

Ch-10 (Africa)

1) Which is called the dark continent and why?

A) Africa is called the dark continent. Africa was called 'The Dark Continent' because it remained unexplored for a very long time. There are many reasons for this -

(i) The vast Sahara desert in Northern Africa was a natural barrier for the Europeans.

(ii) There were few good harbours along the coast, making it difficult for explorers to land.

(iii) The continent of Africa is made up of plateaus which rise steeply from the coast. This made it difficult to enter the interior.

(iv) As the rivers flowed towards the sea, they formed high waterfalls. So the river could not be used to travel into the interior of the continent.

(v) The hot and humid climate, the dense forests, fear of wild animals and disease discouraged explorers.

2) Explain the location and boundaries of Africa?

A) Location - Africa straddles in four hemispheres, for both the Prime Meridian and the Equator pass over it.

Africa extends about 37° N and 35° S of the Equator. It is separated from Europe by the strait of Gibraltar in Mediterranean Sea and from Asia by the Isthmus of Suez in Red Sea.

Africa extends between 17° W and 50° E longitudes. Africa is the only continent which is crossed by the Equator, the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

Boundaries - Africa is almost surrounded by seas and oceans. It has the Mediterranean sea in the north. On the west is the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian Ocean is in the east. There are fifty-three

Prime Merit

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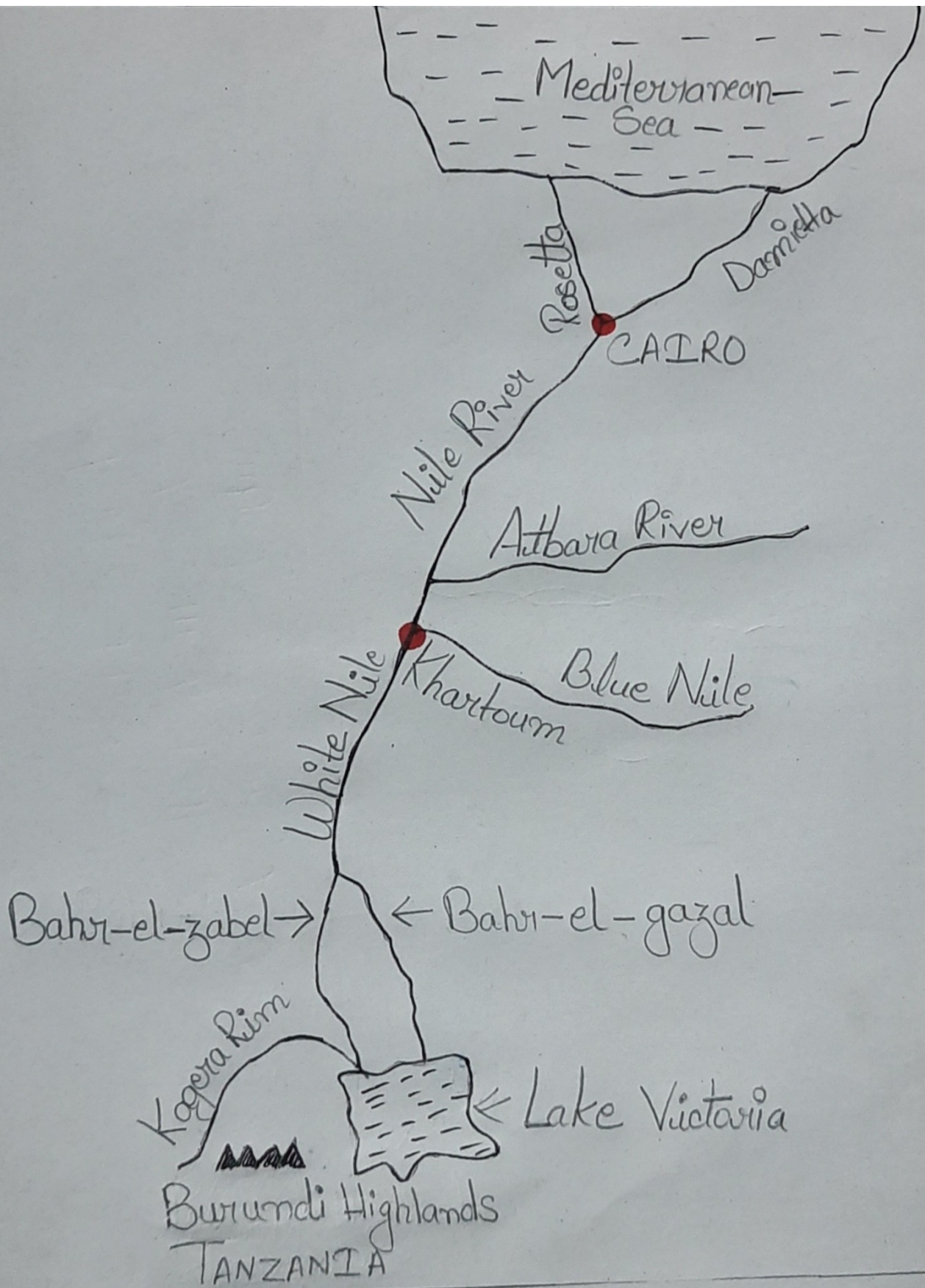
countries in Africa.

3) Explain the course of river Nile.

A) The Nile is the river in the world with a length of 6,690 km. The Kagera river originating on the Burundi highlands of Tanzania and falling into the Lake Victoria is believed to be the source of the Nile river. The Lake Victoria, the neighbouring Lake Mobutu (Albert) and Lake Tali Amin Pado (Edward) and the large marsh serve as great natural reservoirs of the Nile.

Its source region is located in the equatorial region. This equatorial region receive heavy rains. The heavy rains in its source areas provides the Nile enough water to flow across the largest hot desert of the world. From lake Victoria two rivers comes out as Bahr-el-Ghazal and Bahr-el-Tabel to form White Nile. The second largest tributary of the Nile, the Blue Nile meets the white Nile near Khartoum to form the Nile. The white Nile is the clear-Nile and the Blue Nile is the muddy Nile. Further 300 km down the Atbara river, the third largest

tributary meets the Nile. Thereafter the rivers take the name Nile and flows down with a length of about 2,500 km without receiving any notable tributary. Before the river Nile falls into the Mediterranean sea, it splits into a number of channels. These channels are called the distributaries. The two important distributaries namely the Rosetta river and the Damietta river form a triangular shape delta, near Cairo.



NILE RIVER

4) Name the factors responsible for the different types of climate of Africa. Explain any two of them.

A) The factors responsible for the different types of climate of Africa are:-

i) Latitude, ii) Land and Sea Contrast, iii) Ocean Currents.

i) Latitude - Africa lies between 37°N and 35°S latitudes. Thus, most of Africa lies in the torrid zone. The Equator passes through the middle of the continent, so it receives the direct rays of the sun throughout the year.

ii) Land and Sea Contrast - Africa is surrounded by the Mediterranean sea in the north, the Atlantic Ocean on the west and the Indian Ocean on the east. The moderating effect of the sea is felt along the coastal areas, especially along the Mediterranean sea the Indian Oceans and the coast of Guinea. The effect is not felt further inland due to the high plateaus.

5) Name the climatic Region of Africa. Explain any two of them.

A) The climatic Region of Africa are:-

i) The equatorial type of climatic.

ii) The Sudan type of climatic (Savanna type of climate) or Tropical climate.

iii) The Tropical Desert type of climate.

iv) The Mediterranean type of climate.

v) The Monsoon type of climate.

vi) The Temperate Grassland type of climate.

vii) The Highland Region climate.

viii) The China type of climate.

i) The equatorial type of climate - This type of climate is extremely hot and wet. It covers the equatorial parts of western Africa, i.e., the Zaire Basin and the coastal Africa round the Gulf of Guinea. The temperature ranges around $27-28^{\circ}\text{C}$ with heavy convectional daily rainfall almost all the year round.

ii) The Mediterranean type of climate - This type of climate is found along the northern coast and also along the southern tip of Africa. It has hot, dry summers. It has mild, wet winters. This is the only climatic region which gets rain only in winter.

6) Explain Equatorial forests.

A) Due to the hot and wet conditions, this region has dense forests. This type of vegetation is found on the vast region of the Congo (Zaire) Basin and on the coast of the Gulf of Guinea. Vegetation in this equatorial climate consists of thick forests of tall evergreen trees with hard wood and thick leaf-umbrellas. These thick umbrellas do not let the sunlight reach the ground. So, the flood waters,

of rivers, spread in this area, turn into swamps that are unhealthy and very difficult to cross.

Important trees found in these forests are mahogany, ebony and rosewood.

The rain forest is the home of many animals. Chimpanzees and many kinds of monkey live and move among the trees, living mainly on fruit and tender plants. Gorillas, buffaloes and leopards are also found here. Crocodiles and hippopotamuses live in swamps and rivers. Towards the forest suburbs, elephants are also found.

7) Explain Desert Vegetation.

A) The desert areas touching the Savanna lands have scrub and thorny bushes while rest of the desert is totally barren. The hot and dry conditions in this region allow very little vegetation to grow. The plants that do grow, obtain and conserve water in different ways. Also, only animals that can survive with very little water, live here.

In places where there are scrubby plants, there are herds of addax, a kind of antelope with long and twisted horns. It never drinks water. It gets the water it needs from the plant and the food it eats. The desert fox, scorpions, lizards, various kinds of insects, gazelles, donkeys and horses are found here. Tuaregs of Sahara, Bushmen of Kalahari are well known tribes in Desert areas of Africa.

8) Explain Mediterranean Region.

A) Mediterranean climate is favourable for the growth of trees like cork, laurel and olive. Moreover, fruit-trees like the orange, grape and lemon also flourish well in this climate. Olives, citrus fruits (oranges, lemons), cork and vine are

plants of economic importance to the mediterranean region. Tall trees are rare. Oak, walnut, almond, fig, as well as cedar, pines and firs are found here. Domesticated animals like cattle and sheep are found here.