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**Geography of Sub - Saharan Africa**

*While you read about the geography fill in your note taking column.*

2nd Largest Continent: Africa is the second largest continent in the world. (Asia is the largest.) Africa is three times the size of the continental United States. Measuring north to south, Africa is 5,200 miles long! At its widest point, Africa is nearly as wide as it is long.

Rivers: Africa has four huge river systems. The big three, in order of size, are the Nile, the Congo, and the Niger. The Zambezi is the last major river system.

Oceans: In spite of its size, Africa has few natural harbors. If you wanted to visit Africa by boat, you would have to hunt for a safe place to land. Without a safe harbor, powerful ocean current would slam your boat into the rocks along the coastline. The Atlantic Ocean borders Africa to the west, the Indian Ocean borders Africa to the east, and the Mediterranean borders Africa to the north. The Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet to border Africa to the south. Africa is nearly surrounded by water.

Landforms: Africa has rainforests, grasslands, and is home to the largest desert in the world, the Sahara. Africa does have a few mountain ranges, like the Atlas Mountains in the north. These are good size mountains, but they would appear to be hills if you put them next to the Alps or the Himalayas. Africa contains two mountains that were formed as a result of volcanoes, Mount Kenya and Mount Kilimanjaro.

Latitudes & Longitudes: Most of Africa falls between the Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn. The equator, which is the imaginary line that separates the world into Northern and Southern Hemispheres runs horizontally through the continent. Therefore, the continent has a variety of climates and vegetation (plant life). The prime meridian, which is the imaginary line that separates the world into Eastern and Western Hemispheres runs vertically through Africa. Another imaginary line runs horizontally though Africa – the Equator.

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|  | **Note Taking**  *Use this area to take notes from the reading.* | **Note Making**  *Use this area to make inferences, draw a picture, make predictions, etc.* |
| Paragraph  1 |  |  |
| Paragraph  2 |  |  |
| Paragraph  3 |  |  |
| Paragraph  4 |  |  |
| Paragraph  5 |  |  |