WORLD GEOGRAPHY · 9TH GRADE · DEMO LESSON



Place, People, and Culture

Sub-Saharan Africa

Tenneh Freeman · TEKS WG.2(A), WG.17(A), WG.8(A)

TODAY'S GOAL

I can compare how people in two parts of Sub-Saharan Africa depend on, adapt to, and change their environment.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

When we call a region "the same," what are we actually seeing, and what are we missing?

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FLY WITH ME · GOOGLE EARTH

From space to the ground: what changes?

Stop 1

The Sahel

The dry belt south of the Sahara. Look at the color of the land, the plants, and where people live.

Stop 2

The Congo Basin

A rainforest near the equator. Compare the color, the plants, the roads, and the towns.

What do you notice? What do you wonder?

Open earth.google.com before you start

BORDERS VS. CULTURES

Who drew these lines?

1,000+

Languages

Africa is home to more than 1,000 languages. Many cultural groups live across more than one country.

1884

The Berlin Conference

European powers met to set rules for dividing Africa among themselves. No African leaders were invited.

Think with me: If outsiders drew the borders, where might political borders and cultural boundaries not match? What happens to the people living there?

WORDS WE NEED TODAY

Break the word, find the meaning

sub · sist · ence

sub- = “under” + sist = “stand” → growing just enough food to support your family

de · forest · ation

de- = “remove” + -ation = “the act of” → clearing trees from the land

desert · ific · ation

-ify = “to make” → land slowly becoming desert

COMPARE · PARTNERS · 5 MINUTES

Two sub-regions, two ways of living

West Africa

Coastal rainforest in the south, the dry Sahel in the north. Many languages, including Hausa, Yoruba, and Akan. Farmers grow cassava, yams, and cocoa: Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana are two of the world's largest cocoa growers.

East Africa

Highlands, savanna, and the Great Rift Valley. Swahili connects people across many countries. Farmers grow tea and coffee in the cool highlands, and herders such as the Maasai move cattle across the grasslands.

Depend: People rely on _____. **Adapt:** People adjust by _____. **Modify:** People change the land by _____.

CASE STUDY · 2 MINUTES

Coastal West Africa: farmers clear forest to grow food and cocoa.

What do families gain?
Food, income, school fees

What is lost?
Trees, soil, animal habitat

What else could work?
Ideas that protect both

Is changing the land always negative? Use evidence.

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EXIT TICKET

Before you go

1. Name your sub-region.

2. Give one cultural pattern that makes it distinctive.

3. Explain one way people depend on, adapt to, or change the environment there.

FOR THE PANEL · WHAT HAPPENS TOMORROW

Tonight I sort the exit tickets

Both parts

Extend: add Southern Africa to the comparison with a new Google Earth stop.

One part

Warm-up: sort photo cards by culture or by environment, then explain.

Not yet

Small group revisits one region with a guided organizer before we move on.

Thank you. I'm happy to answer questions.

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