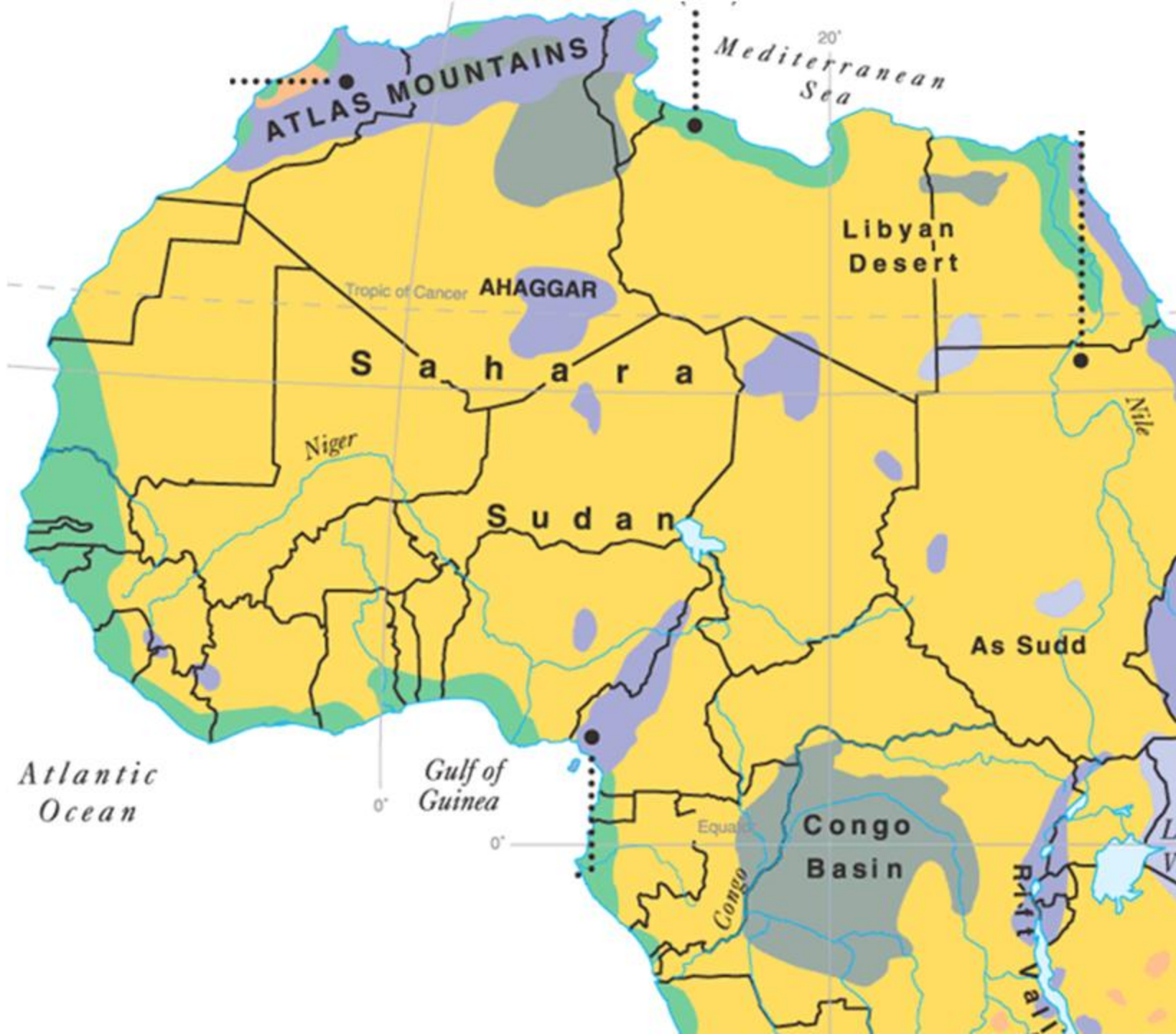




AFRICA PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Landforms

- Along northern edge of Africa:
 - from Egypt to Tunisia
 - from Tunisia to Morocco
- South of this is the world's biggest desert, the
 , stretching from the Atlantic to the Red Sea
- West Africa is largely flat with plains & low hills like the Congo Basin
 - Lake Chad exists because it is in the middle of a very low elevation plain



Landforms

- Subtropical high-pressure and an effect from the Atlas Mountains keep the Sahara dry
- Extreme temp. changes in the Sahara
- Along the southern edge of the Sahara is the
 - Scattered trees, shrubs, and grass
 - Amount of varies from year to year
 - Area prone to
 - The spreading of desert conditions



Landforms

- East Africa:
 - Landscape formed and dominated by a
 - Place on Earth's surface where the crust stretches until it breaks
 - stretches from the Red Sea to Zambia and Mozambique
 - Long, deep lakes form within these valleys
 - form along and within the rifts
 - Ethiopian Highlands and (highest point on continent) created this way

- Fault lines
- Tectonic plate boundary
- ▲ Major active volcanoes
- ▲ Major dormant or extinct volcanoes

**AFRICAN
PLATE**

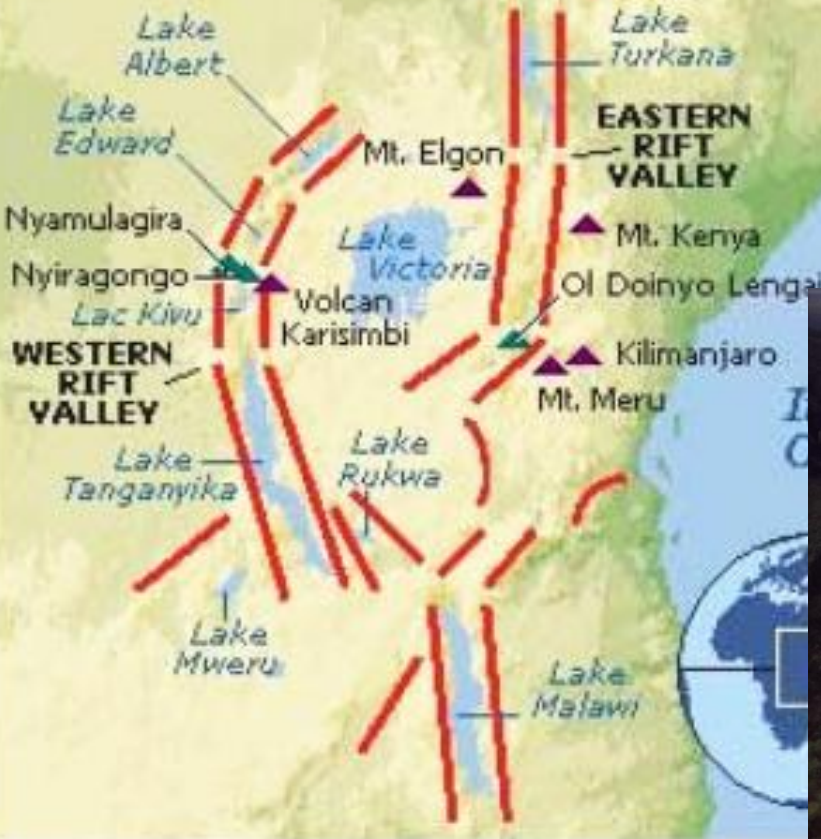
**ARABIAN
PLATE**

Ert'a'ale
Ardoukoba

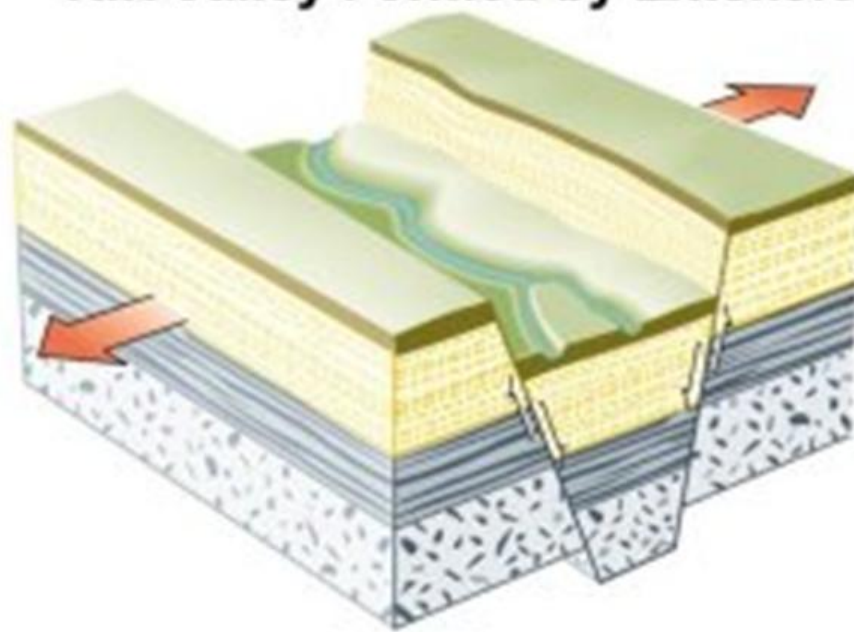
**AFAR
DEPRESSION**

**EASTERN
RIFT
VALLEY**

**WESTERN
RIFT
VALLEY**



Rift Valley Formed by Extension



Landforms

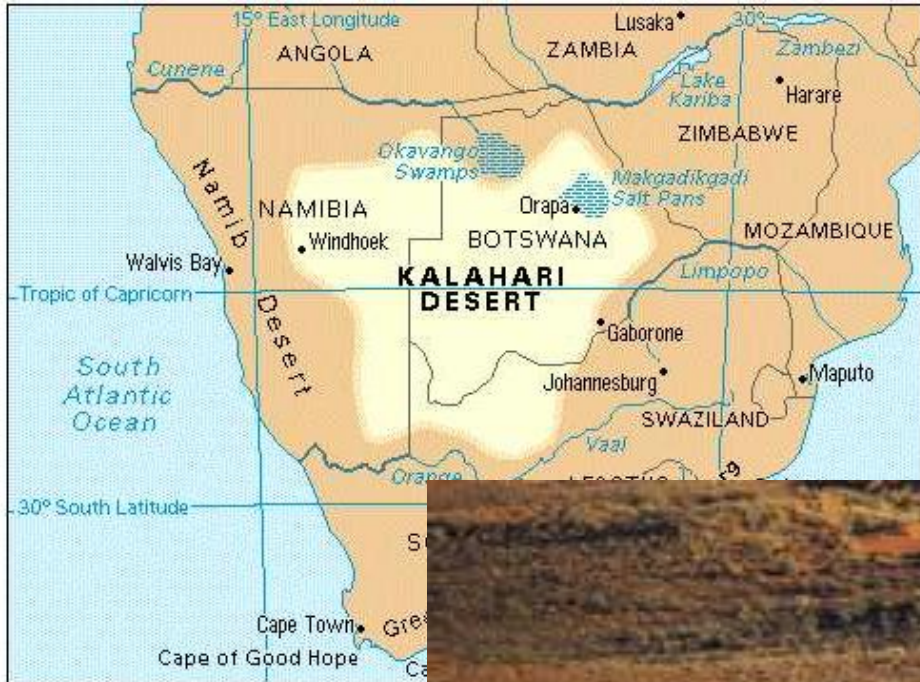
- South Africa:
 - Much of South Africa is covered by a veld
 - much like a savanna
 - Most of the region lies on a plateau ringed by an
 - A steep face at the edge of a plateau or other raised area
 - The mountain range is the southeast edge of this plateau

Drakensberg Escarpment



Landforms

- South Africa (continued):
 - The Kalahari Desert covers much of Botswana and parts of South Africa and Namibia
 - The Drakensberg's orographic effect creates the Kalahari Desert, but some rain does get through allowing for some plant and animal life



Rivers

- Only major river in the north is the Nile in Egypt
 - World's longest river
- West Africa has a large number of rivers due to its tropical climate and rainfall
 - 2 major rivers are the Niger and Benue Rivers



Rivers

- East Africa:
 - 2 water sources of the Nile found here
 - Nile in Ethiopia provides most water
 - Nile from Lake Victoria
 - Sudan's capital built where they join to form the Nile
 - Long, deep lakes formed in the rift valleys also found here like Lakes Malawi and Tanganyika





Rivers

- 3 main rivers in South Africa:

- Zambezi River

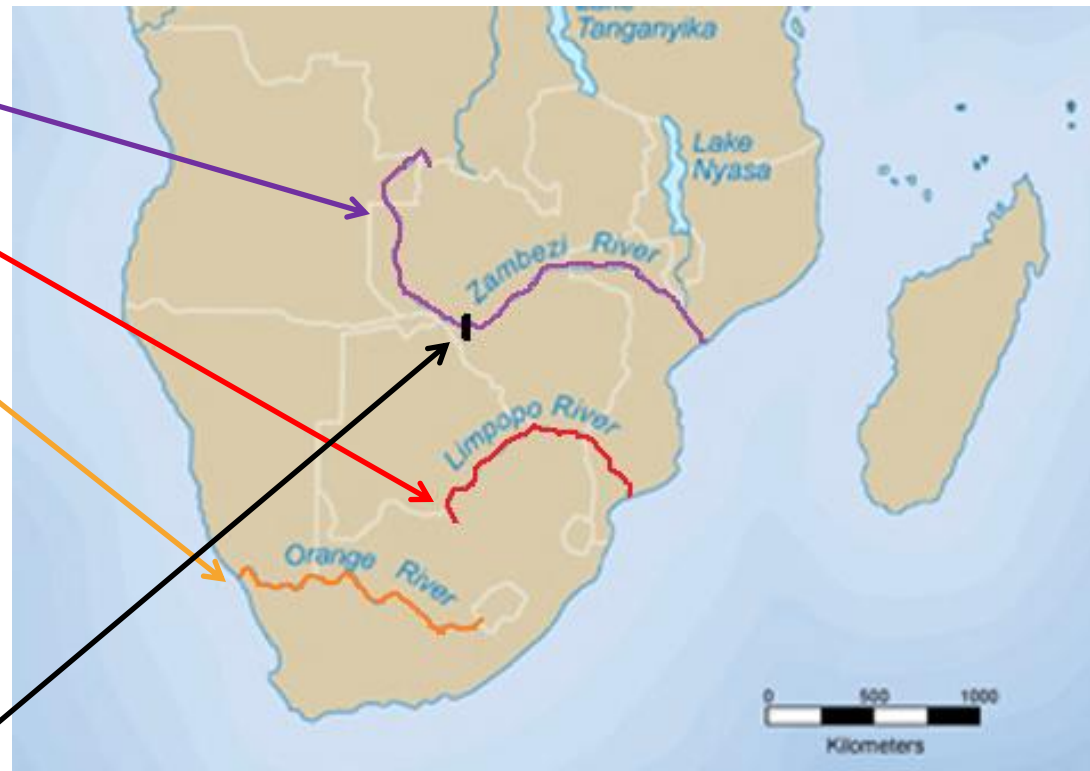
- Limpopo River

- Orange River

- Major sources of

- Many waterfalls
& rapids including

- Sandbars make most rivers non-navigable



Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River



Climates and Biomes

- Much of western Africa contains tropical savannas
 -
 - Human expansion into these grasslands have drastically reduced animal populations
- The tropical rainforests of Central Africa block out all making it impossible for plants to grow on the ground
- These rainforests are home to many species of endangered monkey, chimps, and gorillas



Tropical savanna

vs.

Tropical rainforest



Climates and Biomes

- E. Africa impacted by varying elevation & lat.:
 - Around the equator
 - Tropical savannas and mountain forests due to more
 - Pleasant, spring-like climate year round due to
 - To the north and south:
 - Less rainfall and higher temps (Sahara in northern Sudan and desert in Somalia)
 - Unpredictable weather ()

Climates and Biomes

- East Africa (continued):
 - Large areas of the savanna have no people or livestock because of the
 - Carries a disease called
 - Savanna animals are immune, but people and livestock aren't



Climates and Biomes

- South Africa:
 - Many different biomes, from desert (Kalahari) to tropical rainforest (Madagascar) to grasslands
 - has one of the world's highest levels of biodiversity
 - Many different types of
 - 80% of Madagascar's species are
 - Native to that place & found nowhere else
 - Scientists take this unique chance to do studies
 - Human activity has destroyed of the forests

Species of Madagascar



Loss of forest cover



Original extent



1950



1970



1990

Natural Resources

- North Africa:
 - Large deposits in all countries with having the most
 - Rich fishing grounds off of Morocco's Atlantic coast (world's largest producer)
 - Though lacking rain, the land is very fertile & can grow a lot of crops through the use of irrigation

Natural Resources

- West Africa:
 - from the rainforest
 - Fertile farmland for growing brought by Europeans from South America during colonization (is the world's leading producer)
 - Mineral deposits like copper and diamonds
 - Large oil deposits in
 - Political instability and and lack of prevent development of many oil and mineral resources

Natural Resources

- East Africa is not rich in resources
 - Sudan has a little oil that has been used recently
 - Small gold deposits in the west
 - Poor in most areas
 - Some gems in Tanzania
 - Only profitable economic activity is tourism (safaris on the savannas and resorts on the coast)

Resort in Kenya



Natural Resources

- South Africa has plentiful resources:
 - Large oil reserves in
 - Massive coal deposits in South Africa & Zimbabwe
 - from the rivers
 - Gold and platinum in South Africa
 - in South Africa, Botswana, and Namibia
 - Zambia is one of the world's largest producers

DAILY CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION 2008

