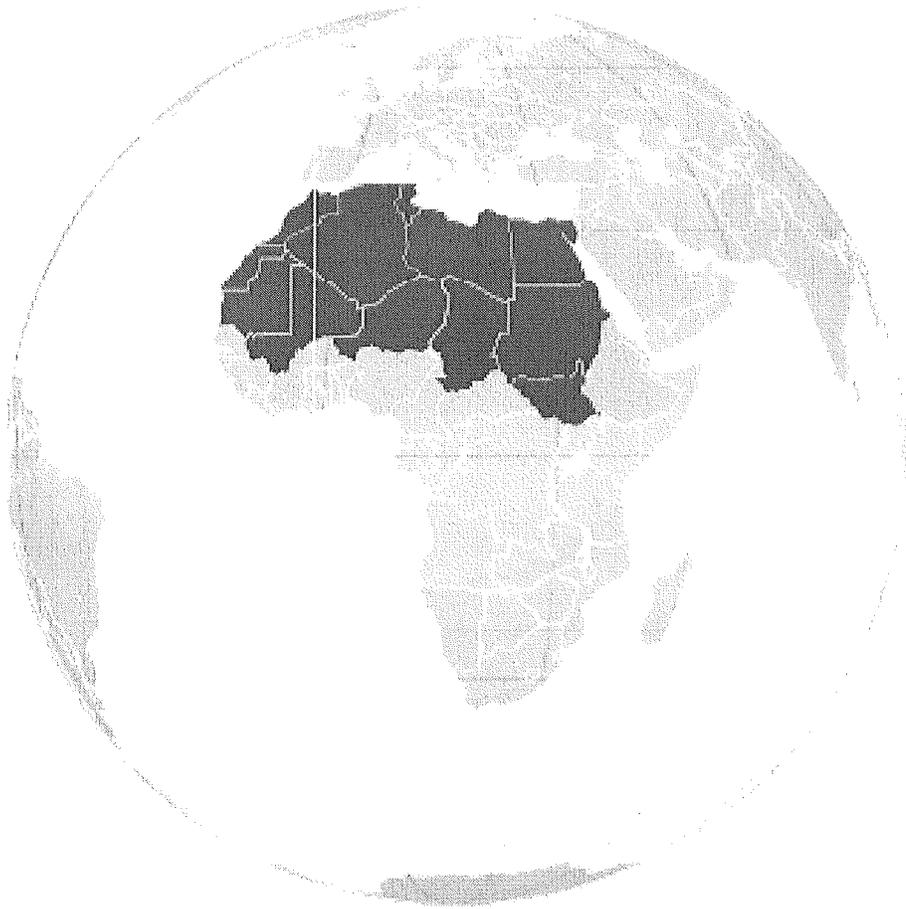


Name: _____ Date: _____ Hour: _____



North Africa Chapter Packet

Africa Race

Complete the Challenge Activities on this page.

Section 1: Why do you think almost all of Egypt's population lives along the Nile River? Write a brief paragraph that explains your answer. _____

Section 2: Imagine that you are spending your summer vacation traveling throughout North Africa. Write in a brief paragraph some of the sites you visited as well as the people you meet. _____

Section 3: What do you think is the greatest challenge facing the countries of North Africa today? Write a brief paragraph identifying those challenges and suggestions you have on how to fix them. _____

Biography: Write a short overview of the biography of Anwar al-Sadat. You should only use the main ideas! You must use the vocabulary words expel, coup, mediated, and assassinated (assassination). _____

North Africa

Section 1



MAIN IDEAS

1. Major physical features of North Africa include the Nile River, the Sahara, and the Atlas Mountains.
2. The climate of North Africa is hot and dry, and water is the region's most important resource.

Key Terms and Places

Sahara world's largest desert, covering most of North Africa

Nile River the world's longest river, located in Egypt

silt finely ground, fertile soil good for growing crops

Suez Canal strategic waterway connecting the Mediterranean and Red Seas

oasis wet, fertile area in a desert where a natural spring or well provides water

Atlas Mountains mountain range on the northwestern side of the Sahara

Section Summary

PHYSICAL FEATURES

Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt are the five countries of North Africa. All five countries have northern coastlines on the Mediterranean Sea. The largest desert in the world, the **Sahara**, covers most of North Africa.

The **Nile River**, the world's longest, flows northward through the eastern Sahara. Near its end, it becomes a large river delta that empties into the Mediterranean Sea. The river's water irrigates the farmland along its banks. In the past, flooding along the Nile left finely ground fertile soil, called **silt**, in the surrounding fields. Today, the Aswan High Dam controls flooding and prevents silt from being deposited in the nearby fields. As a result, farmers must use fertilizer to aid the growth of crops. East of the Nile River is the Sinai Peninsula, which is made up of rocky mountains and desert. The Sinai is separated from the rest of Egypt by the **Suez Canal**, a strategic waterway that connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea.

Name the five countries of North Africa.

Describe the Nile River.

Section 1, *continued*

The Sahara has a huge impact on all of North Africa. It is made up of sand dunes, gravel plains, and rocky, barren mountains. Because of the Sahara's harsh environment, few people live there. Small settlements of farmers are located by **oases**—wet, fertile areas in the desert that are fed by natural springs. The Ahaggar Mountains are located in central North Africa. The **Atlas Mountains** are in the northwestern part of North Africa.

Why would an oasis be valuable to someone traveling in the desert?

CLIMATE AND RESOURCES

Most of North Africa has a desert climate. It is hot and dry during the day, and cool or cold during the night. There is very little rain. Most of the northern coast west of Egypt has a Mediterranean climate. There it is hot and dry in the summer, and cool and moist in the winter. Areas between the coast and the Sahara have a steppe climate.

What kind of climate covers most of North Africa?

Important resources include oil and gas, particularly for Libya, Algeria, and Egypt. In Morocco, iron ore and minerals are important. Coal, oil, and natural gas are found in the Sahara.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Evaluating Why do you think almost all of Egypt's population lives along the Nile River? Write a brief paragraph that explains your answer.

North Africa

Section 2



MAIN IDEAS

1. North Africa's history includes ancient Egyptian civilization.
2. Islam influences the cultures of North Africa and most people speak Arabic.

Key Terms and Places

Alexandria city in Egypt founded by Alexander the Great in 332 BC

Berbers an ethnic group who are native to North Africa and speak Berber languages

Section Summary

NORTH AFRICA'S HISTORY

Around 3200 BC people along the northern Nile united into a single Egyptian Kingdom. The ancient Egyptians participated in trade, developed a writing system, and built pyramids in which to bury their pharaohs, or kings. The pyramids were made of large blocks of stone that were probably rolled on logs to the Nile and then moved by barge to the building site. The Great Pyramid of Egypt took about twenty years to finish.

Hieroglyphs, pictures and symbols that stand for ideas and words, formed the basis for Egypt's first writing system. Each symbol stood for one or more sounds in the Egyptian language. Many writings recorded the achievements of pharaohs.

Invaders of North Africa included people from the eastern Mediterranean, Greeks, and Romans. Alexander the Great, the Macedonian king, founded the city of **Alexandria** in Egypt in 332 BC. It became an important port of trade and a great center of learning. Arab armies from Southwest Asia started invading North Africa in the AD 600s. They ruled most or all of North Africa until the 1800s, bringing the Arabic language and Islam to the region.

Where did ancient Egyptians bury their kings?

What are hieroglyphs?

How long did Arabs from Southwest Asia rule North Africa?

Section 2, *continued*

In the 1800s European countries began invading North Africa. By 1912 Spain and France controlled Morocco, France also controlled Tunisia and Algeria, Italy controlled Libya, and the British controlled Egypt. The countries gradually gained independence in the mid-1900s. Algeria was the last country to win independence in 1962. Today the countries of North Africa are trying to build stronger ties to other Arab countries.

What European countries ruled North Africa in the early 1900s?

CULTURES OF NORTH AFRICA

Egyptians, **Berbers**, and Bedouins make up almost all of Egypt’s population. People west of Egypt are mostly of mixed Arab and Berber ancestry. Most North Africans speak Arabic and are Muslims.

What language do most North Africans speak? What religion do they practice?

Grains, vegetables, fruits, and nuts are common foods. Couscous, a pellet-like pasta made from wheat, is served steamed with vegetables or meat. Another favorite dish is *fuul*, made from fava beans.

Two important holidays are Muhammad’s birthday and Ramadan, a holy month during which Muslims fast. Traditional clothing is long and loose. Many women cover their entire body except for the face and hands.

Name two important North African holidays.

North Africa is known for its beautiful architecture, wood carving, carpets, and hand-painted tiles. The region has produced important writers, including Egypt’s Nobel Prize winner Naguib Mahfouz. Egypt also has a thriving film industry. North African music is based on a scale containing more notes than the one common in Western music, which creates a wailing or wavering sound. The three-stringed sintir of Morocco is a popular instrument.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Evaluating Imagine that you are spending your summer vacation traveling throughout North Africa. Write a letter to a friend at home that describes the people you meet and the places you visit.

North Africa

Section 3



MAIN IDEAS

1. Many of Egypt's people are farmers and live along the Nile River.
2. People in the other countries of North Africa are mostly pastoral nomads or farmers, and oil is an important resource in the region.

Key Terms and Places

Cairo capital of Egypt, located in the Nile Delta

Maghreb collective name for Western Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco

souks large marketplaces

free port a city in which almost no taxes are placed on goods sold there

dictator someone who rules a country with complete power

Section Summary

EGYPT

More than half of all Egyptians live in rural areas. Most rural Egyptians own small farms or work on large ones owned by powerful families. **Cairo**, Egypt's capital and largest city, is located in the Nile Delta. Overcrowding, limited housing, and pollution are serious problems in Cairo. Alexandria, Egypt's second-largest city, is a major seaport and industrial center. Oil and tourism are important industries in Egypt. Revenue from the Suez Canal provides another source of income. Cotton is an important crop in the Nile Delta. Vegetables, grain, and fruit are grown along the Nile River.

Egypt faces important challenges today. Fertilizing farmland is expensive. Poverty, illiteracy, disease, and pollution are other problems. Still another is the role of Islam. Egyptians disagree on the extent to which Muslim beliefs should influence government. These disagreements have led to violence at times.

Name three serious problems in Cairo.

What are some challenges that Egypt faces today?

Section 3, *continued*

OTHER COUNTRIES OF NORTH AFRICA

Western Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco are known as the **Maghreb**. The Sahara covers most of this region. The major cities and most of the farmland lie along the Mediterranean coast.

Algeria's capital, Algiers, includes an old district called the Casbah. Marketplaces called **souks** jam the narrow streets of this district. In Algeria, as in Egypt, disagreement over the role of Islam in society has led to violence at times.

Tunisia's capital and largest city is Tunis. Tunisia, like other North African countries, has close economic ties to Europe. About two thirds of its imports are from the European Union.

The largest city in Morocco is Casablanca. Tangier, overlooking the Strait of Gibraltar to Spain, is a **free port**. Almost no taxes are charged on goods sold there. Morocco has little oil, but it is an important producer of fertilizer.

More than 85 percent of Libya's population lives in cities. The two largest cities are Benghazi and the capital, Tripoli. The **dictator**, Muammar al-Gadhafi, rules Libya. Because of his support of terrorist activities, Libya's economic relationship with other countries has been hurt.

Oil is the most important industry in North Africa. Mining and tourism are important too. The region's farmers grow and export grains, olives, fruits, and nuts.

Why is Europe important to the economies of North Africa?

What is the most important industry in North Africa?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Making Judgments What do you think is the greatest challenge facing the countries of North Africa today? Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper that identifies this challenge and suggests what to do about it.

Anwar al-Sadat

1918–1981



HOW HE AFFECTED THE WORLD Anwar al-Sadat was president of Egypt from 1970 to 1981. Beginning in 1977, he started peace negotiations with Israel, a country Egypt and other Arab countries had fought with for many years. The negotiations led to a historic peace agreement between the two nations.



Wally McNamee/CORBIS



As you read the biography below, think about how Anwar al-Sadat's leadership helped forge a peace between two former enemies that has lasted for over 25 years.

As a young man, Anwar al-Sadat attended military school. In 1938 he graduated from the Cairo Military Academy. Sadat then entered the army where he met Gamal Abdel Nasser. Nasser, Sadat, and other military officers formed a secret organization. They called themselves the Free Officers Organization. Their goal was to **expel** the British from all of Egypt. During World War II, the British jailed Sadat for his plots against them.

In 1952 Sadat participated in a successful **coup** against the Egyptian monarchy. After the coup, Nasser became president, and Sadat held various positions in the new government. In 1964 he became vice president. He served in this role from 1964 to 1966, and again from 1969 to 1970. After Nasser died in 1970, Sadat was elected president of Egypt.

In 1973 Sadat joined with Syria in an invasion of Israel. He had hoped to regain land lost in a previous war with Israel. This invasion started the Arab-Israeli War of 1973. Egypt and Syria were successful at first, but Israel was able to counterattack.

VOCABULARY

expel force out
coup revolution, takeover
mediated monitored
assassinated killed

After a truce was reached, Sadat decided to work toward peace in the region.

With his military background, Sadat was considered unlikely to become a peacemaker. But he started negotiations with Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin. The talks took place in the United States and were **mediated** by President Jimmy Carter. In 1978, Sadat signed a historic peace treaty with Begin known as the Camp David Accords. Because of their work for peace, Sadat and Begin shared the 1978 Nobel Prize for Peace. The peace treaty was finalized in 1979—and was the first ever between an Arab country and Israel.

Although many applauded Sadat's efforts, many Egyptians and others opposed the treaty. Many also disagreed with other steps he took. In 1981 Sadat was **assassinated** in Cairo by Muslim extremists.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

1. Recall Why did Sadat join the Free Officers Organization?

2. Critical Thinking: Drawing Conclusions Why do you think some people disagreed with Sadat?

ACTIVITY

In a negotiation, such as the one between Egypt and Israel, both sides work to find some middle ground. Think back to a disagreement you had with a friend or family member. How did you resolve the problem? Were you able to negotiate a solution that satisfied both of you? Did someone act as mediator? On a separate piece of paper, write a short story describing your experience.