rain forest
g. person who travels to view natural wonders
h. environment where an animal species lives
i. insect whose bite can cause sleeping sickness
j. plant or animal in danger of dying out

Reviewing the Main Ideas

Section 1 Central Africa
11. **Economy** How has transportation affected the economy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo?
12. **Culture** What is the official language of the Central African Republic? Why?
13. **History** Who originally settled São Tomé and Príncipe?

Section 2 People of Kenya and Tanzania
14. **Culture** What does the term *harambee* mean to Kenyans?
15. **Economics** In which part of Tanzania are cloves produced?
16. **Region** Name some of the animals that live on the Serengeti Plain.

Section 3 Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi
17. **Economics** What is Uganda’s main export?
18. **Movement** How do Burundi and Rwanda get their goods to foreign buyers?
19. **Culture** What two ethnic groups fought in Rwanda and Burundi?

Section 4 The Horn of Africa
20. **Place** What is the largest country in Africa?
21. **Place** What is Africa’s newest country?

Central and East Africa

Place Location Activity

On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with the numbered places listed below.

1. Congo River
2. Cameroon
3. Kenya
4. Central African Republic
5. Sudan
6. Tanzania
7. Democratic Republic of the Congo
8. Somalia
9. Rwanda
10. Gabon
Critical Thinking

22. **Drawing Conclusions** Central and East Africa depend on agriculture as a main economic activity. Why is a good transportation system important to an agricultural society?

23. **Sequencing Information** In a diagram like the one below, describe and put in order the steps that can lead to the creation of a desert.

![Diagram of desert formation](trees-cut-lead-to-desert)

Comparing Regions Activity

24. **Geography** Did you know that a plant originally from the plateaus of central Ethiopia is used to make one of the most sought after products in the world? Your teachers or other adults may drink this product every day. It is coffee! Ethiopia is the country that produces the most coffee in Africa. What other countries in the world produce coffee? List ten coffee-producing countries. Compare the countries’ geographies to the geography of central and east Africa. How are they similar and different?

Mental Mapping Activity

25. **Focusing on the Region** Create a simple outline map of Africa, and then label the following:

- Sudan
- Cameroon
- Kenya
- Tanzania
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Lake Victoria
- Uganda
- Congo River
- Nile River

Technology Skills Activity

26. **Developing a Multimedia Presentation** Choose one of Africa’s endangered animals and create a multimedia presentation about it. Include pictures or video clips of the animal, maps of its habitat area, and the steps being taken to protect this animal.

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Standardized Test Practice

Directions: Study the map below, and then answer the question that follows.

![Map of Kenya](Kenya_map)

1. About how many miles is it from Nairobi to Mombasa?
   - F 100 miles
   - G 200 miles
   - H 300 miles
   - J 400 miles

Test-Taking Tip: Look carefully at the map key to understand its scale, or distance from one point to another. If you find it difficult to judge distances visually, use a small piece of scrap paper to measure the units described in the key.