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Geography

Chapter 3

The Topography of Ethiopia and The Horn.

☞ ውድቆ በዚህ ምዕራፍ የምናወራው ስለኢትዮጵያ የመሬት አቀማመጥ ነው 😊

 Topography of Ethiopia is largely determined by the geologic activities of the Cenozoic Era.

✍ Chapter -2 ላይ እንዳየንው Cenozoic era የሀገራችን መልከዓ ምድር የተገነባበት Era ነው ብለን ነበር ...አስታወሳችሁ ? 😐

General Characteristics of the Ethiopian Physiography

➡ Ethiopian landform is characterized by great diversity.

There are :-

- ✓ Flat-topped plateaus
- ✓ High and rugged mountains
- ✓ Deep river gorges and
- ✓ Vast plains

ሀገራችን ኢትዮጵያ በጣም Diverse የሆነ መልካምድራዊ አቀማመጥ ያለት ሀገር እንደሆነች በHighschool.Geography ተምራችኋል አይደል ?...ሀገራችን ውስጥ ምን የሌለ ነገር አለ? ተራሮች ፤ ወንዞች ኮረብታዎች ሜዳዎችእረ ሀገራችን ውብ ናት 😇

🧑🏫 Altitude ranges from 125 meters below sea level (Kobar Sink) to the highest mountain in Ethiopia, Mount Ras Dashen (4,620 m.a.s.l)

➡ ይህንን በደንብ ያዙልኝ ...በኢትዮጵያ በጣም ዝቅተኛው ቦታ Kobar Sink ሲሆን ከፍተኛው ደግሞ ራስ ደጀን ተራራ ነው ፤ Anyone from these two extremities ? 🙋



Ethiopia has the largest proportion of elevated landmass in the African continent, It is sometimes described as the Roof of East Africa because of its height and large area.



ሀገራችን ኢትዮጵያ በAverage በጣም ከፍ ያለ Land mass ስላላት የምስራቅ አፍሪካዊ ጣራ እየተባለች ትጠራለች 😊...By the way ተፈጥሮ ለኢትዮጵያ አብዛታ ነው የሰጠችት ግን ምን ጥቅም እኛ ... 😊



More than 50% of the Ethiopian landmass is above 1,000 meters of elevation; and above 1,500 meters makes 44% of the country Half of this, in turn, is at more than 2,000 meters above sea level....ያዙ 😊

Most of the Ethiopian Highlands are part of central and northern Ethiopia, and its northernmost portion extends into Eritrea The highland core, on the other hand, is encircled by semi-arid and lowlands.



አስታውሱ : አብዛኛው የኢትዮጵያ ከፍተኛ ቦታዎች የሚገኙት በሰሜኑ እና መካከለኛው የሀገራችን ቦታዎች ላይ ነው 😊

Characteristics of Ethiopian highlands

➡ Moderate and high amount of rainfall (>600 mm per year)

➡ Lower mean annual temperature (<20°C)

➡ The climate is favorable for biotic life.

➡ Rain-fed agriculture is possible.

➡ Free from tropical diseases

➡ Attractive for human habitation and densely settled

📖 ጠቅላል ስናደርገው የሀገራችን ከፍተኛ ቦታዎች በቂ የዝናብ ስርጭት ፣ ቀዝቃዛ የአየር ንብረት ፣ በአንፃራዊነት ከወጣና መሰል በሽታዎች ነፃ እንዲሁም ለሰው ልጆች መኖሪያነት ተመራጭ ቦታዎች ናቸው 😎

➡ The cumulative effect of all this is that, the highlands have been significant throughout Ethiopian history in the economic, cultural and political life of the people.

These highlands make up nearly 56% of the area of the Ethiopia .

🕊 In contrast to the highlands, the remaining 44% of the Ethiopian lowlands are characterized by:

✅ Fewer amounts of rainfall and higher temperature

✓ High prevalence of tropical diseases

✓ Lower population densities

✓ Nomadic and semi-nomadic economic life.

✓ Vast plain lands favorable for irrigation agriculture along the lower river basins

💻 ተመልከቱ.... የሀገራችንን አጠቃላይ የመሬት አቀማመጥ ስንመለከት ከፍተኛ ቦታ ይበዛዋል (56%) ዝቅተኛ ቦታዎች 44% ድርሻ ሲኖራቸው ከከፍተኛ ቦታዎች በተቃራኒ ሞቃታማ ፣ አነስተኛ የዝናብ ስርጭት እንዲሁም ብዛት ወጣና መሰል በሽታዎች የሚኖሩባቸው ቦታዎች ናቸው 😊

The Physiographic Divisions of Ethiopia.

➡ እስኪ አሁን ደግሞ ኢትዮጵያን Roughly እንቃኛትጉብኝት ልንሄድ ነው ተዘጋጁ 🙌

📦 ለፈተናም ስታነቡ በምድብ በምድብ እያደረጋችሁ ያዟቸው፤ ካልሆነ ይደራረብባችኋል 😐


➡ Structural divisions by the geologic processes of the Cenozoic Era.

Three major physiographic Decision :

- 1☐. The Western highlands and lowlands
- 2☐. The South-eastern (Eastern) highlands and lowlands
- 3☐. The Rift Valley

Western Highlands and Lowlands

 All the area west of the Rift Valley, Nearly the whole western half of Ethiopia Makeup 44% of the area of the country.

 Subdivided into Four groups of highlands (76.3%) and Four groups of lowlands (23.7%)

Highlands

A. Tigray Plateau

 Extends from tekeze gorge to central Eritrean HLs.

 Separated from the Eritrean plateau by the mereb river.

✦ Constitutes 13% of the area of the region .

➡ ስለ Tigray Plateau ሲነሳ At least ከ Eritrea Plateau በመረብ River እንደሚለያይ መያዝ አለብኝ ፤ Additionally 11% Of Western Land Cover እንደሚያደርግ ያዙ 😊

🔥 High mountains over 3000 meters:

1☒ Mount Tsibet (3988 m.a.s.l)

2☒ Mount Ambalage (3291 m.a.s.l)


3☒ Mount Assimba (3248 m.a.s.l)

3☒ Debre-Damo

B. North Central Massifs

➡ Largest in the western HLs.

ከ Western Highland ትልቅ Area coverage ያለው ቦታ Northern Central massive ነው 😞

 Follows the Abay and Tekeze gorges Plateau and tablelands are still capped by the Trappean lava Its central part accommodates:

 Consists of the Gonder, Wello and Gojjam Massifs.

 Most popular mountains:

1☒ Ras Dashen (4,620 m.a.s.l)

2☒ Weynobar/Ancua (4462 m.a.s.l)



3☒ KidisYared (4453 m.a.s.l)

4☒ Bwahit (4437 m.a.s.l)

5☒ Guna (4,231 m.a.s.l)

5☒ Abune Yoseph (4,260 m.a.s.l)

6☒ Birhan (4,154 m.a.s.l)

 በአጠቃላይ ሶስቱ ዋና ዋና የአማራ ግዛቶችን አካቶ የሚይዝ ከፍተኛ ቦታ ሲሆን የሀገራችንም ትልቁ ተራራ የሚገኘው በዚሁ ከፍተኛ ቦታ ነው


C. Shewa Plateau/Central highlands

➡ Bounded by: Rift Valley in the east and southeast ,Abay gorge in its northern and western , Omo gorge in the south and west .

👉 Occupies a central geographical position in Ethiopia.

➡ Smallest of the Western HLs.

➡ Only 11% of the area of the whole physiographic region.

🕊 ይህ ከፍተኛ ቦታ የኢትዮጵያ እንብርት ብለን ልንጠራው እንችላለን
....it is central. በተጨማሪም ትንሹን የWestern ከፍተኛ ቦታዎች
Coverage ይይዛል (11%) 😇


➡ Drained by Abay, Omo and Awash.

▶▶ Highest mountain: Abuye-Meda (4,000 m.a.s.l) in Northern Shewa Guraghe (3,721 m.a.s.l) in the south

🏠 አቡዬ ሜዳ የት አካባቢ ነው ? ከሸዋ የመጣችሁ 😎


D. Southwestern Highlands

 Consists of the highlands of: Wellega, Illuababora , Jimma Kaff Gamo and Gofa

 Accounts for 22.7% of the area of the region ,Second largest in the Western HLs.

About 70% of its area is lies within 1,000-2,000 m altitude.

 The wettest in Ethiopia.

 ስለዚህ Highland መያዝ ያለባችሁ ነገር አመቱን ሙሉ አረንጓዴ የሆነ እና ሁልጊዜም ዝናብ የሚኖርበት ቦታ እንደሆነ እንዲሁም ከ North central massive በመቀጠል ሁለተኛው ሰፊው ቦታ ነው 😊

 Drained by: Dabus, Deddessa, rivers Baro, Akobo rivers Ghibe/Omo rivers.

Accommodates the most numerous and diverse ethnic linguistic groups in Ethiopia.

 Highest peak: Guge Mountain (4,200 m.a.s.l)

Western Lowlands.

➡ Western foothills and border plains .

🕊️ Extend from Western Tigray in the N to southern Gamo-Gofa in the S .

🔍 Make 11% of the area of the physiographic region Ranges.

🟥 between 500 and 1000 m.a.s.l

📱 Subdivided into Four:

1☐Tekeze lowland

2☐Abay-Dinder lowland

3☐Baro lowland

4☐Ghibe lowland

🖱️ Except baro lowland, it characterized by arid or semi-arid conditions.

→ እነዚህ ደግሞ ወደጠረፍ አካባቢ የምናገኛቸው ዝቅተኛ ቦታዎች ናቸው 😊

Ghibe/Omo lowland Includes:

→ Lower ghibe/omo valley

→ it is classified in the western lowlands But Structurally, it also belongs to the rift valley.

2. Southeastern Highlands and Lowlands.

🖱 ይሄ ደግሞ ሁለተኛው የሀገራችን የመልካዓ ምድር ክፍል ነው፤ በውስጡ እንደ Westerኑ Both Highlands and Lowlands አሉት 😊

→ Second largest physiographic region in terms of area Accounts for 37% of the area of Ethiopia:

✓ Highlands (46%)

✓ Lowland (54%)



Subdivided : Two units of highlands Two units of extensive lowlands

1. Southeastern Highlands

A. Arsi-Bale-Sidama Highlands



Found to the east of the Lakes Region Located in the south western section.



Make up: 28.5% of the area of the region 62% of the south - Eastern HLs.



Well-known mountains:



Kaka (4,180 m.a.s.l)



Bada (4,139 m.a.s.l)



Chilalo (4,036 m.a.s.l)



Dissected by rivers Wabishebelle and Ghenale along with their tributaries



Bale highlands Separated from the Arsi highlands by the head and main stream of Wabishebelle

Arsi highlands:

 Afro-Alpine summit of Senetti plateau is found on the Arsi highlands.

Sidama Highlands.

 Separated from the Bale Highlands by the Ghenale river.

Southwestern corner of this region Prominent feature:
Jemjem plateau Important coffee growing area

B. Hararghe Plateau

 A north-easterly extension of the south-eastern HLs.

Extends from: Chercher highlands in SW to Jigjiga in East .

 Highest mountain: Gara-Muleta (3,381 m.a.s.l)

2. Southeastern Lowlands

 Located in the southeastern part of the country.


 The most extensive lowlands in Ethiopia.

Make up: 54% of the area of the physiographic region
1/5 th of the country.

 Sub-divided: Wabishebele plain (60%) Ghenale Plain (40%) .

 Include the plains of:

 Ogaden , Elkere, Borena

 Due to harsh climatic conditions: Little used Support very small population, Sparsely inhabited Pastoral and semi-pastoral communities .

Rift Valley (ስምጥ ሸለቆ)

 A tectonically formed structural depression Bounded by two major and more or less parallel escarpments.


 Separated the Ethiopian Highlands and Lowlands in to two.

Extends from: Afar triangle in N to Chew Bahir in S About 1,700 km².

Covers 18% of the area of Ethiopia.

Elongated and funnel shaped, with a NE-SW orientation .

 Its climate varies from warm, hot and dry to cool and moderately moist conditions

 Altitude ranges from: 125 m.b.s.l at Dallol Depression 2,000 m.a.s.l in the Lakes region .

A. Afar Triangle.



The largest and widest part of the rift valley .



Makes up 54% of the rift valley area.



Characterized by:



Faulted depressions (grabens)



Volcanic hills



Active volcanoes



Volcanic ridges



Lava fields



Lakes (abe, asale, and afrera).



Economic importance:



Salt extraction



Irrigation along the Awash River.



Electric potential from geothermal energy



A prominent feature: Danakil Depression (Kobar Sink)



Geography of Ethiopia and The Horn.

Chapter -3 Simple Practices

Choose the best answer for each of the following

1. Which of the following is a prominent feature of the Danakil Depression?

A. Cinder Cones

B. Thick And Extensive Salt Plains

C. Gneissic Highlands

D. Lake Chamo

Answer: B.

2. What volcanic mountain is located near Adama in the Main Ethiopian Rift?

A. Mount Fentale

B. Aletu

C. Chebi

D. Boseti-Guda

Answer: D.

3. Which streams flow into the Chew Bahir Rift?

A. Awash And Omo

B. Segen And Woito

C. Afrera And Asale

D. Hawasa And Ziway

Answer: B.

4. What structure separates the Chew Bahir Rift from the Main Ethiopian Rift?

- A. Gneissic Highlands Of Konso
- B. Thick Salt Plains
- C. Arbaminch Escarpments
- D. Volcanic Ridges

Answer : A

5. Which physiographic region covers nearly the whole western half of Ethiopia?

- A. Southeastern Highlands And Lowlands
- B. Rift Valley
- C. Western Highlands And Lowlands
- D. Central Highlands

Answer: C.

6. Which plateau is bounded by the Rift Valley in the east and southeast, the Abay Gorge in the north and west, and the Omo Gorge in the south?

- A. Tigray Plateau
- B. Shewa Plateau
- C. Southwestern Highlands
- D. North Central Massifs

Answer: B.

7. The highest mountain in the North Central Massifs?

- A. Mount Abuye-Meda
- B. Ras Dashen
- C. Mount Guna
- D. Mount Guge

Answer: B.

8. Which feature is a key characteristic of the Southwestern Highlands?

- A. Rugged Topography
- B. Extensive Marshlands

C. The Wettest Area In Ethiopia

D. Thick Salt Plains

Answer: C.

9. Which lowland area is part of the Western Lowlands but structurally belongs to the Rift Valley?

A. Abay-Dinder Lowland

B. Tekeze Lowland

C. Ghibe/Omo Lowland

D. Baro Lowland

Answer: C.

10. Which river valleys separate the Southwestern Highlands from adjacent highlands?

A. Mereb And Tekeze

B. Baro And Akobo

C. Abay And Omo

D. Ghibe And Dabus

Answer: C.

Cont...

11. The lowest point in Ethiopia, located at 125 meters below sea level?

- A. Lake Asale
- B. Mount Ras Dashen
- C. Kobar Sink
- D. Tekeze Gorge

Answer: C.

12. Why is Ethiopia sometimes described as the Roof of East Africa?

- A. It has the largest network of rivers in Africa.
- B. It has the largest proportion of elevated landmass on the African continent.
- C. It is home to Africa's longest mountain range.
- D. It has the highest population density in the region.

Answer: B.

13. Percentage of Ethiopia's landmass lies above 1,500 meters of elevation?

- A. 44%
- B. 50%
- C. 35%
- D. 22%

Answer: A

14. Key characteristic of the Ethiopian highlands?

- A. High prevalence of tropical diseases
- B. Vast plains suitable for irrigation
- C. Favorable climate for rain-fed agriculture
- D. Nomadic and semi-nomadic lifestyles

Answer: C.

15. Which of the following is true about Ethiopia's lowlands?

- A. They make up 56% of the country.
- B. They are characterized by higher rainfall and moderate temperatures.
- C. They have lower population densities and vast plains suitable for irrigation agriculture.
- D. They are the most densely populated region of the country.

Answer: C

16. What separates the Arsi Highlands from the Bale Highlands?

- A. Web River
- B. Wabishebelle River
- C. Ghenale River
- D. Wabishebelle Headwaters

Answer: D.

17. Which plateau is located in the southwestern corner of the Southeastern Highlands and is known for coffee production?

- A. Hararghe Plateau
- B. Jemjem Plateau
- C. Sof Omar Plateau
- D. Sidama Highlands

Answer: B.

18. Percentage of the Southeastern Lowlands consists of the Wabishebele Plain?

- A. 60%
- B. 54%
- C. 40%
- D. 17.4%

Answer: A

19. Which is the highest mountain in the Hararghe Plateau?

- A. Gara-Muleta
- B. Batu
- C. Tulu-Demtu
- D. Chilalo

Answer: A

20. The altitude range of the Rift Valley floor in Ethiopia?

- A. 300 m to 2,000 m
- B. 125 m below sea level to 2,000
- C. 700 m to 1,500 m
- D. 125 m below sea level to 1,700

Answer: B.