

Module: Sub-Saharan Africa
Topic Content: East Africa and Southern Africa

East Africa and Southern Africa



Click next to begin.

Module: Sub-Saharan Africa
Topic Content: East Africa and Southern Africa

East Africa



East Africa is located on the easternmost part of the African continent. The region is situated along the coasts of the Red Sea and Indian Ocean. East Africa includes a large pointed peninsula called the Horn of Africa. The Horn of Africa sticks out into the Indian Ocean.

There are seven countries located in East Africa. These countries are South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, and Somalia.

Module: Sub-Saharan Africa
Topic Content: East Africa and Southern Africa

East Africa Menu



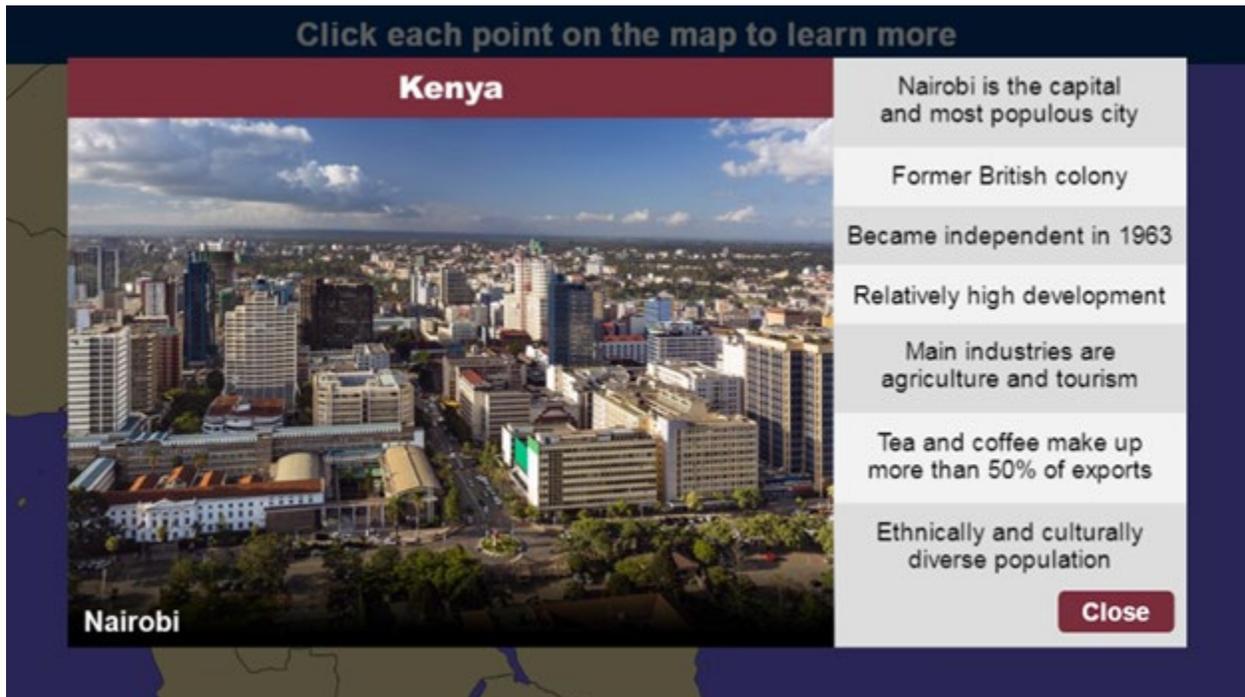
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Module: Sub-Saharan Africa

Topic Content: East Africa and Southern Africa

Kenya

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Kenya

Nairobi is the capital and most populous city

Former British colony

Became independent in 1963

Relatively high development

Main industries are agriculture and tourism

Tea and coffee make up more than 50% of exports

Ethnically and culturally diverse population

Close

Kenya is located on the coast of the Indian Ocean, east of Lake Victoria. Nairobi is the capital and most populous city in Kenya. The city was founded under British rule as a railway settlement. Nairobi grew quickly and became the colonial capital in 1907. It remained the capital when Kenya gained independence from Britain in 1963.

Kenya has a relatively high level of economic development for East Africa. The country has experienced steady growth and is becoming more industrialized. However, Kenya continues to face challenges due to poor infrastructure and political corruption. Agriculture and tourism are the country's main industries. More than 60% of the population works in agriculture, and goods like tea and coffee make up more than half of all exports. Tourists travel to Kenya to visit the country's national parks and game reserves.

Kenya has a diverse population composed of various ethnic groups. Most Kenyans identify as Christian, but there is also a Muslim minority in the country. English and Kiswahili are both official languages.

Module: Sub-Saharan Africa
Topic Content: East Africa and Southern Africa

Ethiopia

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Ethiopia



- Second most populous country in Africa
- Never colonized
- Communist dictatorship took control in the 1970s
- Devastated by famine and unrest in the 1980s
- Became democratic in 1991
- Mostly agricultural
- Ethnically, culturally, and religiously diverse

Close

Ethiopia is located on an elevated plateau that is divided by the Great Rift Valley. It is the second most populous country in Africa and the most populous landlocked country in the world. The Empire of Ethiopia was founded in 1137 A.D. (C.E.). The country was never colonized by Europeans. Italy briefly occupied the nation during World War II, but otherwise it has remained independent.

In the 1970s, the Emperor of Ethiopia was overthrown. A communist military dictatorship took control of the government. During this time, the country suffered from political unrest, drought, and famine. A major famine in the 1980s left more than one million Ethiopians dead. Additionally, half a million refugees fled the country. The communist government collapsed in 1991 and was replaced by a democratic republic.

Ethiopia is mostly agricultural, with 80% of the population living in rural areas. The population is composed of several different ethnic groups. Amharic is the official national language, but there are several regional languages spoken throughout the country. About two-thirds of the population identifies as Christian, and the rest identify as Muslim.

Module: Sub-Saharan Africa

Topic Content: East Africa and Southern Africa

Somalia

Continue

Somalia



- Ethnic Somalis make up 85% of the population
- Clan structure influences culture and politics
- Official religion is Sunni Islam
- Became independent in 1960
- Ruled by a communist dictatorship until 1991
- Fell into a long civil war
- One of the largest sources of international refugees

Close

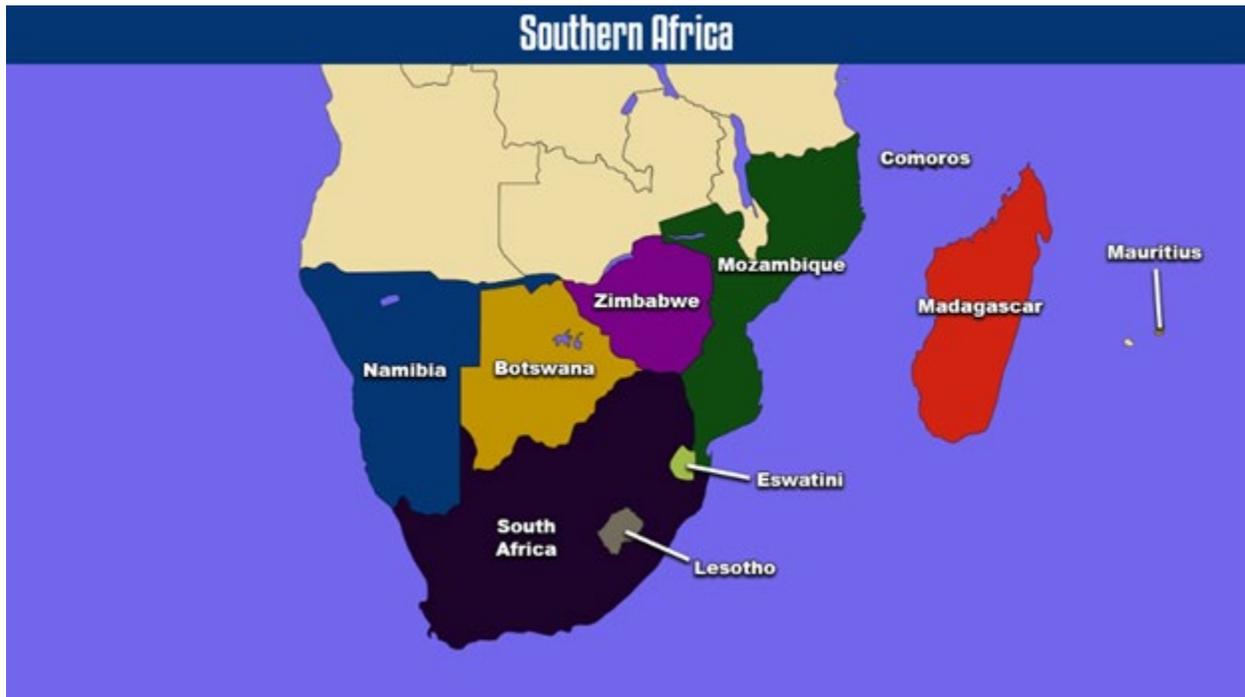
Somalia is located on the coast of the Horn of Africa. This is one of the most ethnically homogenous countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. Ethnic Somalis make up 85% of the population. However, this ethnic group is separated into multiple clans. Somali clans view themselves as distinct groups. Clan structure greatly influences the culture and politics of Somalia. Sunni Islam is the country's official religion. Somali and Arabic are both official languages.

Somalia gained independence in 1960, when the colonies of British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland were merged. A few years later, a repressive communist dictatorship seized control of the country. When the communist government collapsed in 1991, it left a power vacuum. The country fell into a prolonged civil war as rival clans fought for control of the government.

The fighting has continued for decades. As a result of this conflict, Somalia is one of the largest sources of international refugees. In 2012, a permanent government was established under a new constitution. Political stability continues to improve, but the situation remains fragile.

Module: Sub-Saharan Africa
Topic Content: East Africa and Southern Africa

Southern Africa



Southern Africa is located on the southernmost part of the African continent. The region is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean in the west and the Indian Ocean in the east. Southern Africa includes several islands in the Indian Ocean.

There are ten countries located in Southern Africa. The mainland countries are Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Eswatini, Lesotho, and South Africa. The island nations are Mauritius, Comoros, and Madagascar.

Module: Sub-Saharan Africa
Topic Content: East Africa and Southern Africa

Southern Africa Menu



Click each point to learn more.

Module: Sub-Saharan Africa
Topic Content: East Africa and Southern Africa

Namibia

Click each point on the map to learn more

Namibia



Spans most of the Namib and part of the Kalahari

Colonized by Germany

Part of South Africa until 1990

Politically stable

Economy based on mineral resources

Multilingual population

15% of the population practices traditional religion

Close

Namibia is located on the western coast of Southern Africa. It is an arid country that spans most of the Namib Desert and part of the Kalahari Desert. The Namib is near the Atlantic coast. The Kalahari is located in the eastern part of the country. Namibia was colonized by Germany in the late 1800s. During World War I, South African forces occupied the colony. Namibia later became part of South Africa, until it gained independence in 1990.

The country has remained politically stable since gaining independence. The economy is supported by mineral resources like diamond, gold, copper, and zinc. A large part of the mineral profits is reinvested back into the country's development.

English is the official language in Namibia. However, most of the country is multilingual. The government recognizes several national languages, including Oshiwambo, Afrikaans, and German. Most of the population identifies as Christian. Approximately 15% of the population practices traditional African religion.

Module: Sub-Saharan Africa

Topic Content: East Africa and Southern Africa

Botswana

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Botswana



- Kalahari spans western part of the country
- British colony until 1966
- Politically stable democracy
- Substantial mineral wealth
- Mineral revenues are reinvested into development
- Growing tourism industry
- Suffers from one of the highest rates of HIV/AIDS

Close

Botswana is a landlocked country centrally located in Southern Africa. The Kalahari Desert spans the western part of the country. Because of this, most of the population lives in the eastern part of the country. Botswana is a former British colony that gained independence in 1966. Since then, the country has maintained a stable democratic government that is relatively free of corruption.

Botswana has substantial mineral wealth that includes diamonds, copper, and nickel. Diamonds account for more than half of all exports. A significant part of the revenue generated from these resources is reinvested back into the country's development. As a result, Botswana has experienced incredible economic growth. The country also has a growing tourism industry.

Botswana suffers from one of the world's highest rates of HIV/AIDS. A large government-sponsored treatment program has helped reduce the rate of HIV/AIDS infection to 22% of the population as of 2019.

Module: Sub-Saharan Africa
Topic Content: East Africa and Southern Africa

South Africa

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South Africa



Johannesburg

- Major producer of platinum, gold, and diamonds
- Johannesburg is the most populous city
- Colonized by the Dutch and then the British
- Became independent in 1931
- Society was historically divided based on race
- Apartheid began in 1948
- Apartheid ended in 1994

Close

The country of South Africa is located at the southernmost part of the continent. South Africa is one of the most developed and industrialized nations in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is the world's largest producer of platinum. It is also one of the largest producers of gold and diamonds. Johannesburg is the most populous city in South Africa. The city was established in 1886, after gold was discovered in the area. Today, Johannesburg is a major center for finance and business.

In the 1600s, the Dutch established the city of Cape Town at the Cape of Good Hope. The British took control of Cape Town in 1806. The Union of South Africa was formed in 1910. It was given complete independence in 1931.

Black South Africans make up the majority of the country's population. However, white South Africans have historically controlled the country's government, resources, and land. In 1948, the South African government instituted a policy called apartheid. Apartheid was a system of laws that segregated black and white people. These laws were extremely oppressive to the black population.

Apartheid ended in 1994, after foreign countries placed economic sanctions on South Africa. In the first election to include all South Africans, human rights activist Nelson Mandela was elected as the country's first black president.

Module: Sub-Saharan Africa
Topic Content: East Africa and Southern Africa

Mozambique

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Mozambique



- Zambezi River provides hydroelectric power
- Abundant natural resources
- Former Portuguese colony
- Became independent in 1975
- Torn apart by a prolonged civil war
- 1 million people died during the conflict
- Declared free of landmines in 2015

Close

Mozambique is located on the eastern coast of Southern Africa. The Zambezi River flows through Mozambique before emptying into the Indian Ocean. A dam on the Zambezi provides hydroelectric power to the country. Mozambique also has access to abundant natural resources like coal, minerals, and fertile land.

Mozambique was a Portuguese colony for many centuries. It gained independence in 1975, but was soon engulfed in civil war. The civil war lasted until 1992. It forced approximately 1.7 million refugees to flee the country. It is estimated that one million people died from violence, disease, and famine. The conflict also left Mozambique littered with deadly landmines. These explosive devices were gradually deactivated and removed over the course of several years. The country was declared free of landmines in 2015. Despite some instances of violence in recent years, Mozambique continues to work toward maintaining peace.

Module: Sub-Saharan Africa
Topic Content: East Africa and Southern Africa

Madagascar

Continue

Madagascar	
	Nation spans the entire island of Madagascar
	Fourth largest island in the world
	90% of the island's species are unique
	Largest producer of vanilla
	One of the poorest countries
	Struggles with political instability

Close

Madagascar is located off the eastern coast of Southern Africa, in the Indian Ocean. The country spans the entire island of Madagascar, as well as some smaller surrounding islands. Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world. This landmass separated from the Indian subcontinent millions of years ago. As a result, Madagascar's plant and animal life developed in isolation. Approximately 90% of the species found on the island are unique. They cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

Madagascar's economy is mostly supported by tourism and agricultural goods. The country is the largest producer of vanilla beans, which account for one-fourth of all exports. Despite this, Madagascar is one of the world's poorest countries. It has suffered from coups, disputed elections, and other forms of political instability since gaining independence from France in 1960.