

Regions of Africa Jigsaw

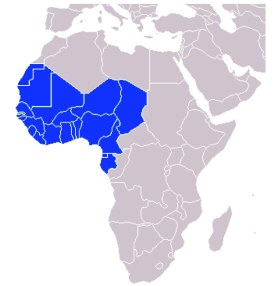
West Africa Fact Sheet

Directions: Study the following information about West Africa. After you have read this individually, you will have the opportunity to work in an expert group to discuss imperialism and the history of Africa. After the discussion, you will be responsible to teach another group about West Africa. Your group will take notes on the Jigsaw Graphic Organizer.

As you study the following, think about this question:

1. In what ways did interaction with Europe eventually lead to imperialism?

West Africa has a long history of contact with Europe. Early West African empires such as Ghana, Mali, and Songhai established Trans-Saharan trade routes that allowed for the trade of gold, ivory, various nuts, and slaves. As a result of trade and interaction with the Islamic world, much of West Africa converted to Islam during the Middle Ages (13th and 14th centuries) because traditional religions still thrived, especially among the rural folks.



During the 15th century, the Portuguese began exploring the coast of Africa. They established trade ports along the western coast of Africa (called the Gold Coast) where they traded with local peoples. By the late 15th century, these port cities were dominated by the slave trade. The Portuguese, Dutch, Spanish, and English all bought slaves from native African slave traders. Guns were used as a means of exchange for slaves. These guns, along with the increased demand for slaves, led to increased internal warfare as Africans sought to capture enemies during the war who could in turn be sold into slavery.

During the 17th century, trade led to rise of the powerful Asante Kingdom. The Asante used their vast wealth from trade as well as their increase in weapons to expand and secure their empire. Until the 18th and 19th centuries, the warfare power of the Europeans and the Africans were relatively equal. This equality in weapons, as well as the fact that many Europeans quickly succumbed to malaria and other African diseases, kept the Europeans from using their militaries to try to seize parts of Africa.

In the early 18th century, the slave trade was primarily abolished in the Western world. This led Europeans to seek other means of wealth from its African trading ports. Europeans were in the midst of the Industrial Revolution and needed both resources for their factories as well as markets for their goods. Europeans traded manufactured goods for West African natural resources such as copper, gold, coal, and aluminum as well as crops such as cotton, cocoa, and coffee. Meanwhile, European weapons became more advanced and European nations, primarily France, began to explore interior regions of West Africa with an army. This laid the foundation for French claims to West Africa at the Berlin Conference in 1884.

As a result of the Berlin Conference, most of West Africa came under the control of France. Great Britain gained control of Nigeria, while Germany gained control over parts of what is now Cameroon. Liberia, originally founded by former slaves from the United States, remained independent. Their independence was a result of the fact that the people of Liberia were primarily Christians and were considered under the protection of the United States.

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Unit 4: Nationalism, Industrialism, and Imperialism
Lesson C: European Division of the African Continent
Student Resource: Regions of Africa Jigsaw

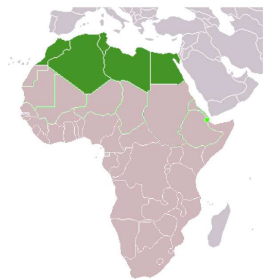
North Africa Fact Sheet

Directions: Study the following information about North Africa. After you have read this individually, you will have the opportunity to work in an expert group to discuss imperialism and the history of Africa. After the discussion, you will be responsible to teach another group about North Africa. Your group will take notes on the Jigsaw Graphic Organizer.

As you study the following, think about this question:

1. In what ways did interaction with Europe eventually lead to imperialism?

North Africa had the longest history of interaction with Europe than any other region of Africa. The ancient Greeks set up Greek colonies along the northern coast of Africa and Alexander the Great conquered most of North Africa as well. The Greek Ptolemy family established a monarchy in Egypt that lasted until the death of the last Ptolemy ruler – Cleopatra. The Roman Empire conquered all of the lands that touched the Mediterranean Sea and Egypt provided a large amount of grain to the Roman Empire. After the fall of Rome, most of North Africa was under the control of the Byzantine Empire until various Islamic Empires gained control of North Africa. The influence of the Arab world led to the conversion of most of North Africa to Islam.



Throughout the Middle Ages, port cities along the northern coast of Africa remained vital trading centers that brought Europeans, Arabs, Africans, and Asians into contact. When most of North Africa came under the control of the Ottoman Empire, little changed regarding the expansive trade networks of North African port cities.

Beginning in the 16th century, the Berbers of North Africa became pirates and gained their wealth by raiding trade ships in the Mediterranean Sea. The Berbers established bases in Libya, Tunisia, and Algeria. The Berber pirates gained the “protection” of the Ottoman Turks, but by the early 19th century France decided that, in order to protect French products, they would intervene in Algeria. In 1830, the French invaded Algeria and by 1847, the French totally occupied the country of Algeria. From Algeria, France continued to occupy parts of North Africa, including Tunisia and Morocco. This occupation led to France’s claim to most of North Africa during the Berlin Conference.

Unlike other parts of North Africa, Egypt was considered relatively stable by European standards. Mohammed Ali led Egypt from being a part of the Ottoman Empire to being a unified and independent state during the 19th century. Ali and his descendants traded extensively with the British. In 1869, European investors (primarily French and British) financed the building of the Suez Canal through Egypt. The Canal allowed a water passage from the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea and into the Indian Ocean. This “short cut” allowed European ships to avoid having to travel around Africa to its colonies in Asia. The Suez Canal and Egypt became a vital part of Europe’s trading and economic systems. In 1882, a series of Egyptian uprisings led the British to militarily occupy Egypt. This occupation gave Britain a strong claim to Egypt at the Berlin Conference.

In addition to the geographic desirability of North Africa, crops such as wheat, dates, and cotton became vital resources for the Europeans who occupied the region.

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Unit 4: Nationalism, Industrialism, and Imperialism
Lesson C: European Division of the African Continent
Student Resource: Regions of Africa Jigsaw

East Africa Fact Sheet

Directions: Study the following information about East Africa. After you have read this individually, you will have the opportunity to work in an expert group to discuss imperialism and the history of Africa. After the discussion, you will be responsible to teach another group about East Africa. Your group will take notes on the Jigsaw Graphic Organizer.

As you study the following think about this question:

1. In what ways did interaction with Europe eventually lead to imperialism?

Historically, parts of East Africa have had an extensive history of interacting with Europe. The "Horn of Africa", so named due to how the eastern-most part of the continent sticks out like a horn, traded extensively with the Romans. The Romans referred to all of this land as Ethiopia (modern day South Sudan, Eritrea, Somalia, as well as Ethiopia). In addition to this early trade, a Christian of Greek descent established Christianity in the region and this connection increased ties with the Christian-Middle Eastern and European worlds.



Excluding Ethiopia, most of East Africa's interactions with Europeans were scarce. The area had extensive contact with Arab, Indian, and Chinese traders and, as a result, the dominant religion of the people of East Africa is Islam. This trade led to established East African trading ports.

In the 15th century, the Portuguese established trading networks with the people of East Africa. These ports helped Portugal with their goal of taking control of the spice trade from Arabs. East African ports were also used for the trade of slaves. Some slaves from these Eastern ports were transported west to the Americas, but these ports also provided slaves to meet the rapidly expanding demand for slaves (primarily women) in the Arab world.

Conflict between Arab and European interest continued for centuries along Africa's east coast. The naval strength of the British eventually led to a loss of Arab control in this region. After the Europeans abolished the slave trade in the early 19th century, Britain increased its influence in the interior of the region. The British gained control of Uganda and Kenya and converted the fertile farmland into cash while the Germans staked a claim to the vast diamond mines of Tanzania. Italy also claimed a stake in East Africa by proclaiming Somalia as a protectorate. These claims were formalized at the Berlin Conference. Ethiopia, which was a Christian nation, remained independent; however, in 1896, Italian forces tried to seize Ethiopia. The Ethiopians defeated the Italians at the Battle of Adwa.

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Southern and Central Africa Fact Sheet

Directions: Study the following information about Southern and Central Africa. After you have read this individually, you will have the opportunity to work in an expert group to discuss imperialism and the history of Africa. After the discussion, you will be responsible to teach another group about Southern and Central Africa. Your group will take notes on the Jigsaw Graphic Organizer.

As you study the following, think about this question:

1. In what ways did interaction with Europe eventually lead to imperialism?

There are no written records for the ancient and medieval history of Southern and Central Africa. Knowledge about the earliest history of the region comes from excavations and artifacts. From this evidence, it is clear that these regions did not have any direct contact with Europe prior to the Age of Discovery. However, artifacts found in Great Zimbabwe prove some form of contact and trade with Arab, Chinese, and Indian traders. Great Zimbabwe was a center of gold mining and they traded their gold for luxuries from India, Persia, and China.

Zimbabwe declined in the early 15th century and the capital city had been abandoned by the time the Portuguese first landed in Southern Africa. The Portuguese established trading ports along the coastlines and then set about exploring interior parts of the region. The Portuguese, Zulus, Swazis, and others were empire builders themselves and their desire to spread their own lands and influence led to conflict and war with the Europeans.

In the early 17th century, the Dutch East India Company established a supply port in present-day South Africa. With an abundance of farmland and rich, natural resources in the area, the Dutch set up the first settlement colony in Africa. People of Dutch descent who spoke Afrikaans were known as Afrikaners. The people in this first colony were a specific segment of the Afrikaner population called Boers, the Dutch and Afrikaans word for farmers. The Boers imported slaves from West Africa, East Africa, India, and Indonesia to work the lands. As the Boers expanded, conflict with natives occurred. After a war with the local Khoikhoi people, the Dutch proclaimed their right to seize any land in Southern Africa. The Khoikhoi, however, continued to raid Dutch settlements to keep them from further expanding into their land. As they continued to expand, they came into conflict with the Xhosa and eventually the Zulus.

In the early 19th century, vast diamond mines were discovered throughout Southern and Central Africa. This led the British and Belgians to stake claims in this region. Leopold, the King of Belgium, claimed the Congo Region and its diamond mines and rubber trees, while the British battled the Dutch for control of South Africa. The Anglo-Boer War resulted and Britain seized control of Cape Town. As British settlers moved to South Africa, the Boers moved further north. This movement led to more wars between the British, Afrikaners, and native groups such as the Zulus. The British and the Afrikaners fought a series of wars known as the Boer wars for control over South Africa. Great Britain and Belgium's involvement in Southern and Central Africa led to their gaining most of this region at the Berlin Conference.

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