

# **A Living High School Geography: Africa**

A high school geography course by Jill Papsdorf

based on excerpts from

*Geographical Readers for Elementary Schools Book V*  
*The Old and the New World*

originally published in 1884

by

Charlotte M. Mason

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# Introduction

Each day, before you read, you will use an atlas to find locations from the reading and label them on a blank map.

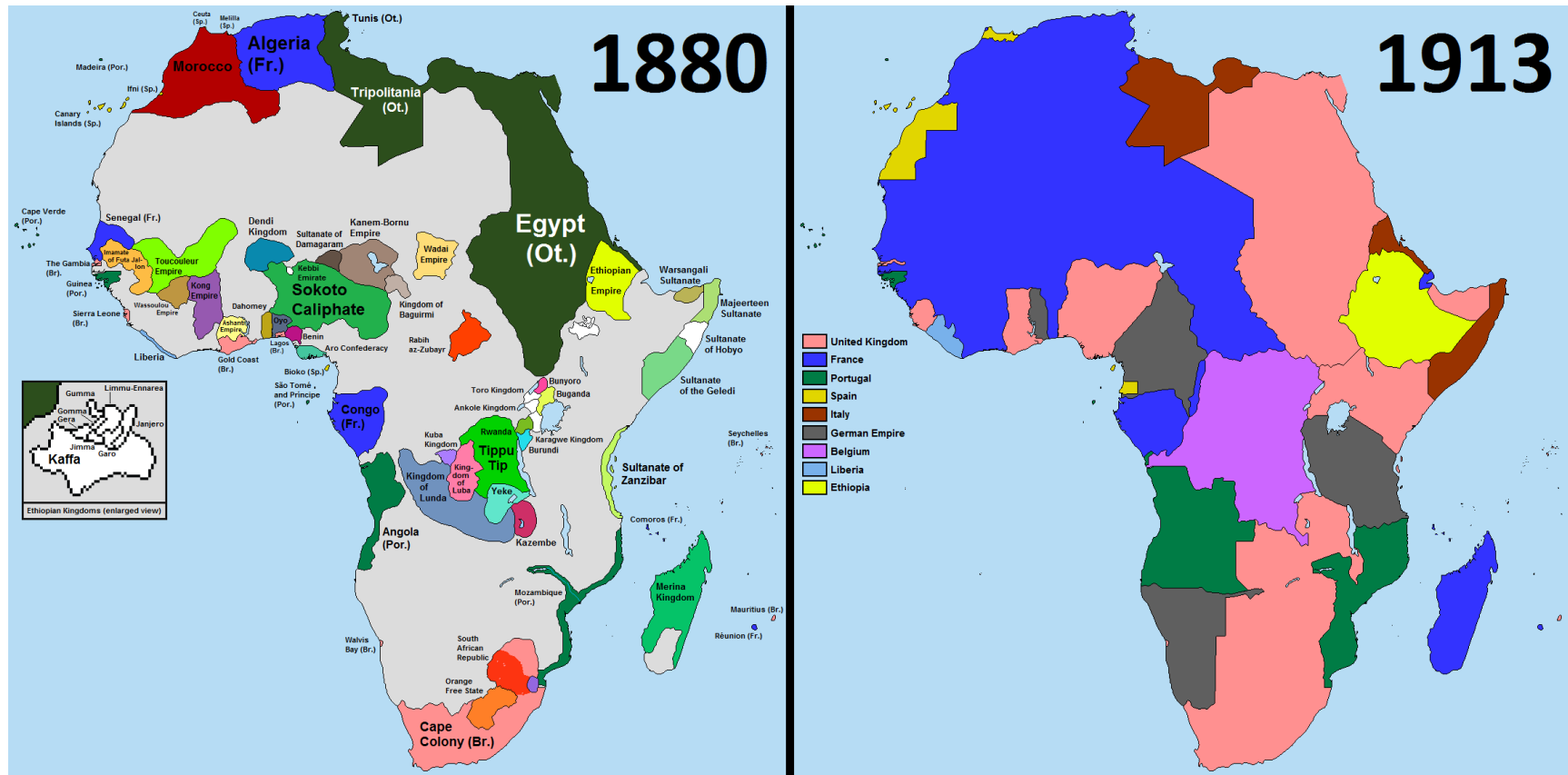
Charlotte Mason wrote her *Geographical Readers* in the 1880s. At that time, Britain ruled over a vast empire which (at its height) was the largest empire in history. The text you will read this year is excerpted from the *Reader* to exclude much of the Victorian-era commentary to allow us to focus on her geographical descriptions. As you read, however, keep in mind the world in which Miss Mason lived, a world of privileged English rulers (almost exclusively white) often living in colonies or territories surrounded by indigenous peoples.

Try to identify the Victorian attitudes of Miss Mason and her contemporaries towards non-Europeans. Consider both how those attitudes have changed and what future people might consider prejudices of our own.

How would the British leaders, political and military, feel about the native people in their territories? How would they justify their continued leadership? How would they ensure they continued in power?

Shortly before the period in which Miss Mason was writing, the British Empire and other European nations were negotiating treaties regarding colonial power in Africa.

This map shows the boundaries in Africa in 1880 compared to the boundaries in 1913.<sup>1</sup> Notice how the entire continent was divided amongst European nations except Liberia, which was affiliated with America, and Ethiopia, which theoretically maintained its independence.



Find **Cape Colony** on the 1880 map.

<sup>1</sup> By davidjl123 / Somebody500 - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=37125742>

# Africa

Draw or label on a map of Africa:

- Suez Canal
- Gulf of Suez
- The Canary Islands
- Ascension Island (draw this on your map)
- Saint Helena Island (draw this on your map)
- Madagascar
- Atlas Mountains
- Mediterranean Sea
- Sahara Desert
- Nile River
- Zambezi River
- Indian Ocean
- Gabon
- Niger River
- Atlantic Ocean
- Cape of Good Hope
- Cape Town, South Africa
- Northern Karroo
- Great Karroo
- Mt Kenya
- Kilimanjaro
- Lake Malawi
- Drakenberg Mountains
- Quelimane, Mozambique
- Kalahari Desert
- Orange River
- Bight of Benin
- Cameroon
- Bioko
- Niger River delta

The **Cape Verde Islands** mentioned in the reading below are so far from the coast of Africa that they are not shown on the map of Africa in many world atlases. To see these islands in the Atlantic Ocean, try the political or physical world map.

Miss Mason compares the plateau of Africa with that of India. Take a minute to find the **Deccan Plateau** on the map of Asia in the atlas.

Compare the shape and outline of Africa with that of Europe. Which has a larger number of peninsulas? Which has a proliferation of smaller islands along the coasts?

Africa is **three** times larger than Europe in terms of land area. What does that mean for the land in the interior of Africa compared to the interior of Europe? In early civilizations, when people traveled mainly by foot (or sometimes horse), water routes generally offered a faster and easier way for different groups of people to interact and to foster trade.

## Definitions:

**Plateau** - In geology and physical geography, a plateau, also called a high plain or a tableland, is an area of a highland, usually consisting of relatively flat terrain, that is raised significantly above the surrounding area, often with one or more sides with steep slopes.

**Verdure** – greenery

**Alpine** (adj) - relating to high mountains

**Bight** - a curve or recess in a coastline, river, or other geographical feature

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*Geographical Readers for Elementary Schools Book V pp. 109-113*

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Africa, which is more than three times the size of Europe, is a vast, unbroken peninsula, hanging on to Asia by the narrow isthmus of Suez,<sup>2</sup> but everywhere else surrounded by the sea.

No other continent presents such unbroken shores to the ocean: look at the map, and you will see that for the whole sixteen thousand miles of coast never an inland sea or far-reaching gulf has broken into the solid mass of the land. No islands fringe the shores. The Canaries, Cape Verd Islands,<sup>3</sup> Ascension, and St. Helena, which are considered as African islands, lie far out in the ocean; and Madagascar has 300 miles of deep sea between it and that continent. [...]

Africa forms in fact a continuation of the belt of high table-lands which stretches across Asia: it is a vast plateau, bordered on all sides by mountain ranges sloping to the sea.

Southern Africa forms a table-land like the much smaller plateau of the Deccan; and raised some 3000 feet above the sea.<sup>4</sup>

“The African Deccan is a little higher and cooler than the Indian one. [...] The soil and general appearance of the country, trees, rivers, and undulating plains, are remarkably alike in both the African and Indian Deccans. But, in Africa, we see patches of fine, long-stapled cotton, nearly equal to the Egyptian [...]

“The contrast between the two countries<sup>5</sup> is, however, very striking. In India the evidence of human labour are everywhere apparent, in roads, bridges, stone walls, ruins of temples, and palaces. In Africa, the whole country looks, for all that man has

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<sup>2</sup> The Suez Canal opened in 1869.

<sup>3</sup> Cape Verde Islands

<sup>4</sup> Miss Mason notes that the following paragraphs are quoted from Dr. Livingstone, but the exact source is unknown.

<sup>5</sup> Africa is a continent; not a country.

done, just as it did when it came from the hands of its Maker. The only roads are footpaths, worn by the feet of the natives, winding from village to village. The huts built here leave no ruins; and the only durable monuments to be met with are mill-stones, worn in the middle, and cairns in the passes of the mountains.”

Northern Africa, between the southern plateau and the mountains of Barbary<sup>6</sup> on the Mediterranean coast, appears to be generally lower, being about a thousand or fifteen hundred feet above the sea-level. Here lies the vast Sahara, the great desert with whose horrors we have been familiar from our earliest years. The presence of sea-sand and sea-shells go to prove that, not in very remote ages, this vast region must have been the bed of an inland sea; and was, probably, so raised by subterranean forces as to tip over the waters which it contained. Let such a sea again penetrate the heart of Africa, and commerce would ply its shores, and moisture-laden breezes would gladden the waste: and to bring about this change, to let in ever so small a sea upon the sandy wastes of the Sahara, is one of the noble dreams of science in our day.

The lowlands of Africa are simply the narrow fringes of the coast, and the huge deltas pushed out to sea by two or three of the great rivers, such as the delta of the Nile on the Mediterranean coast, that of the Zambesi on the Indian Ocean, or of the Ogowai<sup>7</sup> and Niger on the Atlantic.

On the south, the table-land shelves down to the sea in narrow parallel terraces. In its southern extremity at the Cape of Good Hope, the African continent is about 700 miles broad, and ends in three narrow, parallel ridges of mountains, with long valleys, called karroos, between them; these are, in fact, the steps by which the table-land dips down to the low plains of the coast. On the west side the mountains form a high group, and here is Table Mountain (3582 feet),<sup>8</sup> with a flat table-top, and a table-cloth of clouds, which is a well-known landmark for mariners. The karroos are arid deserts in the dry season, but after the rains, they are covered with verdure and the most glorious carpeting of flowers,--delicate heaths, brilliant geraniums, many of the choicest treasures of our hot-houses.

The mountains forming the eastern wall of the great plateau are truly Alpine, the most inland range reaching a height of 10,000 feet; while Kenia<sup>9</sup> and Kilimanjaro are mighty giants of eighteen and twenty thousand feet.

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<sup>6</sup> Barbary here refers to the Berber people. Geographically, it usually refers to land in North Africa, specifically in the modern countries of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya. These are the Atlas Mountains.

<sup>7</sup> Miss Mason is likely referring to the Ogowe River, the largest river in Gabon. It is the fourth largest river in Africa by volume though it may not be labeled in a world atlas.

<sup>8</sup> Table Mountain is a popular tourist attraction near Cape Town, South Africa. Its official elevation is 3,558 ft.

<sup>9</sup> Mt. Kenya



The Livingstone mountains<sup>10</sup> wall in Lake Nyassa,<sup>11</sup> and, further south, the Drakenberg ranges rise, steep and wall-like, facing the Indian Ocean, and leading round to the terraces with form Cape Colony.

Gold is found in masses and grains along the southern tributaries of the Zambesi, and the discovery of this fact tempted the Portuguese to form settlements on the unhealthy shore and along the banks of the river,--Quilimane,<sup>12</sup> Senna,<sup>13</sup> Tette,<sup>14</sup> &c.

The contrast between the eastern and western coasts of South Africa is very striking. Low sandstone ranges separate the southern sandy desert, the Kalahari, from the sandy shore which is equally parched. The Atlantic coast, for 900 miles north of the Orange river, has not a drop of fresh water.

The low coast plains on the Atlantic to the north of this dry region have, however, for the most part, a tropical vegetation. The ground, in many places saturated with water, bears a tangled crop of mangroves and tall reeds; and hot, pestilential vapours hang over these marshes, never disturbed by a breeze. Such are the lowlands reaching north to the plains of Biafra<sup>15</sup> and Benin and the delta of the Niger.

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Miss Mason quotes Dr. Livingstone: "In Africa, the whole country looks, for all that man has done, just as it did when it came from the hands of its Maker." What do you think about this statement?

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<sup>10</sup> The Livingstone Mountains are now generally known as the Kipengere Range.

<sup>11</sup> Lake Malawi

<sup>12</sup> Quelimane, Mozambique

<sup>13</sup> Villa de Senna is along the Zambezi River in Mozambique, which may be too small to be shown in the world atlas.

<sup>14</sup> Tete, Mozambique is on the Zambezi River, which again may be too small to appear in a world atlas.

<sup>15</sup> The Bight of Biafra is also known as the Bight of Bonny. It is the recess in the coastline of Cameroon in which we find the island of Bioko.

## Dr. Livingstone's Discoveries in South Africa and African Village Life

Draw or label on a map of Southern Africa:

- Gaborone, Botswana
- Kalahari Desert
- Okavango Delta
- Makgadikgadi Pans
- Zambezi River
- Chobe River
- Victoria Falls
- Zambezi River Delta
- Lake Malawi
- Shire River
- Lake Chilwa
- South Africa
- Namibia
- Botswana
- Zimbabwe
- Mozambique
- Zambia
- Malawi
- Tanzania

The **Makgadikgadi** is a region of salt lakes that form north of the Kalahari in wet seasons, evaporating without draining to a sea or ocean. It is an important habitat for birds and wildlife.

**Lake Ngami** is probably one of the lakes south of the Okavango Delta.

**Lake Malawi** is known as **Lake Nyassa** in Tanzania and **Lago Niassa** in Mozambique.

This section on African Village Life quotes Dr. Livingstone. As you read, consider how his own prejudices and cultural understanding of the world were a lens through which he saw and described the village life he encountered in Africa. The villages he describes were probably located in the southern part of the modern state of Malawi.

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*Geographical Readers for Elementary Schools Book V pp. 115-121*

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### Dr. Livingstone's Discoveries in South Africa

Foremost amongst the missionaries to whom we owe much of our knowledge of the interior of South Africa is Dr. Livingstone, a man of scientific learning and burning zeal, who crossed the table-land from sea to sea in order to establish missions for the conversion and instruction of the natives, spending nearly forty years of his life in exploring the dark regions of Africa south of the equator, where foot of white man had never trodden.

Dr. Livingstone set out from Kolobeng,<sup>16</sup> the advanced post of the missionaries north from the Cape, and after a month's journey over 300 miles of desert, in great want of water, he came to the banks of the Zouga,<sup>17</sup> a noble and very beautiful river, fringed with fruit-bearing trees, and communicating with Lake Ngami, a lake from fifty to seventy miles in length, which he discovered in 1849.

The country north of Lake Ngami is a dead flat for hundreds of miles, crossed by a perfect labyrinth of rivers; on account of which the region is called by the natives Linoka-noka, or "rivers upon rivers." In many places the meadow-lands are the pasture grounds of the natives, covered with thousands of cattle; but in the forest both horses and cattle fall victims to the tsetse, a poisonous fly fatal to domesticated animals. Here, the traveller's packages must all be borne on the heads of the negroes, for no beast of burden can live in the regions haunted by this terrible pest.

The Zambesi is the great river of this magnificent system, into which all the lesser streams flow, and many of these are great, deep rivers. The natives are quite aware of its importance, since "Zambesi" and the various other names give to it simply mean "the river."<sup>18</sup> After it receives the Chobe, the Zambesi forms one of the most magnificent cataracts known, perhaps finer than Niagara. The river, here 1000 yards broad, suddenly drops into a narrow chasm 300 feet deep, and not more than 25 yards in breadth; and again and again it drops through similar ravines lower down. This magnificent cascade is known as the "Victoria Falls." In some places the river is a mile broad, with islands covered with the richest vegetation of large trees, among which the date palm and the lofty palmyra<sup>19</sup> are the most beautiful. The delta of the Zambesi is 300 miles long, and as large as Scotland.

In 1859, Dr. Livingstone discovered the great freshwater lake Nyassa, which has a length of 250 miles and a width of from 20 to 60 miles. It is not a shallow sheet of water like Lake Ngami, but is of great depth, with water blue as that of the ocean. A range of mountains borders the lake on each side, from which many streams descend. The northern termination of this lake is at present unknown. It lies some 1500 feet above the sea-level, and at the southern end its waters flow off by the river Shiré which carries them to the Zambesi. In the middle of its short course, this river forms a chain of cataracts forty miles long. To the south-east of this magnificent lake, is the much smaller lake Shirwa;<sup>20</sup> and in the highlands between these two lakes was established the

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<sup>16</sup> Kolobeng Mission was established by David Livingstone. It is about 12 miles west of Gaborone, Botswana, and is a National Monument. Not much of the original mission remains.

<sup>17</sup> It is difficult to know where this river is exactly as this name only appears in old accounts of travels rather than modern maps. It seems likely it is part of the Okavango Delta that drains into the Makgadikgadi Pans, which includes Lake Ngami.

<sup>18</sup> Some report the name refers to a group of people who lived along the river.

<sup>19</sup> This is a kind of palm tree.

<sup>20</sup> Lake Chilwa

Universities' Mission, under the lamented Bishop Mackenzie,<sup>21</sup> who feel a victim, as much to his own ardour as the climate.

### **African Village Life<sup>22</sup>**

"After a weary march, we halted at the village of Chitimba. It stands in a woody hollow, among the Manganja hills, and, like all other Manganja<sup>23</sup> villages, is surrounded by an impenetrable hedge of the poisonous euphorbia. This tree casts a deep shade, which would render it difficult for bowmen to take aim at the villagers inside. As strangers are wont to do, we sat down under some fine trees near the entrance of the village. A couple of mats, made of split reeds, were spread for the white men to sit on; and the head man brought a present of a small goat and a basket of meal. The full value in beads and cotton cloth was handed to him in return.

"Meal and peas were then brought for sale. Six yards of blue cotton-cloth, a full dress for man or woman, were produced. Our headman, thinking a part of it was enough for the meal, was going to tear it, when Chitimba remarked that it was a pity to cut such a nice dress for his wife, he would rather bring more meal. 'All right,' said our man, 'but look, the cloth is very wide, so see that the basket which carries the meal be wide too, and add a cock to make it taste nice.' A brisk trade sprang up at once, each being eager to obtain as fine things as his neighbour, and all were in good humour; women and girls began to pound and grind meal, and men and boys chased the screaming fowls over the village until they ran them down.

"The Manganja country is delightfully well watered. The clear, cool, gushing streams are very numerous. The Manganja live in villages, each of which has its own headman, and he may be ruler over several villages. The people are regarded as his children. All the petty chiefs of a particular portion of country give a sort of allegiance to a paramount chief, called the rondo. They are bound to pay him a small annual tribute, and one of the tusks of every elephant killed; and it is his duty in return to assist and protect them when attacked by an enemy. [...]

"The sites of the villages are selected with judgment and good taste, as a flowing stream is always near, and shady trees grow around. The Boala, or spreading-place, is generally at one end of the village; it is a plot, an area of some twenty or

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<sup>21</sup> Bishop Charles Mackenzie was the first missionary bishop (Anglican) to Nyassaland, now Malawi. He died of a complication of malaria in 1862.

<sup>22</sup> This section is an extended quote of David Livingstone, from an unknown source.

<sup>23</sup> The Mang'anja people speak a dialect of the Nyanja language and live in the Shire Valley in southern Malawi. Some sources indicate Livingstone here is describing the Makololo or Kololo people. The Makololo people seem to be the ones that wore the pelele as described below.

thirty yards, made smooth and neat, near the favourite banyan and other trees, which throw a grateful shade over it. Here the men sit at various sorts of work during the day, and smoke tobacco and bang; and here, on the clear, delicious, moonlight nights, they sing and dance.

“The Manganja are an industrious race; and in addition to working in iron, cotton, and basket-making, they cultivate the soil extensively. All the people of a village turn out to labour in the fields. It is no uncommon thing to see men, women, and children hard at work, with a baby lying close by beneath a shady bush.

“Maize<sup>24</sup> is grown all the year round, and almost every family owns a cotton patch which, from the entire absence of weeds, seems to be carefully cultivated. Everywhere we met with it, and scarcely ever entered a village without finding a number of men cleaning[,] spinning, and weaving.

“Iron ore is dug out of the hills, and its manufacture is the staple trade of the southern highlands. Each village has its smelting house, its charcoal burners, and blacksmiths. They make good axes, spears, needles, arrow-heads, bracelets, and anklets. In village near Lake Shirwa and elsewhere, the inhabitants make crockery, or pottery, making by hand all sorts of cooking, water, and grain pots. Some find employment in weaving neat baskets from split bamboos, and others make fish-nets. A great deal of native trade is carried on between the villages by means of barter, in tobacco, salt, dried fish, skins, and iron.

“ [...] The men take a good deal of pride in the arrangement of their hair, and the varieties of style are endless. One trains his long locks until they take the admired form of the buffalo’s horns; others prefer to let their hair hang in a thick coil down their backs like that animal’s tail; while another wears it in stiff twisted cords, which radiate from the head in all directions. [...] The Manganja adorn their bodies extravagantly, wearing rings on their fingers and thumbs, besides throatlets, bracelets, and anklets of brass, copper, or iron.

“But the most wonderful adornment, if such it can be called, is the pelele, or upper-lip ring of the women. The middle of the upper lip of the girls is pierced, and a small pin inserted to prevent the puncture closing up. After it has healed, the pin is taken out, and a larger one is pressed into its place, and so on successively, for weeks, and months, and years, until at last a ring, the size of a napkin ring, can be introduced with ease. All the highland women wear the pelele, and it is common on the Upper and Lower Shiré. The poorer classes wear them of bamboo, but the wealthier of ivory, or tin. [...] When an old wearer of a bamboo ring smiles, the nose is seen through the middle of the ring, and the lip

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<sup>24</sup> This is likely to be a kind of grain native to Africa, rather than Indian corn from the Americas.

is thrown above the eyebrows. 'Why do the women wear these things?' we inquired of an old chief. 'For beauty, to be sure!' was the answer."

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## Dr. Livingstone on the Condition of South Africa

Draw or label on a map of Southern Africa:

- Zanzibar
- Lake Chilwa
- Lake Malawi
- Zambezi River
- Victoria Falls
- Tanzania
- Lake Tanganyika
- Mozambique
- Malawi
- Zambia
- South Africa
- Namibia
- Botswana
- Zimbabwe

This chapter quotes Dr. Livingstone from *Expedition on the Zambesi*.

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*Geographical Readers for Elementary Schools Book V pp. 121-124*

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“Dr. Kirk very properly divides the year into three seasons, a cold, a hot, and a rainy season. The cold period lasts through May, June, and July; the hot prevails in August, September, and October. The rains may be expected during the remaining months of the year.

“At the end of the hot season, everything is dry and dusty; the atmosphere is loaded with blue haze, and very sultry. After the rains begin, the face of the country changes with surprising rapidity. The landscape is bathed in a perfect flood of light, and a delightful sense of freshness is given from everything in the morning, before the glare of noon overpowers the eye. The young foliage comes out brown, pale red, or pink, as well as delicate green; and many trees bear beauteous blossoms.

“Myriads of wild bees are busy from morning till night. Insects of all sorts are now in full force; brilliant butterflies flit from flower to flower, with the charming little sun-birds which represent the hummingbirds of America; while the volume of sweet sounds poured forth from many a throbbing throat makes an African Christmas seem like an English May.

“It appears strange to have Christmas come in such a cheerful bright season as this... [...]

“Would that we could give any description of the horrors of the slave trade! Let us state what we know of one portion of Africa. We were informed by the Consul at Zanzibar that 19,000 slaves from this Nyassa country alone, pass annually through the custom-house of that island. Let it not be supposed for an instant that this number, 19,000, represents all the victims. We never realized the atrocious nature of the traffic until we saw it at its fountain-head. Besides those

actually captured, thousands are killed and die of their wounds and famine, driven from their villages by the slave raid. Thousands perish in war waged for slaves with their own clansmen and neighbours, slain by the lust of gain fostered by the slave purchasers of Cuba and elsewhere. The many skeletons we have seen amongst rocks and woods, by the little pools, and among the paths of the wilderness, attest the awful sacrifice of human life.

“We confess that we do not attempt to describe the productions of the country with that fulness they deserve, nor with that hopeful heartiness we once felt. Nor do we cite the discoveries of Lakes Shirwa<sup>25</sup> and Nyassa,<sup>26</sup> or the patient examination of the Zambesi to a point beyond the Victoria Falls, or other important geographical feats, with any degree of pride. These were all apart from our main design. What we have seen of the slave trade has cast a gloom over all: the natural beauties of the country are all associated with human sorrow and woe.

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<sup>25</sup> Lake Chilwa

<sup>26</sup> Lake Malawi



## The Discoveries of Captains Burton, Speke, Grant, Etc.

Draw or label on a map of Africa:

- Zanzibar (island)
- Pangani River (you may need to look this up online)
- Lake Tanganyika
- Lake Victoria
- Sources of the Nile
- Mountain Nile
- White Nile
- Blue Nile
- Nile River (after Blue and White converge)
- Mediterranean Sea
- Juba, South Sudan
- Lake Albert
- Ujiji, Tanzania
- Lake Kivu
- Kasongo, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Kindu, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Congo River
- Boma, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Tanzania
- Zambia
- Burundi
- Rwanda
- Uganda
- Kenya
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (also often called DR Congo or the DRC)
- Republic of Congo (Congo)
- Central African Republic
- Gabon
- Equatorial Guinea
- Sao Tome & Principe

If you are interested in learning more about the journeys of Sir Richard Francis Burton and Captain John Hanning Speke, many of their own writings are available inexpensively for e-readers.

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*Geographical Readers for Elementary Schools Book V pp. 125-128*

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While Dr. Livingstone was making these remarkable discoveries, Captains Burton<sup>27</sup> and Speke<sup>28</sup> returned from a journey they made from Zanzibar into the interior of tropical Africa more to the north. They ascended the river Pangany<sup>29</sup> for 120 miles through an unhealthy but rich and rather well cultivated plain, and crossed the broad coast chain of mountains. The interior, at first poor, soon became a luxuriant country, in which tobacco, cotton, and various useful plants are cultivated by a peaceful race of negroes who possess abundance of cows and goats, and know how to manufacture both iron and cotton.

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<sup>27</sup> Sir Richard Francis Burton

<sup>28</sup> John Hanning Speke

<sup>29</sup> Pangani River, the mouth of which is in Tanzania near Zanzibar Island.

On going into the interior, the travellers discovered Lake Tanganyika, whose position had been pretty accurately described by the natives to Dr. Livingstone. It abounds in good fish, and, as the tsetse fly does not infest this part of Africa, its banks are browsed by the red oxen that are common throughout the country.

At a distance of 200 miles of very lofty mountainous country north-west from Lake Tanganyika, Captain Speke came to a great fresh-water lake, since called the Victoria Nyanza,<sup>30</sup> between 3000 and 4000 feet above the level of the sea, which he believed to be the true source of the Nile, and which he afterwards revisited in company with Captain Grant.<sup>31</sup> On this latter memorable expedition, the two travellers traversed this region of Equatorial Africa from Zanzibar to the upper waters of the Nile, coming out at last on the Mediterranean, in the month of June, 1863. They skirted the western shores of the lake, but seldom sighted its waters, and then struck across for the White Nile.

They were informed by the natives that this stream entered, not far to the west, a second great lake before it appears as the Nile. Regretting that he was unable himself to visit this second lake, Captain Speke on his arrival at Gondokoro<sup>32</sup> recommended Sir Samuel Baker, who had come up the Nile bringing succor to the expedition, to endeavour to reach it. The advice was taken, and the result was the discovery of the Albert Nyanza,<sup>33</sup> a still grander sheet of water than the Victoria, lying in a deep trough amid lofty mountains and glorious Alpine scenery.

Discovery is still making vigorous progress, but we have not space to describe the doings of later explorers. The most interesting discoveries, perhaps, are those of Mr. Stanley,<sup>34</sup> who was sent out to search for Livingstone. In March, 1867, news reached England that the great missionary had been murdered; the news proved false, and, about a year after, a letter from himself arrived at Edinburgh, stating that he had been robbed of everything and was in great need of help. Mr. Stanley undertook to find him, and was provided with funds for the enterprise by the proprietors of an American newspaper.

He landed at Zanzibar, pushed inwards through endless jungles and a wide forest country hitherto untrodden by white men, and found the Doctor at Ujiji, on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, looking terribly ill and wasted from the effects of fever and fatigue.

In 1874, Dr. Livingstone's remains received the honour of a place in Westminster Abbey; and, in the same year, Stanley set out to continue the explorations left unfinished by the death of the great missionary. He circumnavigated the Victoria Nyanza, and found its outlet at the north, which is generally considered the true source of the Nile, though that

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<sup>30</sup> Lake Victoria

<sup>31</sup> James Augustus Grant

<sup>32</sup> Gondokoro was a trading station on the White Nile. It is near the modern city of Juba, South Sudan.

<sup>33</sup> Lake Albert

<sup>34</sup> Henry Stanley

honour probably belongs to the longest of the rivers—yet to be explored—which flow into the lake.

Having sailed to the south of the Victoria Lake, Mr. Stanley did not return to Uganda, but travelled southward through a lovely country of mountain and lake. A new lake, called the Alexander Nyanza<sup>35</sup> (Nyanza means lake), was discovered: and west of that, all the way to the sea, is a vast unexplored country, supposed to be full of lakes and rivers.

Having been successful with the Victoria, Stanley next circumnavigated the great Lake Tanganyika, in order to discover its outlet. In this he was not successful; he found what he took to be the outlet in the Lukuga Creek;<sup>36</sup> but the lake appears to be subject to a mysterious rise and fall of its waters, which has not yet been satisfactorily explained.<sup>37</sup>

Crossing the lake, he made for Nyangwe<sup>38</sup> on the Congo, or, as it is now called, the Livingstone river, down which he journeyed until he reached Boma, at its mouth, worn out with the perils of the way; for he had found the natives far less gentle and friendly than those described by Livingstone. The Congo is supposed to be about 3000 miles in length, and near its mouth it is five or six miles broad, studded with islands, and very deep. Its basin, yet unexplored, offers a field for future adventurous travellers.

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<sup>35</sup> It is not clear which lake is meant.

<sup>36</sup> This creek flows northward from Lake Tanganyika toward Lake Kivu.

<sup>37</sup> The outflow of Lake Tanganyika is intermittent based on seasonal and long-term climate conditions.

<sup>38</sup> Nyangwe was a town located roughly between modern day Kasongo and Kindu in Democratic Republic of the Congo. At the time of Stanley's journey, it was an important trading city for Arabs (goods like ivory but also slaves).

# Abyssinia

Draw or label on a map of Africa:

- White Nile
- Blue Nile
- Red Sea
- Lake Tana
- Gonder, Ethiopia
- Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Great Rift Valley
- Ethiopian Highlands
- Somali Peninsula
- Gulf of Aden
- Indian Ocean
- Ethiopia
- Sudan
- South Sudan
- Eritrea
- Djibouti
- Somalia
- Somaliland (which claims independence but is not internationally recognized; draw this onto your map)

## Definitions:

**promontory** - a point of high land that juts out into a large body of water; a headland.

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*Geographical Readers for Elementary Schools Book V pp. 129-132*

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Abyssinia, the ancient Ethiopia,<sup>39</sup> is a country of highlands which skirts the Red Sea, and is about three times the size of England.<sup>40</sup> It is a sort of promontory of the great southern table-land, with a steep mountain edge on the east about 8000 feet in height. No rivers break through this eastern wall, all the Abyssinian tributaries of the Nile flowing westward. Snow-clad mountains, high as the highest of the Alps, are scattered over the surface of the lofty plateau; and it is the melting of the snows which fills to overflowing the channels of the Nile, and causes the fertilizing floods which bless the land of Egypt. Towards the west of the plateau lies the beautiful lake of Dembea,<sup>41</sup> forty miles long, the reservoir of the Blue Nile. It lies at an elevation of 6000 feet above the sea, and from its south-eastern corner the Blue Nile escapes by a narrow opening, passing through Senaar<sup>42</sup> on its way to the White Nile.

Like Mexico, Abyssinia is divided into three belts of quite different climate, the low, the middle, and the high.

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<sup>39</sup> Ethiopia was known for a time (mainly by English-speakers) as Abyssinia but its modern official name is Ethiopia (or the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia).

<sup>40</sup> Modern Ethiopia is about five times the size (in square miles) as Kansas.

<sup>41</sup> Lake Tana

<sup>42</sup> Miss Mason refers to a region that is part of modern-day Sudan.

The lower skirt of the plateau, which is higher than our highest British mountains, has a warm climate and luxuriant vegetation – cotton and sugar-cane, coffee and bananas, -- and abounds in the larger wild animals of Africa.

The middle belt, which reaches the height of 9000 feet, has a climate like that of Italy, and is rich in grain and fruits. The high belt, which reaches to 14,000 feet, has a cool climate, with snow on the mountain-tops; and here oxen, goats, and long-woolled sheep find abundant pasturage.

The people appear to prefer the higher parts of the plateau, the low-lying skirts being but thinly peopled... [...]

The Falasha are a people of Abyssinia, having a language and traditions of their own. They are Jews, and the account that they give of their origin is that they came from Jerusalem along with a son of Solomon, and the queen of Sheba. When the Abyssinians renounced Judaism for Christianity, the Falasha adhered to their ancient faith, and they still boast that they are governed by a prince of the house of Judah.<sup>43</sup> [...]

The Abyssinians, on their conversion to Christianity, received the doctrines of the Greek Church, their first bishop being ordained by St. Athanasius, about A.D. 333. [...]

Magdala, which was stormed by the British in 1868, is one of these mountain fortresses. The capital is Gondar,<sup>44</sup> pleasantly placed on the slope of the mountains which descend to Lake Dembea. The houses are chiefly of clay, with pointed thatched roofs – the common style of building within the tropical rains...

Small blocks of salt, brought up from the lowlands, pass as a money currency all over the country.<sup>45</sup> [...]

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<sup>43</sup> The curated list of current online articles provides more information on Ethiopian Jews.

<sup>44</sup> The capital of Ethiopia is now Addis Ababa. (Gondar is now spelled Gonder in English atlases.)

<sup>45</sup> The Ethiopian birr is the currency of modern Ethiopia. In June 2019, 1 US dollar could be exchanged for about 28 birrs.

## Egypt Part I

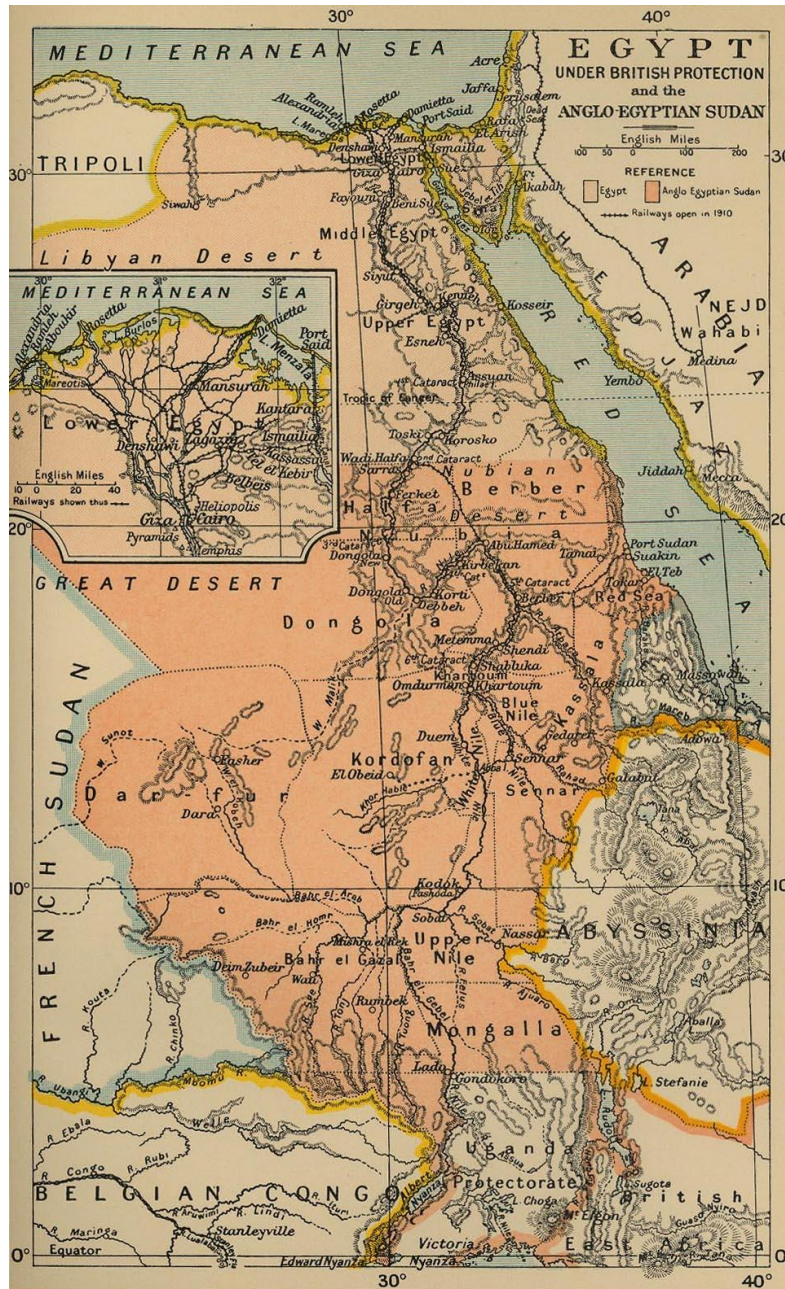
Draw or label on a map of Africa:

- Mediterranean Sea
- Nile River
- Atbara River
- Red Sea
- Darfur
- Nubian Desert
- Western Desert
- Berber, Sudan
- Khartoum, Sudan
- Blue Nile
- White Nile
- Cairo, Egypt
- Egypt
- Sudan
- South Sudan
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia

The historical map on the following page is of Egypt under British Protection and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.<sup>46</sup> This is the Egypt Miss Mason knew.

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<sup>46</sup> Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=563075>



Find on this historical map:

- Lower Egypt
- Middle Egypt
- Upper Egypt
- Berber
- Nubian Desert
- Khartoum
- Abyssinia
- Kardofan



[...] In Egypt Proper, the marvelously fertile delta and banks of the Nile are shut in on both sides by arid deserts. This is a rainless region, except that a few showers occur in the course of the year along the coast of the delta: but from the coast southwards as far as the junction of the Atbara with the Nile, the excessive drought and heat produce a desert waste, broken only by the narrow strip of glorious fertility which borders the Nile. The cultivable land does not include more than a twentieth part of even Lower Egypt – just the district covered by the annual floodings of the Nile. But here, far and wide over the level delta wave fields of wheat and rice, sugar-cane, cotton, and indigo; or rich pastures spread, whereon feed cattle and asses, sheep and goats.

Nubia,<sup>47</sup> the middle region, consists of desert to the north, and grassy steppes in the centre, while the rich vegetation of the tropics marks the south. Millet is the cultivated grain of all the southern tropical region. Here are jungles for the rhinoceros; crocodiles and hippopotami swarm in the rivers, while the graceful giraffe and the elephant abound in the park-like glades, the last affording the ivory which is the great object of trade in this region. The town of Berber is little but a collection of mud huts, surrounded by acacias and palms. It is the starting place of a caravan route to the Red Sea. The Egyptian Soudan is a well-watered region, becoming more and more fertile and productive towards the south, and merging in a forest region as it enters the equatorial belt.

Khartoum is the capital of the Egyptian Soudan;<sup>48</sup> it is situated on the Blue Nile, close to its confluence with the White Nile. It has, perhaps, 30,000 inhabitants,<sup>49</sup> and is the great trading place for Central Africa, and for the equatorial lake districts. Caravans with ivory, ebony, and ostrich feathers are sent over the desert to Cairo; these, and grain, cotton, gum, to be exchanged for European goods, render Khartoum a place of great commercial importance; and the railroad to Shendy<sup>50</sup> which was at one time projected, would make it still busier as a trading place.

Kardofan,<sup>51</sup> a country of wide plains covered with high brown grass, has been recently brought under Egyptian rule; as has also Darfur, another unfruitful land except when the rains clothe it with rich pasture. [...]

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<sup>47</sup> You will read more of Nubia in your curated articles.

<sup>48</sup> Khartoum is the capital of modern Sudan. The region Miss Mason calls Egyptian Soudan became an independent nation (of both Britain and Egypt) in 1956. South Sudan split from Sudan in 2011, though there remains a great deal of unrest. You can read more of South Sudan in your curated articles.

<sup>49</sup> Khartoum had a population of 1,974,647 in 2019.

<sup>50</sup> probably Shendi, Ethiopia

<sup>51</sup> This is a region of Sudan between Darfur and the White Nile River valley.



## Egypt Part II and Egypt Part III

Draw or label on a map of Africa:

- Port Said, Egypt
- Mediterranean Sea
- Suez, Egypt
- Suez Canal
- Sinai Peninsula
- Red Sea
- Alexandria, Egypt
- Gulf of Aden

Miss Mason has quoted Edwin de Leon's *The Khedive's Egypt* for much of this section. If you are interested, you can find this book online at Archive.org.<sup>52</sup>

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"On the fourth morning after leaving Malta, at sunrise we sighted the lighthouse of Port Saïd, on the low flat shore which there meets the Mediterranean.

"A few years ago, and this spot, now occupied by piles of buildings, surrounded by blooming gardens, filled with green trees and tropical flowers, was but a barren sandy waste. But with the opening of the canal, the desert was made to blossom as the rose, the sea was driven back, a safe harbor was created, in which great ships might safely ride, and the twin towns of Port Saïd and Ismaïlia (the one at the Mediterranean mouth, the other at the central point of the new water-way)<sup>53</sup> sprang into sudden and lusty life.

"We spent only a few hours at Ismaïlia, and then took the railway, *viâ* Zagazig,<sup>54</sup> to Cairo, a most dusty and fatiguing journey of about seven hours. [...]

"For more than half the way after Ismaïlia, we journeyed through the desert, the most bare, bleak, and dreary scene the eye of man can rest upon, an arid, shrubless waste of ever-shifting sand. [...]

"The latter half of our journey to Cairo was very agreeable: we had reached the cultivated region, and our way lay through the flat garden-like country with its eternal carpet of verdure in patches of different shades, presenting the appearance of a vast farm from the absence of trees. [...]

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<sup>52</sup> <https://archive.org/details/khedivesegyptoro00delerich/page/n7>

<sup>53</sup> Ismaïlia is a city on the west bank of the Suez Canal, about half-way between Port Said (on the Mediterranean Sea) and Suez (on the Red Sea).

<sup>54</sup> Zagazib is a city of the delta region of Egypt.

[...] The Nile is the life of Egypt. Every year it brings down rich deposits from Abyssinia and regions yet unexplored, which it spreads over the Delta, making it an exhaustless granary and storehouse of food for man.[...]

For more than thirty years past, Alexandria has been, in fact, a European, and not an Eastern city[...] It is still a busy port, though less so than before the opening of the Suez Canal, and it has been improved of late, like Cairo, by the erection of blocks of stone buildings like those of Paris. There is now an air of freshness and bustle about the place, unlike the drowsy aspect of former days.

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## Up the Nile

Draw or label on a map of Northern Africa:

- Cairo, Egypt
- Giza, Egypt
- Luxor, Egypt
- Nile River
- Nile River Delta
- Aswan, Egypt
- Western Desert
- Eastern Desert

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Modern Egypt has an interest of its own; but it is the Egypt of the past which every year draws crowds of visitors to explore the shores of the Nile; for Egypt contains perhaps the most ancient historical monuments in the world.

Crossing the river from Cairo, we come to Ghizeh<sup>55</sup> and its wonderful Pyramids, which stand in full view before the visitor as soon as he leaves the town. The air is so pure and the plain so level, that they do not appear two miles off though the distance is more than five.

The Pyramid of Cheops,<sup>56</sup> the most northerly of the group, is that usually ascended by travellers. It has been stripped of the triangular casing stones, so that its exterior presents a vast series of broken steps. Each step is about four feet high, and up these the visitor must clamber who would reach the summit[...]<sup>57</sup>

The manner in which these immense buildings were constructed, and the means by which the vast blocks of almost impenetrable stone were worked and placed at different heights with wonderful exactness, are even now unknown. The chambers of the interior are reached through a long, low, narrow passage, leading from the entrance. [...]

A turn of the river carries us into a very lonely scene; a long series of sandbanks on one side and pyramids on the other, both backed by distant hills, are all that meet the eye for many miles. The number of these remarkable monuments is greater than is usually imagined. The pyramids of Middle and of Lower Egypt are thirty-nine in number, and from north to south, they stretch over a space of fifty-three miles. The world can show no antiquities so old as the Pyramids: they were ancient to the nations we consider the most ancient. Joseph and Moses must have looked upon them.

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<sup>55</sup> Giza

<sup>56</sup> Cheops was the name known to the Greeks. He is also called Khufu. The pyramid is often called the Great Pyramid of Giza.

<sup>57</sup> It is now illegal to climb to the top of the Great Pyramid.

In the long, slow sail up the Nile, you have more to amuse you than the broad stream, the flat and fertile plain, the fringing palms, [...] and the queer rafts, laden with thousands of water-jars: these are interesting enough, but they are soon forgotten by the traveller in the greater interest of the ancient cities whose ruins are scattered on either bank. In one wonderful group he comes upon Thebes, Karnac,<sup>58</sup> and Luxor, containing perhaps the most stupendous monuments of the past that the words affords.

The vast towers of Karnac are the first to come in sight, about a mile and a half from the river; then Luxor is seen – dwelling-houses and ruins strangely mingled. Luxor is now the principal town of the group; its name is derived from El-Uksor, or *the palaces*, in allusion to the noble ruins.

On the opposite bank is “the hundred-gated Thebes,” the city which was the boast of ancient Egypt for its crowded temples and palaces. [...]

In its course through Nubia, the Nile is interrupted by several cataracts, and then flows quietly northward through the desert to its delta on the Mediterranean, receiving no supplies from rain or tributary streams for 1200 miles. Its last tributary is the Atbara, “the Terrible,” which rises in the gorges of the Abyssinian<sup>59</sup> highlands. Higher up, the main stream is joined by the Blue Nile, also from Abyssinia. The White Nile has not yet been traced beyond its great reservoir, the Victoria Nyanza.<sup>60</sup> The Ripon and Murchison Falls, and other cataracts, interrupt its upper course. The river continues to rise from June until November, and then continues to fall until May. [...]

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<sup>58</sup> Karnak

<sup>59</sup> Ethiopian

<sup>60</sup> Lake Victoria

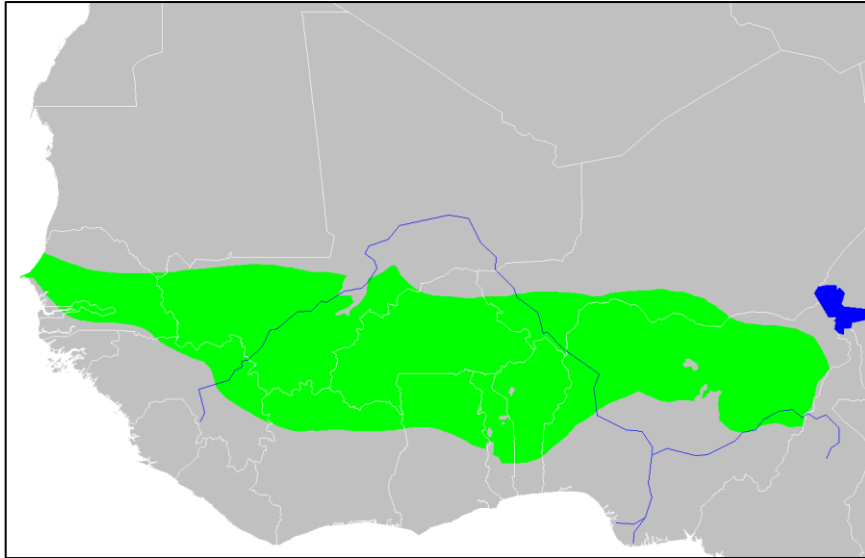
# The Soudan

Draw or label on a map of Africa:

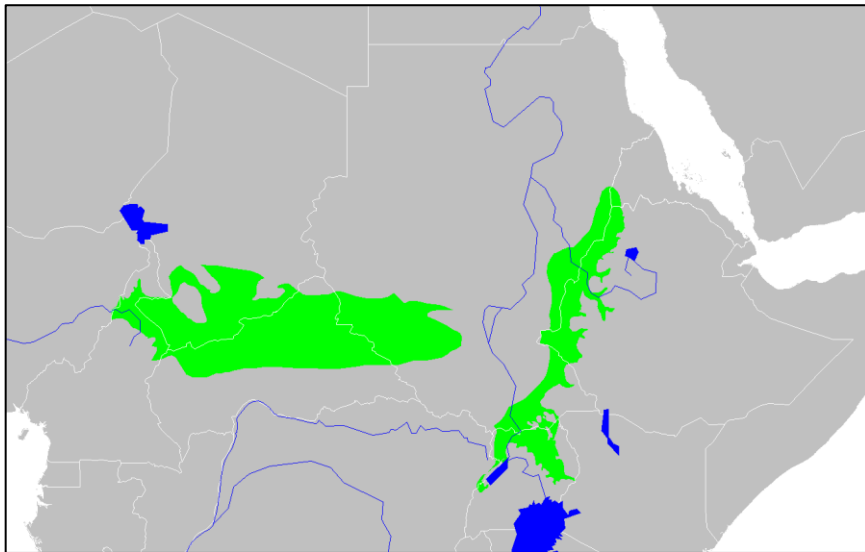
- Sahara Desert
- Lake Chad
- Timbuktu, Mali
- Niger River
- Source of the Niger River
- Niger River Delta
- Senegal River
- Gambia River
- Banjul, The Gambia
- Freetown, Sierra Leone
- Liberia
- Cape Coast, Ghana
- Kumasi, Ghana
- White Volta River
- Black Volta River
- Abomey, Benin
- Lagos, Nigeria
- Atlantic Ocean
- Benue River
- Calabar, Nigeria
- Lake Volta
- Sanaga River
- Upper Guinea
- Gulf of Guinea
- Chad
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Burkina Faso
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Senegal
- Gambia
- Guinea-Bissau
- Guinea
- Sierra Leone
- Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)
- Ghana
- Togo
- Benin
- Cameroon

**Soudan** is the historical spelling of Sudan, used here to indicate a region in Africa rather than the country of Sudan. Take a few minutes to look at the area of the Sudanian Savannah on the maps following. Compare them to your map of Africa and the map in the atlas.

Here is a map of the Western Sudanian Savannah.<sup>61</sup>



Here is a map of the Eastern Sudanian Savannah.<sup>62</sup>



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<sup>61</sup> By Altatoron – Own work, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3816727>

<sup>62</sup> By Altatoron - Own work, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3816679>

In today's reading, Miss Mason refers to "Mohammedans." In her day, this term referred to anyone who practiced the faith of Islam. **Islam** is a monotheistic religion that was founded in the 7th century CE by Muhammad. All of its teachings and beliefs are written out in the Quran (also spelled Qur'an or Koran), the holy scripture of **Islam**. Believers of **Islam** are called **Muslims**. We no longer use the word "Mohammedan," but you may remember encountering it in other readings. Islam continues to be an important religion in many of the countries of Africa.

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*Soudan* [...] stretches from sea to sea across the continent between the Sahara and the southern table-land. A great part of this region is yet unexplored, and our knowledge is confined to those parts which have been crossed from time to time by adventurous travellers.

A great part of the Soudan, which contains many kingdoms and trading towns, is very fertile country. The abundance of water from lakes and rivers and the tropical rains, together with the tropical heat, make it an easy task for the industrious natives to produce crops of rice, millet, and other grains sufficient for their wants [...] Gold is found in the river courses, and elephants abound in the forest [...]

In the very centre of this fine country lies Lake Chad, almost like a sea, and receiving many large rivers: here is the trading town of Kábara,<sup>63</sup> and here is the city of Timbuctu,<sup>64</sup> the wonderful city "paved with gold," the scene of many a nursery tale, and which really is a busy trading city [...]

Across all the central basin of the Niger, and far to the east, into the unknown regions of Central Africa, extend the states which have been formed by the Hausa<sup>65</sup> peoples, the most intelligent of all the races of the Soudan, and the most zealous Mohammedans.<sup>66</sup> Timbuctu is their best-known city.

Senegambia is the name given to the coast regions watered by the Senegal and Gambia rivers [...]

The greater part of the Gambia river, which is navigable for 300 miles from the sea, is in the hands of the British, who have the important little colony of Bathurst<sup>67</sup> at the mouth of the river, and several stations higher up.

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<sup>63</sup> Kabara, Mali is a small town on the Niger River which serves as the port for Timbuktu.

<sup>64</sup> Timbuktu, Mali

<sup>65</sup> Hausa.

<sup>66</sup> The Hausa today are still mostly Muslim.

<sup>67</sup> Banjul, The Gambia

Sierra Leone, the “lion hill,” three days’ voyage south of the Gambia, forms part of the same colony. Here, on the slope of hills 2500 feet high and clothed with rich verdure, is Freetown, the capital of the colony. Founded by English philanthropists, Sierra Leone was a refuge for slaves captured by our vessels along the coast [...]

The trade of the Senegal is chiefly in the gums yielded by the acacia forests which cover the country north of the river; farther south, the foreign factories trade in palm-oil, from which the greater part of our soap is made at home, and in hides and wax.

Going south along the coast, we come to the [...] republic of Liberia – the land of the freed. In 1822 a grant of land on this part of the African coast was obtained, with a view to settling here the freed slaves [...] The new colony flourished so far that, in course of time, it proclaimed itself a republic on the model of that of the United States: but the [...] republic is not flourishing as greatly as was expected.

[...] Of all the many plants which cover the soil, the oil-palm is the most valuable, and its bunches of red and yellow fruit often have a thousand oil-yielding plums in each, the bunch weighing in some cases half a hundredweight. Dye-woods, ebony, and gum-trees, coffee, sugar, and cocoa flourish here.

Passing by the Ivory Coast [...] we come to the Gold Coast of Guinea,<sup>68</sup> which is now entirely in the hands of the British. It consists of a coast plain reaching inland for 300 miles, and backed by forest-covered hills. It is rich in the oil-palm [...] The chief British station is that of Cape Coast Castle,<sup>69</sup> named from its great church-like fort on the water’s edge [...]

Behind the Gold Coast lie the lands of the warlike [...] people called the Ashantees,<sup>70</sup> the greater part of whose country consists of forest jungle. The king used to dwell at Coomassie,<sup>71</sup> a large city before it was destroyed by the British forces in the war of 1872.

To the west of the river Volta lies the famous negro kingdom of Dahomey [...] In the walled town of Abomey dwells the fierce king, guarded by his Amazons – an army of terrible *women*-soldiers.

A little further on is the town of Lagos, belonging to Britain; it is the most considerable seaport of all this part of West Africa, in regular communication with Liverpool by steamers, which carry home cargoes of palm-oil and cotton, of which there is an unfailing supply.

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<sup>68</sup> Ghana

<sup>69</sup> Cape Coast, Ghana

<sup>70</sup> Also known as Ashanti, Ashante, Asanti, and Asante.

<sup>71</sup> Kumasi, Ghana



Next we reach the dead levels of the Niger delta, the twenty-two chief channels of which are separated by mangrove-covered swamps. The navigation of the Niger, the establishment of which cost many lives from fevers and attacks by the natives on its banks, is now regularly carried on by six or seven steamers which ascend from the Atlantic to the factories at the confluence of the Benue,<sup>72</sup> and even higher up the main river, exchanging European goods for ivory and palm-oil. These vessels, however, require to be well armed. The town of Abo<sup>73</sup> at the head of the delta is in the very centre of the oil region. Lokoja<sup>74</sup> is also an important trading town, where the negro Bishop Crowther has a mission station.

Beyond the Niger delta are the estuaries of the Old Calabar<sup>75</sup> and Cameroons<sup>76</sup> rivers, which have been called the “oil rivers” of West Africa, from the enormous supply brought down them to the coast. Here the European traders live in hulks anchored in the rivers which serve as shops where all kinds of European goods are bartered for the oil which is melted down and stored for shipment in sheds on the shore.

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<sup>72</sup> Benue River

<sup>73</sup> Abo, Nigeria, is located near the Niger Delta.

<sup>74</sup> Lokoja, Nigeria, is located at the confluence of the Niger River and the Benue River.

<sup>75</sup> The Calabar River flows past Calabar, Nigeria.

<sup>76</sup> There is no river called Cameroons; perhaps Miss Mason meant the possessive: Cameroon’s rivers.

## The Soudan (continued)

Draw or label on a map of Africa:

- Congo River
- Skeleton Coast, along the shore of Namibia
- Luanda, Angola
- Cape Gwardafuy (Somalia)
- Ethiopian Highlands
- Zanzibar Island
- Cape Delgado
- Maputo Bay (Baia de Maputo)
- Maputo, Mozambique
- Quelimane, Mozambique
- Lake Malawi
- Blantyre, Malawi
- Zambezi River
- Shire River (draw this on your map)
- Lower Guinea
- Somali Peninsula
- Gulf of Aden
- Great Rift Valley
- Lake Tanganyika
- Lake Victoria
- Namibia
- Angola
- Somalia
- Somaliland
- Tanzania
- Mozambique
- Malawi

This map shows the Horn of Africa and the traditional area inhabited by the Somali people.<sup>77</sup>



<sup>77</sup> Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2699350>

In the second half of this chapter, Miss Mason discusses colonies belonging to countries in Europe besides her own (England). Consider how her pride in England might influence her descriptions of other colonies.

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*Geographical Readers for Elementary Schools Book V* pp. 149-151

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We must there say a word of the east and west coasts, south of the Soudan. The Portuguese claim, in right of discovery, all the land on the west coast between the mouth of the Congo and Cape Frio.<sup>78</sup> In the early days of the Portuguese occupation, earnest missionaries came hither to teach the people, and to this day many of the natives can read and write in Portuguese: but towards the south, the natives are in a very savage state, living by hunting, with spear and knob-stick, the antelope, zebra, and wild buffalo; hyenas, jackals, and leopards infest some districts.

Coffee grows wild; cotton is cultivated in patches all over the land, and palm-oil is abundant.

St. Paul de Loanda,<sup>79</sup> the capital of the colony, is for the most part a European town. [...]

Eastern Africa, south of Abyssinia,<sup>80</sup> is occupied by two great African peoples, the Somali and the Gallas [...]. Their [the Somalis'] country is the eastern promontory of Africa which ends in Cape Gardafui,<sup>81</sup> a land into which Europeans have hardly penetrated at all. It appears to be a great pasture land, where gazelles, zebras, and antelopes roam about in vast herds, where the ostrich, giraffe, and elephant are abundant, and where the natives rear great herds of camels, ponies, cows, and fat-tailed sheep.

The immense country of the Gallas reaches from Abyssinia 900 miles southward. This country also remains unexplored, but it appears to be a prairie-like country, a continuation of the highlands of Abyssinia.

The island of Zanzibar is people by a mixed race, for the most part Arabic; they are zealous Mohammedans, and are the great traders of Eastern Africa. They are under the government of a sultan, whose dominion extends for some distance along the coast of the mainland. The white houses of Zanzibar town, on the western side of the island, look well from the sea [...]

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<sup>78</sup> Cape Fria, discovered by the Portuguese in 1486, is now accessible only by air. It is in Namibia about 125 miles south of the border with Angola, in Skeleton Coast National Park.

<sup>79</sup> St. Paul de Loanda is now Luanda, the capital of Angola.

<sup>80</sup> Abyssinia is now known as Ethiopia.

<sup>81</sup> Cape Gwardafuy

In all Eastern and Central Africa south of the Soudan, the place of beasts of burden is taken by porters [...] who march along in single file, carrying on their heads the bales of cloth or of beads which are to be exchanged in the interior for ivory. [...]

All the coast-land of South-east Africa, from near Cape Delgado to Delagoa Bay,<sup>82</sup> is claimed by the Portuguese, though they really occupy only a few scattered points. The possession as a whole is named the province of Mozambique, and is placed under a governor appointed by the Crown of Portugal. The town of Mozambique,<sup>83</sup> which stands on a small coral islet close to the mainland, is the capital; it is a town of narrow streets with white houses. Quilimane,<sup>84</sup> Senna,<sup>85</sup> and Tette,<sup>86</sup> are, as we have seen, interesting in connection with the discoveries of Dr. Livingstone; indeed, the great Lake Nyassa<sup>87</sup> which was discovered by him is in Portuguese territory. On a promontory of its southern shores, the mission station of Livingstonia<sup>88</sup> was established in 1876, and at the same time, the first steam-vessel placed on any African lake was launched on its waters. A second mission station named Blantyre has since been founded in the hilly country south of the lake: and more recently still, a company of merchants of Glasgow has placed a trading steamer on the Lower Zambesi,<sup>89</sup> to keep up communication between the coast and the cataracts of the Shiré, past which a good road is being made.

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<sup>82</sup> Maputo Bay (Baia de Maputo)

<sup>83</sup> Mozambique, the town and city, has had a number of different names over the years. Now it is known as Maputo.

<sup>84</sup> Quelimane

<sup>85</sup> Villa de Senna is along the Zambezi River in Mozambique, which may be too small to be shown in an atlas.

<sup>86</sup> Tete, Mozambique is on the Zambezi River, but it may be too small to be shown in an atlas.

<sup>87</sup> Lake Malawi

<sup>88</sup> A mission established by the Church of Scotland in northern Malawi.

<sup>89</sup> Zambezi River

# The Sahara

Draw or label on a map of Northern Africa:

- Sahara Desert
- Nile River
- Libyan Desert
- Kharga, Egypt (El Khâga)
- Darfur (area in Sudan)
- Mediterranean Sea
- Timbuktu, Mali
- Tripoli, Libya
- Murzuq Desert (Libya; Sahra Marquq)
- Lake Chad
- Morocco
- Western Sahara (administered by Morocco)
- Algeria
- Tunisia
- Mauritania
- Mali
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Chad
- Sudan
- Egypt
- Libya

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*Geographical Readers for Elementary Schools Book V pp. 151-154*

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The Sahara is an immense region, occupying the whole of Africa north of the Soudan, with the exception of the mountainous states of the north-east and the green valley of the Nile. It is fully twelve times the size of France,<sup>90</sup> and derives its name from the Arabic word Sára, meaning "desert."

It is needless to say that the Sahara is a terrific sandy waste, boundless to the eye as the ocean, where the dry heated atmosphere is like a red vapour, where the very air is sand, and the sand is heaped in every-changing waves by the scorching winds; where, at times, the burning wind of the desert is the blast of death.

We have been accustomed, however, to think of the Sahara as a vast sea of sand: this is a mistake: a belt of sand-hills, or dunes, nearly 300 miles in width, crosses the whole of its northern border. But now that European travellers have passed this northern border, it is found that the interior is made up of table-lands, sometimes strewn with sharp stones, and sometimes covered with small pebbles: and between the plateaus are low-lying plains.

The western half of the desert is more utterly barren than the eastern. In some places it consists of dreary, black rocks, forming ridges which lie so close that the camels can scarcely pick their way between them; while the more open parts are vast tracks of burning sand heaped by the wind into shifting ridges; the frightful heat is increased by the burning wind called the Samiel or Simoom.

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<sup>90</sup> The entire United States would fit in the Sahara Desert.

Forbidding as it is, this desert is not unpeopled, but contains many little-known countries and kingdoms scattered over its vast area. The inhabitants of the western region are Moorish<sup>91</sup> and Berber tribes, wandering herdsmen who contrive to keep great herds of camels, sheep and oxen [...] The centre of the Sahara is occupied by the *Taurej*,<sup>92</sup> a Berber people, tall and handsome, the horse-guards of the caravans in their passage across the desert; they wear a shawl, called the "litham," wound round face and head as a protection against the blown sands of the desert. [...]

How is it that this barren, rainless, riverless region, of burning days and almost freezing nights, can support even the small and scattered population which exists upon it? Because, scattered over the whole of the desert, though more frequent in the eastern half, are fertile tracts called "oases," where ever-flowing springs spread delightful verdure, where the date-palm, the tree of the desert, affords shade and grateful fruit, where rice, maize, and barley are sometimes grown, and ferns and acacias gather round the springs.

These oases, which prove that the Sahara is desert only from lack of moisture and not from the nature of the soil, are the homes of the most favoured amongst the desert tribes, and are the halting places where the caravans lay in a fresh stock of water. A thorny ever-green shrub serves as fodder for the camels in passing through some of the dreary regions between the oases.

Several of these oases occur in the tract to the west of the Nile, which is sometimes called the Libyan Desert; the largest of them, known as the Great Oasis,<sup>93</sup> extends about ninety miles from north to south. But from this tract southward to the province of Darfur, a distance of 700 miles is passed without meeting with a single inhabitant, though springs of water, few and far between, occur for the refreshment of the traveller.

The great caravan routes run generally from north to south, from the fertile countries of the Soudan on the south to the Mediterranean. One route unites Timbuctu<sup>94</sup> with Tafilet in Southern Morocco. [...] while the greatest thoroughfare of the Sahara is the track which leads from Tripoli, through Murzuk<sup>95</sup> in Fezzan, by the salt mines of Belms,<sup>96</sup> to the countries round Lake Chad.

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<sup>91</sup> The term "Moors" refers primarily to the Muslim inhabitants of the Maghreb, the Iberian Peninsula, Sicily, and Malta during the Middle Ages. The Moors initially were the indigenous Maghrebine Berbers. (The Maghreb is northwest or northern Africa.)

<sup>92</sup> Tuareg

<sup>93</sup> Miss Mason probably means Kharga Oasis, which was known as Oasis Magna to the Romans.

<sup>94</sup> Timbuktu, Mali

<sup>95</sup> Murzuq, Libya, an oasis town on the northern edge of the Murzuq Desert.

<sup>96</sup> The exact mines referenced by Miss Mason are unknown, but there are quite a few in the western Sahara.

“The commerce of the Sahara consists mainly in the transport of ostrich feathers, slaves, gold-dust, and ivory from the Soudan northward to the Mediterranean ports, and the carrying back across the desert of manufactured goods, such as cottons, cutlery, and trinkets of all sorts, to the negro countries in this south. It is estimated that fully 10,000 slaves pass northward by the Murzuk route every year, and this traffic has continued so long, and is accompanied by such hardships, that the route might be followed with no other guide than the blanched skeletons of those who have fallen during the terrible march. The salt of the Sahara beds also gives rise to considerable trade.”<sup>97</sup>

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<sup>97</sup> Miss Mason credits Keith Johnston for this quote, but the original source is unknown.

# The Barbary States

Draw or label on a map of Northern Africa:

- Mediterranean Sea
- Egypt
- Atlantic Ocean
- Atlas Mountains
- Sahara Desert
- Tell Atlas Mountains
- Gulf of Gabes
- Marrakech, Morocco
- Fez, Morocco
- Meknes, Morocco
- Tangier, Morocco
- Casablanca, Morocco
- Strait of Gibraltar
- Algiers, Algeria
- Oran, Algeria
- Annaba, Algeria
- Constantine, Algeria
- Tunis, Tunisia
- Tripoli, Libya
- Black Mountains (in Libya, Al Harujal Aswad)
- Libyan Desert
- Tropic of Cancer
- Mauritania
- Western Sahara
- Morocco
- Algeria
- Tunisia
- Libya

The **Maghreb** is a region of northern Africa including Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Mauritania, and Western Sahara. Historically, this area was also often called the **Barbary Coast**, or, as Miss Mason does, the **Barbary States**.

## Definitions:

**steppe** - an ecoregion characterized by grassland plains without trees apart from those near rivers and lakes.

**equipage** - a carriage and horses with attendants.

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*Geographical Readers for Elementary Schools Book V pp. 154-160*

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The four states which occupy the southern coast-lands of the Mediterranean, stretching between Egypt and the Atlantic, are known as the Barbary States – magnificent countries, which might be made to produce most abundant crops. History and the ruins of many cities attest their former splendour; and even now, here are many populous commercial towns, and much grain is raised [...]

But it is only to the north of the mountains that this region is so fertile; from the northern edge of the desert to the foot of the Atlas are vast pasture-lands without a tree – an ocean of verdure, inhabited only by wandering tribes who pasture their flocks



on the grassy steppes. Beyond the steppes, these states reach far down into the Sahara itself.

We see by the map that the western half of these coast-lands is a mountain-mass rising like an island between the sea and the desert beyond. This island-like mass is called by the Arabs *Maghreb*, or “the west,” and comprises the chief portions of the empire of Morocco, the French possession of Algeria, and the Turkish regency of Tunis.

This highlight is formed in the west by the Atlas mountains, whose highest summits (about 11,000 feet) rise suddenly, rugged and awful, from the plain.

In Algeria and Tunis, the highland takes the form of a broad, high table-land, backed by mountain ranges on each side. The land rising from the Mediterranean to the mountains is called the *Tell* country, and is wonderfully rich and fertile. Between the outer and inner mountain ranges is nothing but a dreary monotonous belt of bare table-lands, dotted over with a long chain of brackish lakes.

The southern border range descends to the desert, which is here, as we have seen, clothed with grass in the spring, and affords pasturage for the herds of the Arabs. At the eastern foot of the mountains, lie low marshes and quicksands, which extend inland from the head of the Gulf of Gabes<sup>98</sup> for a distance of 240 miles, and lie sometimes as much as forty feet below the level of the Mediterranean. A rocky barrier only about ten miles wide separates this chain of depressions from the Mediterranean, and a scheme for cutting through this obstacle and allowing the sea-water to flow in has recently been considered by the French Government. Were this done, a great pond about as large as Lake Ontario might be formed, and the evaporation from its surface might make the desert lands round it fertile; but it would be too shallow for the purposes of navigation.

The most westerly of the Barbary States is Morocco, the land of the Moors. The Moors, or Arabs, are the ruling race, who dwell in towns and live by trade; but the Berbers far outnumber the Moors, and these dwell in tents or tent-villages, and live by cattle-rearing or by tilling the ground. [...] The Moors are, for the most part, descended from those Moors who held Spain for nearly eight hundred years, and were driven out by the Christians in the fifteenth century. [...]

The Sultan keeps court alternately in the cities of Morocco,<sup>99</sup> Fez, and Mequinez.<sup>100</sup> The city of Morocco lies near the base of the Great Atlas, and is surrounded by immense gardens and orchards. The streets leading from the chief gates are wide, but in other parts of the city are narrow and filthy. The pride of Morocco is the “Mosque of the

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<sup>98</sup> Gulf of Gabes

<sup>99</sup> There is no city in Morocco named Morocco. Miss Mason is likely writing about Marrakech. Koutoubia Mosque in Marrakech is also known as the “Mosque of the Booksellers.”

<sup>100</sup> Meknes, Morocco

booksellers.” Fez is a larger city in the north, placed between two hills. Tangier, beyond the Strait of Gibraltar, is the chief port of the country.<sup>101</sup> [...]

The French province of Algeria is almost as large as France itself,<sup>102</sup> but its frontier stretches far into the desert; the Tell country which borders on the Mediterranean is the part of Algeria which is fertile and beautiful. This is a rich and lovely land, like the opposite coasts of Europe; oleander and myrtle scent the air, and the orange, the olive and the fig, the vine and the pomegranate, flourish in this delicious climate. Besides the rich fruits of the south, tobacco, the sugar-cane, cotton, and enormous quantities of corn are cultivated in this garden-like country.

The Atlas itself is, here, not so much a mountain range as a wide plateau, with long valleys and narrow ravines, and is fit for cultivation to the very summit. “Forests crown its head: its valleys once provided imperial Rome with wheat, and are now alive with herds of cattle and horses.”<sup>103</sup> Among its forest trees are the cedar, the oak, carob, and cork-tree; and here are whole groves of lemon, orange, olive, and other rich fruits. Here, in the Atlas, are also valuable mines of iron, lead, copper, and zinc; and the French conquerors of the country have brought knowledge and skill to the working of these mines [...]

Until within the last fifty years, Algeria was governed by its own Deys, and an evil reputation Algeria had for the pirates who infested the Mediterranean and the lawless soldiers who filled its cities with riot and murder. At last, in 1830, the French landed on its coasts. They soon took the lovely city of Algiers; but the mountain fortresses were a different matter, and the conquest of Algeria was not completed for seventeen years, and then at a grievous sacrifice of life and treasure. [...]

Algiers, the capital city, is charming; like an ivory fan in a fair lady’s hand, says one of its French admirers: and as the buildings of the streets and terraces are all white-washed and are built upon ground gradually rising from the sea, and are set in groves of orange and pomegranate, the comparison is not a bad one. The new French streets are wide and straight; the old Moorish streets, narrow, winding, and dirty, in spite of constant white-washing, but far more picturesque than the handsome new quarters. Hats and turbans, French dames in high-heeled boots and Paris bonnets, and Moorish ladies, thickly veiled, in clumsy slippers, and enveloped from head to foot in sack-like garments of black silk, the equipages of London or Paris and the camel of the desert, all jostle one another in the streets of Algiers. Its delicious climate draws many invalids to winter, with the swallows, in Algiers.

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<sup>101</sup> Tangier is still an important port of Morocco, but Casablanca is larger.

<sup>102</sup> Algeria is eleven times larger than Kansas and a third larger than Alaska.

<sup>103</sup> The source of this quote is unknown.

Oran is a handsome town, rather Spanish than Moorish in character. Bona<sup>104</sup> is a trading port. At La Calle<sup>105</sup> is a settlement of coral fishers, mostly Neapolitans, who go through much toil and danger to get the lovely red coral – the finest anywhere. Constantine, built on the top of a perpendicular cliff, 800 feet high, is one of the famous strongholds of the world.

The State of Tunis,<sup>106</sup> which is not much larger than Scotland,<sup>107</sup> is governed by its own Bey, subject to some direction from the Sultan of Turkey. It is like the other two states in its physical character. [...] There is not much cultivation, but olive groves spread over the hills, and date plantations give their Arabic name to the lowlands. The walled city of Tunis is the capital, whose narrow streets are thronged with picturesque Eastern crowds. About twelve miles from Tunis is the site of the ancient Carthage, one of the famous cities of the past. Kairwan<sup>108</sup> is one of the sacred cities of Islam, and neither Jew nor Christian is allowed to live within its walls. Coral is found abundantly all along the coast of Tunis.

The country of Tripoli is a province of the Ottoman empire.<sup>109</sup> Here the people are chiefly Berber tribes, the few Turks holding the offices of government. A low range called the Black Mountains<sup>110</sup> crosses the country, and the valleys and the mountain slopes are fertile, producing grain, tobacco, fruits, cotton, and silk in abundance. The rest of the land, to the north and south of the mountains, is like the Sahara, both in climate and in its landscape of bare grey desert, and cloudless blue sky. [...]

Tripoli, the capital, standing on a rocky tongue of land, is the great mart of trade with the Soudan. The trade in ostrich feathers is the most important. [...]

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<sup>104</sup> Annaba, Algeria

<sup>105</sup> El Kala, Algeria, a seaport quite near the Tunisian border, too small to show in most world atlases.

<sup>106</sup> This country is now called Tunisia.

<sup>107</sup> Tunisia is about a third smaller than Kansas.

<sup>108</sup> Kairouan, Tunisia, which is likely too small to include in a world atlas.

<sup>109</sup> At the time Miss Mason was writing, the Ottoman Empire controlled Ottoman Tripolitania, a region with borders close to that of modern Libya. This is the region she calls Tripoli, which also included the city of Tripoli.

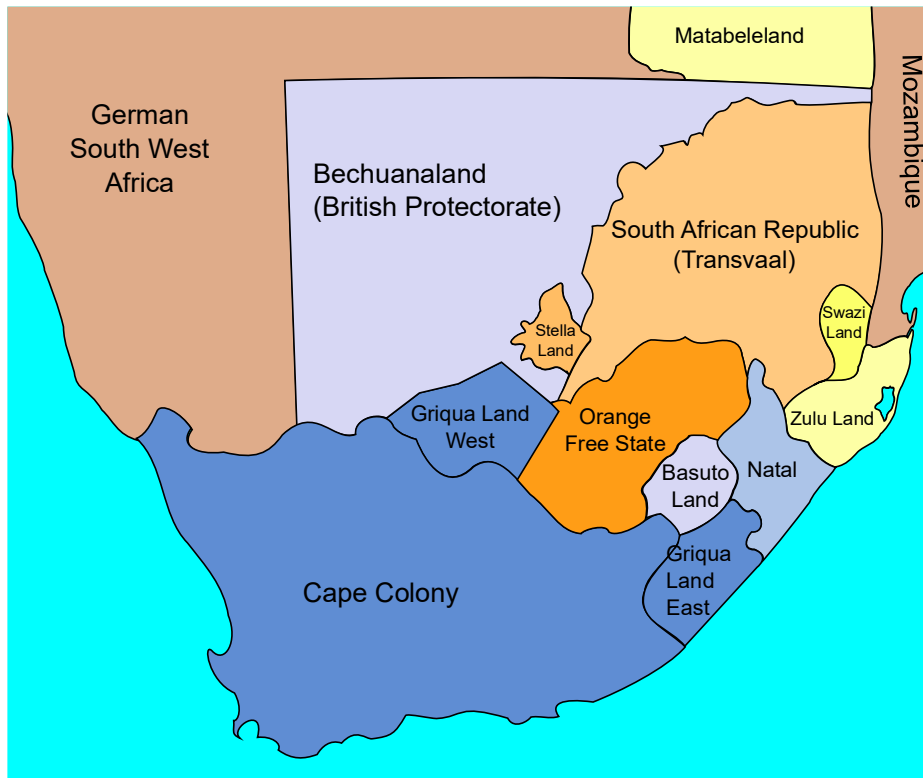
<sup>110</sup> Miss Mason is probably referring to Al Harujal Aswad, a mountain range in Libya.

# South Africa

Draw or label on a map of Southern Africa:

- Tropic of Capricorn
- Orange River
- Drakensberg Mountains
- South Africa (modern country)
- Kalahari Desert
- Indian Ocean

This map shows Cape Colony in 1885<sup>111</sup>, just as Miss Mason was writing.



Find on this map:

- Cape Colony
- Natal
- Orange Free State
- Transvaal
- Griqualand West
- Zululand

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<sup>111</sup> By SouthAfrica1885.jpg: John George Bartholomewderivative work: Themightyquill (talk) - SouthAfrica1885.jpg, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=16615093>

In today's reading, Miss Mason discusses the contentious relationship between the Dutch and the British in southern Africa. Remember as you read that Miss Mason is British and consider how that might influence how she describes the conflicts. You will read more about these wars in your curated articles.

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*Geographical Readers for Elementary Schools Book V pp. 161-162*

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Almost the whole of South Africa belongs to Britain: a short time ago we might have said that the whole of the land to the south of the Tropic of Capricorn acknowledged the authority of Britain – with the exception of the Orange River Free State: but at the present time, the Dutch “Boers,” or farmers, of the Transvaal have declined British rule, and the state of affairs in the new colonies of the west is rather unsettled. The older colonies are Cape Colony proper and Natal.

This rich possession has not been an easy one for the British either to take or to hold. In the first place, the Dutch had seized much of the land before us, and have been all along jealous of British interference, the more so because the British have endeavored to protect the natives against Dutch oppression. In the second place, [...] no less than seven [...] wars have been fought, by the Dutch or the British, to secure the European colonies.<sup>112</sup>

The British first gained possession of Cape Colony in 1806. The Dutch settlers were greatly dissatisfied with British rule, and at length, when all British slaves were emancipated in 1833, the Dutch were so disgusted, and so bent upon keeping their slaves, that many thousands of them left the Cape Colony, and marched with all their belongings northwards across the Orange River and the Drakenberg<sup>113</sup> mountains. These divided into three parties, one forming what is now the colony of Natal, another the Orange State, and a third settled in the Transvaal. No sooner had the Boers settled in Natal, than they were set upon and massacred by the Zulu [...] at a place which bears the name of Weenen (“weeping”) to this day. A war followed; the British interfered; and the end of it was that Natal became a British colony. [...]

The colony of Griqualand West, a country about the size of Switzerland, was held by a mixed people, half Dutch, half Hottentot,<sup>114</sup> when a great discovery of diamonds was made there. Thousands of Europeans rushed thither at once, from all parts of the world; and it became necessary for the proper government of this unsettled population that the country should be brought under British rule: so, in 1871, the Griqua chief ceded his rights, and Griqualand West (or the Diamond Fields) was annexed to Cape Colony.

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<sup>112</sup> These wars are now known as the Xhosa Wars, the Cape Frontier Wars, or Africa's 100 Years War.

<sup>113</sup> Drakensberg

<sup>114</sup> Hottentot is a term now considered offensive. Today we would say “Khoikhoi.”

The British colonies, which are as large as the United Kingdom and France put together, are as yet but thinly peopled.

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## Cape Colony

Draw or label on a map of Southern Africa:

- Northern Karroo
- Great Karroo
- Thabana Ntlenyana
- Indian Ocean
- Cape of Good Hope
- Okiep, South Africa
- Cape Town, South Africa
- Port Elizabeth, South Africa
- Grahamstown, South Africa
- Durban, South Africa
- Pietermaritzburg, South Africa
- Bloemfontein, South Africa
- Vaal River (draw this on your map)
- Pretoria, South Africa
- Maputo Bay (Baia de Maputo)
- Limpopo River
- Zambezi River
- Orange River
- South Africa
- Lesotho
- eSwatini (formerly Swaziland)
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Botswana
- Zimbabwe

Take a few minutes to review the 1885 map of southern Africa in the previous section. While writing of South Africa, Miss Mason refers to the native African population as “Kafirs.” This word (Kaffir) became extremely derogatory under Apartheid and is now considered pejorative (expressing contempt or disapproval) and a racial slur. In Miss Mason’s time, it generally meant a Xhosa (or perhaps Zulu; she seems to use it for both) and, while she exhibited many beliefs we would consider racist today, she did not write this word as a harsh insult. Even so, I have decided to replace this term with the euphemism (an expression substituted for one considered offensive), “the K-word,” in deference to my own modern sensibilities, though generally I have excised the text where it occurs.

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*Geographical Readers for Elementary Schools Book V pp. 164-170*

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The Cape Colony occupies the extremity of the continent from the Orange River west and south to the ocean. It is nearly four times as large as England, and is a mountainous country, rising step by step from the seaboard to the interior. These steps are really mountain ranges which cross the country from east to west, bearing different names in different parts. The mountain slopes nearest the sea are the pleasantest and most habitable parts of the colony, and here are villages, corn farms, vineyards, orchards, and tobacco plantations.

The Zwartegergen<sup>115</sup> are the most inland of these pleasant southern highlands. Beyond these mountains lie the wide, undulating plains called the *Great Karroo*, where water is scarce, and farms are few, and the water channels which furrow the surface are dry

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<sup>115</sup> This region is just south of the Great Karroo.

except after thunderstorms. The land here is treeless; in some parts stunted bushes are thinly scattered; and at most times of the year the prospect is arid and dreary. But after rain, as if by enchantment, the whole plain is covered with a lovely green vegetation, brilliant with flowers of every hue. The heaths of Cape Colony have a world-wide fame, as have the bulbous plants and orchids which cover the ground in September and October with a sheet of gaudy blossoms. Thorns and prickles are characteristic of many South African plants; and some trees, such as the “dornboom,”<sup>116</sup> have spikes which have been compared to ox horns. The *Karoo* is divided into great “sheep runs,” and is the chief wool-yielding district; the fine, close-curling wool of the South African sheep finding its way largely into the Yorkshire mills. To the north of the Great Karroo is a long mountain range, which contains Compassberg (8000 feet), the highest mountain of Cape Colony;<sup>117</sup> and these heights unite to the east with the Drakenbergen,<sup>118</sup> which faces the Indian Ocean.

In general, the streams of the Cape Colony are like those of Algeria at the opposite extremity of the continent, becoming furious torrents after rain, but dwindling down almost to dryness at other seasons. Not one of them is of much use for navigation. The largest, the Orange river, is of no use at all for commerce, because its mouth is blocked up by a sandbank, and its course is obstructed by rapids and falls. The Great Fish River<sup>119</sup> is generally dry in winter, and rises suddenly, as much as thirty feet in a few hours, after summer thunder showers.

The Cape Colony is not a hot country; winter frosts are known, and the hottest summer days are no warmer than the summer days of Southern Europe; though of course the seasons fall at opposite times – January in midsummer and July in midwinter. The uncertainty of the rains is a great drawback to the climate of the interior; sometimes in the Karroo there is no rain for two or three years; then, when it does come, it is in sheets; not rain, but water falling in streams. Parts of the west coast are even worse off in this respect than the interior; on the coast-land about the mouth of the Orange river rain is almost unknown. Round the coast-lands of the south and east, however, the rainfall is about as great as in England; and these are the farming regions, where vast crops of wheat are grown, as well as maize, oats, and barley. The grapes of Constantia in the peninsula of the Cape of Good Hope are said to be the finest in the world.

But the wool of their innumerable sheep is the chief export of the colonists; and it is most remarkable how sheep and goats have increased since the larger wild animals – the lion and leopard, giraffe and elephant – have been driven northwards by the advance of civilized man. Though the forest lords have disappeared, the Karroo is still

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<sup>116</sup> *Acacia horrida*, which exudes a good kind of gum.

<sup>117</sup> Compassberg is 8,209 ft and is the highest point in South Africa outside the Drakensberg Mountains. The highest point in South Africa is one of the peaks of Thabana Ntleyana, which has a second even higher peak within the border of Lesotho.

<sup>118</sup> Drakensberg

<sup>119</sup> The Great Fish River flows into the ocean near the city of Port Elizabeth.



the great hunting-ground of the colonists, and wonderful is the variety of animal life in these regions.

Among the curious sights of the colony are long lines of draught oxen dragging the great canvas-covered wagons; for these are still the only means of travelling or of conveyance wherever railroads have not been made. A new and strange industry of the colony is that of ostrich-farming, the birds being fenced in and stabled like sheep or horses, to be plucked of their valuable feathers when these are fully grown; their eggs are hatched in artificial nests warmed by means of hot water. Near the lower Orange river is the copper mine of Ookiep,<sup>120</sup> one of the richest in the world. [...]

Cape Town, at the foot of Table Mountain, is the capital; it has quite the air of a European town, with tramways, railway stations, gardens, and gas lamps. It lies within the south-western peninsula of the colony which ends in the famous Cape of Good Hope and contains Table Mountain. This is the most beautiful part of the country, with grand mountains and rich woodland scenery.

The second town of the colony is Port Elizabeth, a bustling seaport, full of warehouses and stores. Huge wagons bring down the wool and hides of the interior to be shipped here, and they carry back stores for the villages. Grahamstown ranks next in importance. [...]

Natal is about half the size of Scotland, and reaches down from the edge of the Drakenberg to the Indian Ocean. The country is covered for the most part with wooded mountains and hills, and has many constant streams in the fertile valleys which are well stocked with cattle, sheep, and horses. There are many sugar estates in the lowlands, and coffee, maize, and wheat are largely grown. The climate is both healthy and pleasant. [...] Nearly half the European settlers, Dutch and British for the most part, are collected in the two towns of the colony, the seaport of Durban, or Port Natal, and Pietermaritzburg, the seat of government.

The Orange Free State is reached by long, rough wagon routes through Natal. It is a country somewhat larger than Ireland, and consists of high grassy plains, dotted here and there with little "kopjes" or rocky hills. Sheep-rearing is the chief business both of the Dutch farmers and of the K-word, and wool is the chief export. Bloemfontein is the capital, where the Council and President of this Dutch republic meet.

The Transvaal, as its name implies, lies beyond, or northward of, the river Vaal. It is a considerable country, about as large as Great Britain and Ireland together. It is a plateau, about 3000 feet high, bounded on the east by the high Drakenberg mountains, and crossed by one or two low hill-ranges. The climate is pleasant; there are wide pastures, and the rearing of cattle and sheep is the chief employment. [...] The

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<sup>120</sup> Ookiep, South Africa

Europeans are for the most part Boers, or farmers of Dutch descent. Pretoria is the principal town and seat of the (Dutch) government. Most of the traffic is carried on by wagons, which make their way through the difficult passes of the Drakenberg to Natal.

Griqualand West, or the Diamond Fields, is a bare and uninviting region, except along the banks of the Orange and Vall rivers, which are wooded and picturesque. Were it not for the valuable diamond-mines where were discovered here in 1867, Griqualand would not have been annexed to the British Crown. Now, some of the most productive mines have been exhausted, and the motley population which gathered here from all parts of the world has become more settled.

Zululand [...] lies between Natal and Delagoa Bay.<sup>121</sup> About the beginning of this century, the Zulus [...] began to imitate the military system of the Europeans, and to organize themselves into severely disciplined bands. Soon all the K-word-land, from the Limpopo southward to the borders of the Cape Colony, fell under their sway, and it was with these warriors the Boers had to fight when they first migrated into Natal. A number of their bands marched out northward, conquering all before them, and the leaders of these armies founded a number of extensive kingdoms over the wide country which lies south of the great curve of the Zambesi. Zululand, as we have said, is their home-country: until 1879 it was under the rule of the late warlike chief Cetewayo,<sup>122</sup> and was well-peopled; and as all the grown-up men were soldiers, there was a large Zulu army. At the present time a civil war is raging in the tribe, and how Zululand will finally be governed remains to be seen. [...]

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<sup>121</sup> Delagoa Bay is now Maputo Bay.

<sup>122</sup> Cetshwayo kaMpande

## The Islands Round Africa

Draw or label on a map of Africa:

- Mozambique Channel
- Antananarivo, Madagascar
- Toamasina, Madagascar
- Madeira Islands
- Canary Islands
- Saint Helena
- Madagascar
- Comoros
- Seychelles (draw this island country on your map)
- Indian Ocean
- Pacific Ocean

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*Geographical Readers for Elementary Schools Book V pp. 170-172*

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Madagascar. — The great island of Madagascar does not belong in any way to Africa; it is divided from the continent by a channel 240 miles wide at its narrowest point; its human inhabitants are altogether distinct in race, and many of its animals are peculiar.

The island extends nearly a thousand miles from north to south, and occupies a space larger than France:<sup>123</sup> nearly the whole of it is filled with a great plateau, about 4000 feet high, which reaches almost throughout its whole length, leaving wide plains only in the south and west. The shores are marshy and unhealthy, but the high grassy plains and wooded terraces of the plateau have a delightful climate. Here is to be seen the famous “Traveller’s Tree,” the leaf-stalks of which contain, it may be, a quart of pure water, even in the driest weather. Instead of the large and fierce wild animals of Africa, here are only the timid lemur, and harmless insect-feeding animals.

The Malagesses, as the inhabitants are called, really belong to Malay family, and resemble those of the East Indian Archipelago in customs, features, and language. They are divided into three chief tribes, and of these, the Hovas—who occupy the central highlands—are the most powerful and the most intelligent. Madagascar forms an independent kingdom under the rule of a Hova dynasty. Christian missionaries have long been labouring in the island, and although the last queen but one was a zealous heathen, her successor in 1869 abolished all the heathen customs, committed the idols of the whole nation to flames, and was herself baptised.

The capital, Antananarivo, lies on a high plateau near the centre of the island. Tamatave,<sup>124</sup> the chief seaport on the east coast, is the only other place of much importance. Cattle-rearing and agriculture are the chief employments of the people; silk

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<sup>123</sup> Madagascar is almost three times larger than Kansas.

<sup>124</sup> Toamasina, Madagascar

and woolen stuffs are also made, as well as beautifully dyed cloths from the fibre of the palm.

The French have several settlements on the northern coast, the seat of government being in the Comoro Islands.

Of the remaining islands in the seas round Africa, are the French Isle of Bourbon, now called Réunion<sup>125</sup>, the British island of Mauritius,<sup>126</sup> and Madeira, famed for its beauty, rich fruits, and its delicious climate: many invalids leave more chilly climes to seek comfort and health from the soft air and glowing sunshine of this happy isle.

The Canary Islands belong to Spain; they are all high and volcanic, their greatest height being the famous Peak of Teneriffe.<sup>127</sup>

Far out towards the centre of the Atlantic is the solitary islet of St. Helena, a rather desolate island, held by a British garrison, and memorable because here Napoleon Bonaparte was confined until his death. The house he inhabited, called "Longwood," is in the most barren and desolate part of the island.

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<sup>125</sup> Réunion and Mauritius are small islands to the east of Madagascar, in the Indian Ocean. You may want to find these on a globe or look them up online.

<sup>126</sup> Mauritius is now an independent nation.

<sup>127</sup> Mt. Teide is the highest peak on Tenerife Island (in the Canaries) and also the highest point in Spain.

# Maps

You will need:

8 copies of the map of Africa, plus 3 additional copies for exams

4 copies of the map of Southern Africa

3 copies of the map of Northern Africa

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# Africa



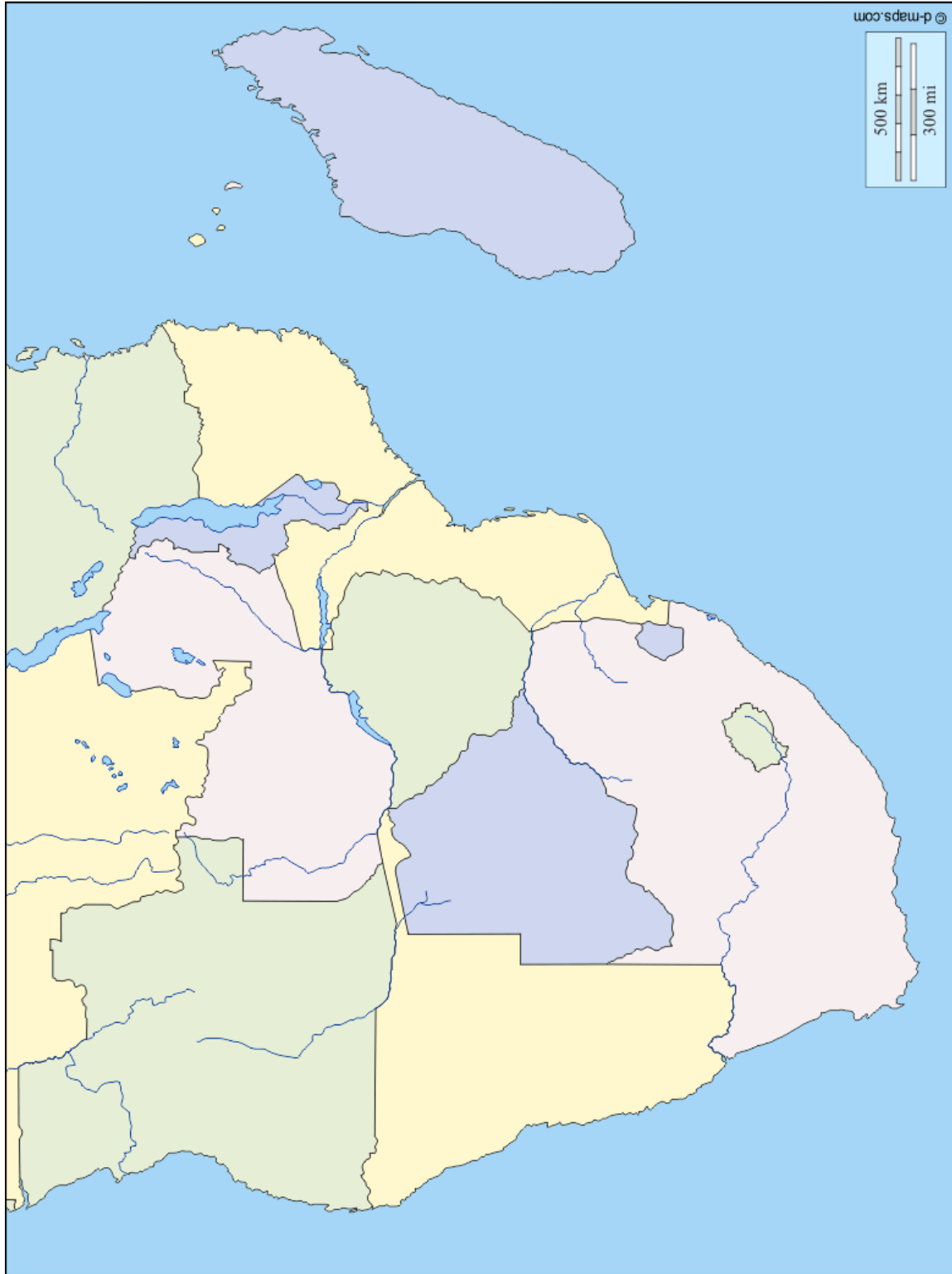
Africa, hydrography, states

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## Southern Africa

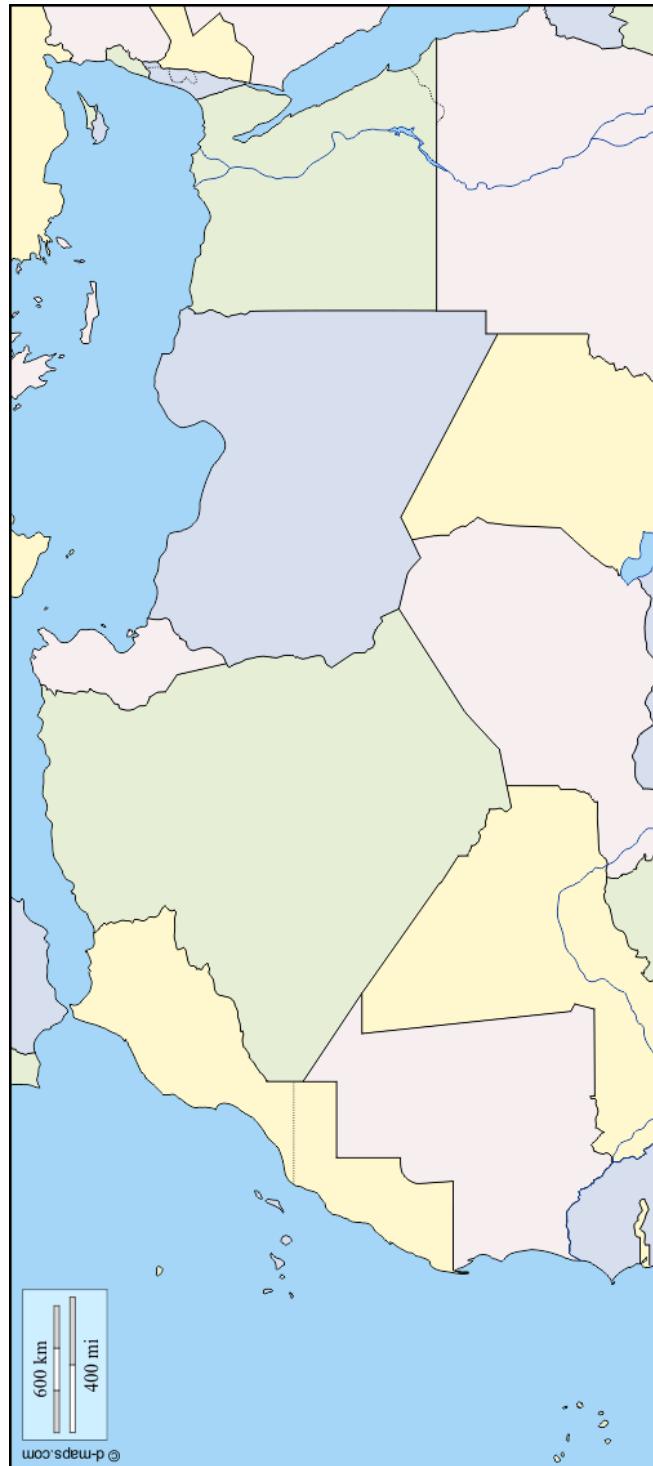


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## Northern Africa



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