

Social Studies

Primary Six

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MAJOR RESOURCES IN EAST AFRICA

What is a resource?

A resource is a feature found in the environment used to meet people's needs

Types of resources

- ✓ Renewable resources
- ✓ Non-renewable resources

Renewable resources

What are renewable resources?

These are resources which when used up can replace themselves after sometime e.g water, plants & animals (wildlife), human resource, land.

Non-renewable resources

What are non-renewable resources?

These are resources which when used up cannot be replaced naturally e.g minerals like copper, gold.

Examples of major resources in East Africa

- Land
- Water bodies (lakes & rivers)
- Minerals
- Climate
- Human resource
- Vegetation
- Animals (domestic & wild)
- Wind

Land

“This is the most important resource where all resources are found.”

Importance of land

- All minerals are found in land
- Supports agriculture
- Industries are set up on land
- Most transport facilities e.g. roads are built on land.
- Land supports growth of vegetation which is food for all people and animals.

Ways in which land is degraded

- Dumping polythenes and plastics on land.
- Over cultivation
- Swamp drainage
- Deforestation
- Quarrying
- Sand mining.
- Poor disposal of industrial wastes

Animals

There are two types of animals i.e. domestic and wild animals.

Domestic animals are those kept at home by man e.g. cows, camels, goats etc.

Wild animals are those which live on their own in the bush e.g. lions, elephants, hippos, chimpanzee.

Importance of domestic animals

- Provide meat and milk
- Used for transport e.g. donkeys, camels
- Used for ploughing e.g. oxen.
- Provide manure
- Provide hooves, hides and skins, horns.

Forms of animal rearing in E. Africa

- Dairy farming
- Ranching
- Nomadic pastoralism

Dairy farming

What is dairy farming?

This is the commercial rearing of cattle for milk and its products.

A **dairy farm** is a farm where cattle are kept on large scale for milk production

In E. Africa, dairy farming is mainly done in the Kenyan highlands. It was introduced by Lord Baron Delamere and later encouraged by white settlers.

In Tanzania, on the slopes of Kilimanjaro In Uganda, it is done in S. Western Uganda - (Kabale and Kisoro)

Modern methods of cattle keeping in Kenya highlands.

- Zero grazing
- Paddockking
- Bucket feeding

Products from a dairy farm

- ✓ milk
- ✓ butter
- ✓ cheese
- ✓ ghee
- ✓ yoghurt
- ✓ ice cream

Factors that favour dairy farming in Kenya highlands

- Cool climate in Kenya highlands
- Presence of good quality pasture.
- Absence of vectors due to low temperature.
- Good transport and communication network.
- Ready market due to a large population.

Importance of Dairy farming

- ✓ Provides employment
- ✓ Provides milk and its products
- ✓ Source of income.

Ranching

This is the large scale keeping of cattle for beef.

A **ranch** is a farm where cattle are kept for beef.

On a ranch, land is fenced and divided into paddocks.

Products from a ranch

- Beef
- Hides
- Horns for glue and buttons.

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Examples of ranches in E. Africa

- Nyabushozi, Usuk, Kisozi – Uganda
- Kiptei group of ranches – Kenya

Nomadic pastoralism

Pastoralism is the keeping of cattle for survival as a way of life.

Nomadic pastoralism is the movement of cattle keepers with their animals looking for water and pasture for the animals.

Nomads mainly occupy semi- desert (arid) areas of E. Africa

Why do nomadic tribes keep large herds?

- It is their source of food.
- It is for cultural purposes
- For prestige

Nomadic tribes in East Africa

- Turkana
- Suk
- Jie
- Masai
- Galla
- Pokot
- Karimojong
- Baron

Problems facing nomadic pastoralists

- Shortage of water and pasture
- Shortage of veterinary services.
- Animal parasites and diseases
- Cattle rustling among pastoralists
- Prolonged droughts leading to food shortage

How can nomads be helped to lead a settled life?

- Constructing valley dams to provide water
- Encourage them to set up ranches
- Provide drought resistant pastures
- Drilling boreholes
- Involve in other economic activities

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How can cattle raiding be reduced among pastoralists?

Disarming pastoralists

Encouraging them to start settled farming