

THE PEARL EXAMINATIONS 2025

KAMPALA SCHOOLS

NEW CURRICULUM

UPDATED SOCIAL STUDIES

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TOPICS COVERED

TERM ONE

1. Location of Africa on the map of the world.
2. Physical features of Africa
3. Climate of Africa
4. Vegetation of Africa

TERM TWO

5. The people of Africa, the ethnic groups and settlement patterns
6. Foreign influence in Africa
7. Nationalism and the road to independence.
8. Post-independence Africa.

TERM THREE

9. Economic developments in Africa.
10. Major world organizations.

TOPIC 1: LOCATION OF AFRICA ON THE MAP OF THE WORLD

Introduction to the world

The **world** refers to the earth with all countries, people and natural features.

The **earth** refers to the part of the universe covered with land.

Hydrosphere is the part of the earth covered with water.

Atmosphere is a layer of gases that surrounds the earth.

A globe is a model of the earth where water and land are shown.

A continent is a large land mass on the earth.

The continents of the world in order of size

Continent	Size(Km ²)
Asia	44,579,000
Africa	30,065,000
North America	24,256,000
South America	17,819,000
Antarctica	13,209,000
Europe	9,938,000
Australia/Oceania	7,687,000

NB:

- ☐ The largest continent of the world is Asia.
- ☐ Australia is the smallest continent of the world.
- ☐ Antarctica is not inhabited by humans because it is too cold to support human life.
- ☐ Antarctica is the largest cold desert in the world.
- ☐ Continents were formed as a result of continental drifting.

THE MAP OF THE WORLD

These continents are surrounded by five major water bodies. These are;

- ☐ Pacific Ocean
- ☐ Atlantic Ocean
- ☐ Indian Ocean
- ☐ Arctic Ocean
- ☐ Southern Ocean

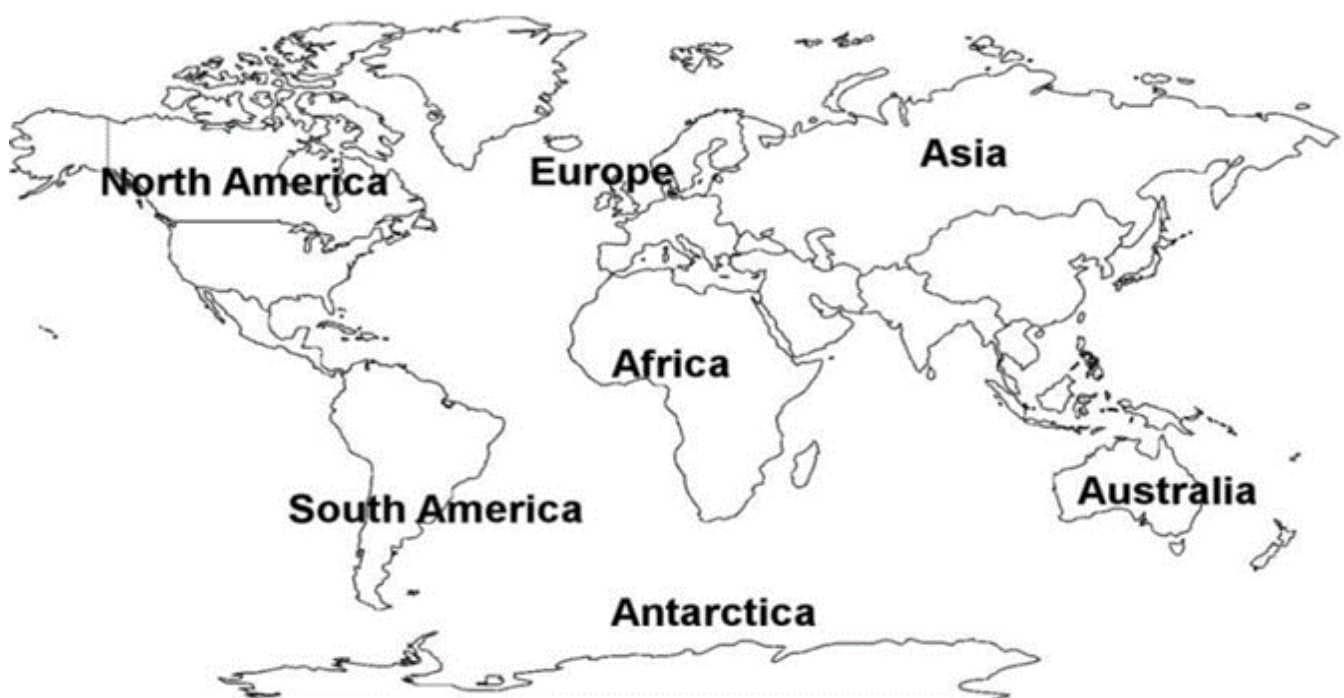
AFRICA AS A CONTINENT

Africa is regarded as the cradle land of man because the oldest skull of man was discovered in Africa at Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania.

Africa was also referred to as a dark continent because little was known about its interior by the outside world.

Factors that kept the interior of Africa unknown to the outside world for a long time.

- ☐ Hot deserts that lie at both extremes of the continent.
- ☐ Huge Mountain blocks at some entry points.



- ☐ Some people in the interior were hostile to the outsiders.
- ☐ Lack of proper roads into the interior of Africa.
- ☐ Presence of many dangerous wild animals.
- ☐ The thick forests were hard to cross.
- ☐ The thick forests that harboured disease vectors.

Factors that make Africa different/unique from other continents.

- ☐ It has the largest and the hottest dry desert in the world.
- ☐ It is crossed by both the Prime Meridian and the equator.
- ☐ It has the largest area lying between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
- ☐ It is the only continent that lie in all the four hemispheres.
- ☐ The highest temperatures were recorded in Africa at El _ Azizia in Libya.
- ☐ The greatest part of the Great Rift Valley is found in Africa.

NEIGHBOURS OF AFRICA

Water bodies

- ☐ Mediterranean Sea in the North
- ☐ Red Sea in the Northeast
- ☐ Indian Ocean in the East
- ☐ Atlantic Ocean in the West

Continents

- ☐ Europe in the North
- ☐ Asia in the Northeast
- ☐ Australia in the southeast

- ☐ Antarctica in the South
- ☐ South America in the West
- ☐ North America in the northwest

NOTE: The furthest point of Africa in the North is Cape Blanc in Tunisia and in the South it is Cape Town.

To the West, it is Cape Vert and in the East, it is Cape Guardafui.

Africa was connected to Asia by the Suez isthmus which was destroyed by the British and the French to construct the Suez Canal.

The Suez Canal was constructed to shorten the distance travelled by water vessels for Europe to the Far East.

Other features associated with the continent of Africa

- ☐ Cape
- ☐ Gulf
- ☐ Straits
- ☐ Isthmus
- ☐ Islands
- ☐ Peninsula
- ☐ Bay

CAPE

This is a piece of land continuing/jutting into the sea.

Examples of capes in Africa

- ☐ Cape Vert to the West
- ☐ Cape Guardafui to the East
- ☐ Cape Agulhas to the South
- ☐ Cape Ras Ben to the North

- ☐ Cape Blanc to the
- ☐ Cape Verga to the East in Somalia

GULFS

This is a large area of the sea partly enclosed by land.

Examples of gulfs

- ☐ Gulf of Aden
- ☐ Gulf of Gabe's
- ☐ Gulf of Sirte
- ☐ Gulf of Guinea

STRAITS

A strait is a narrow water passage between two land masses.

Examples of straits

- ☐ Strait of Gibraltar
- ☐ Strait of Mandles
- ☐ Mozambique Channel
- ☐ Zanzibar channel
- ☐ Pemba channel
- ☐ Mafia channel

ISLANDS

An island is an area of land completely surrounded by a water body.

Examples of islands around the African continent.

In the Indian Ocean (countries)

- ☐ Madagascar – it is the largest island country in Africa.
- ☐ Comoros
- ☐ Seychelles – it is the smallest island country in Africa.

- ☐ Mauritius

Dependent islands in the Indian Ocean

- ☐ Zanzibar
- ☐ Mafia
- ☐ Pemba

In the Atlantic Ocean (countries)

- ☐ Cape Verde
- ☐ Sao Tome and Principe

BAYS

A bay is an area of the sea partly enclosed by land.

Examples of bays

- ☐ Bengo bay in Angola
- ☐ Alexander bay in South Africa
- ☐ Helena bay in South Africa
- ☐ Richards bay of South Africa
- ☐ Delagoa bay in Mozambique
- ☐ Unguana bay in Kenya
- ☐ Foul bay in Egypt

PENINSULA

A peninsula is a piece of land with three sides partly surrounded by water.

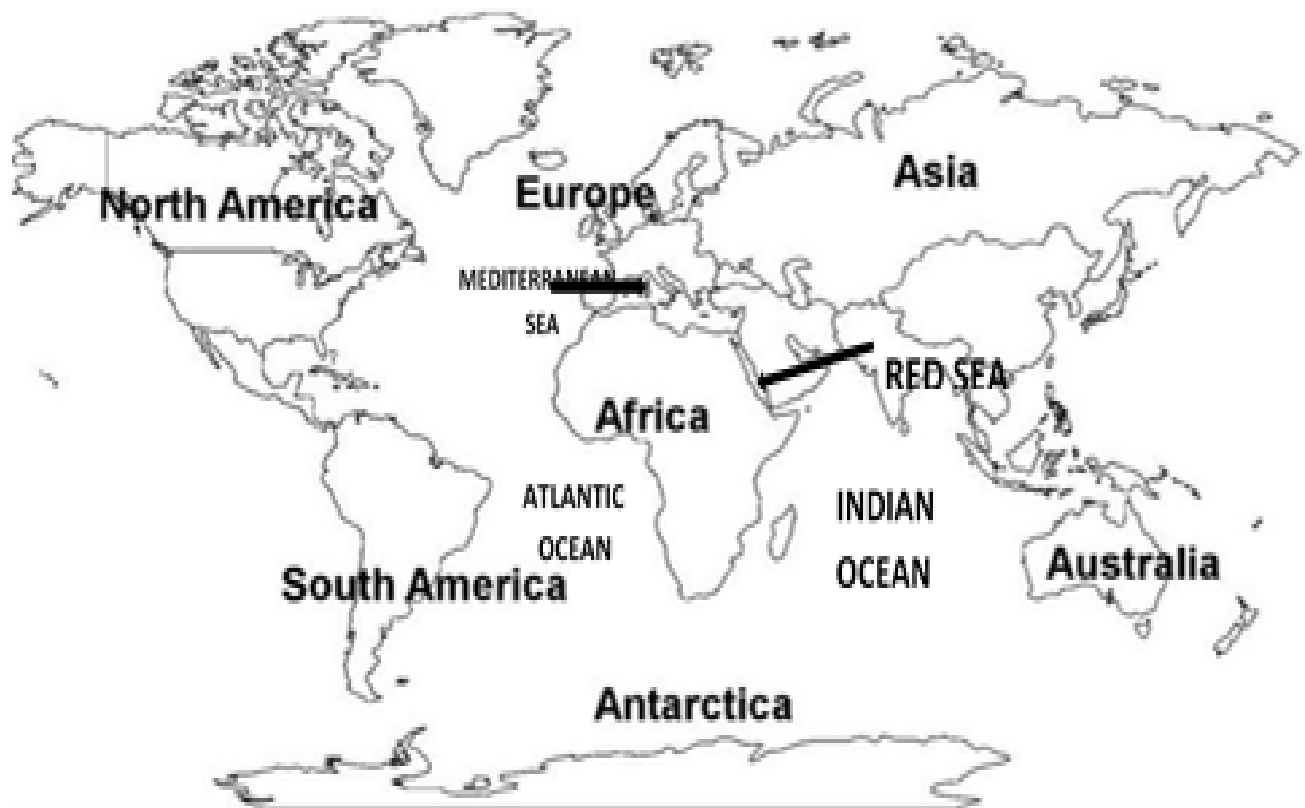
E.g. The Horn of Africa.

ISTHMUS

An isthmus is a narrow water strip of land connecting two land masses.

NOTE: The Suez isthmus was the only isthmus in Africa.

A MAP SHOWING NEIGHBOURS OF AFRICA



Location of Africa using latitudes and longitudes.

The method of locating places using latitudes and longitudes is grid reference.

Africa is located between longitude 170W and 520E and latitude 380N and 350S.

LATITUDES/Lines of latitude

These are imaginary lines drawn on maps from East to West.

The general name for latitudes is parallels.

They are called parallels because they do not meet at any point.

Latitude is the distance of a place North or South of the equator.

Major lines of latitude

☐ Equator

- ☐ Tropic of Cancer
- ☐ Tropic of Capricorn
- ☐ Arctic Circle
- ☐ Antarctic Circle

IT CONTINUES

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