Africa

REGIONS WITHIN AFRICA

Africa is divided into 5 regions:

- Northern Africa
- Western Africa
- Central Africa
- East Africa
- Southern Africa
Africa, the planet’s 2nd largest continent and the second most-populous continent (after Asia) includes (54) individual
countries, and Western Sahara, a member state of the African Union whose statehood is disputed by Morocco. Note
that South Sudan is the continent’s newest country.

With a 2011 population of 1,032,532,974, it accounts for just over 14% of the world’s human population. It also
contains the Nile River system, the world’s longest, and the massive Sahara Desert, the world’s largest.

Africa is surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea to the north, both the Suez Canal and the Red Sea along the Sinai
Peninsula to the northeast, the Indian Ocean to the east and southeast, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west.

**Northern Africa includes:**
1. Algeria
2. Egypt
3. Libya
4. Morocco
5. Sudan
6. South Sudan
7. Tunisia
8. Western Sahara – mostly under Moroccan administration

**Western Africa includes:**
1. Benin
2. Burkina Faso
3. Cape Verde
4. Côte d’Ivoire (Ivory Coast)
5. Gambia
6. Ghana
7. Guinea
8. Guinea-Bissau
9. Liberia
10. Mali
11. Mauritania
12. Niger
13. Nigeria
14. Senegal
15. Sierra Leone
16. Togo

**Central Africa includes:**
1. Angola
2. Cameroon
3. Central African Republic
4. Chad
5. Democratic Republic of the Congo
6. Equatorial Guinea
7. Gabon
8. Republic of the Congo
9. São Tomé and Príncipe
Eastern Africa includes:
1. Burundi
2. Comoros
3. Djibouti
4. Eritrea
5. Ethiopia
6. Kenya
7. Madagascar
8. Malawi
9. Mauritius
10. Mozambique
11. Rwanda
12. Seychelles
13. Somalia
14. Tanzania
15. Uganda
16. Zambia
17. Zimbabwe

Southern Africa includes:
1. Botswana
2. Lesotho
3. Namibia
4. South Africa
5. Swaziland
Many international organizations, foreign governments and textbooks divided Africa into two major regions: North Africa (“Arab Africa”) and Sub-Saharan Africa (“Black Africa”).

The reasons for this division of Africa into two regions were political and cultural. Many outsiders perceived Sub-Saharan Africa as being socially and culturally very different from North Africa. According to this classification, Sub-Saharan Africa is comprised of traditional African cultures and societies and by the “black race.” North Africa, on the other hand, it was argued, is dominated by the Arab culture, language, and “non-black” peoples, who “racially,” culturally and socially are not African, having their roots in western Asia (Middle East).

There are 48 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa:

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<th>Angola</th>
<th>Republic of the Congo</th>
<th>Liberia</th>
<th>Senegal</th>
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