

African American Voices Lesson Plans

Lesson Plan: Atlas of Africa

Subject: World Geography

Grade: 6

NGSSS-SS: **SS.6.G.2.2**
Differentiate between continents, regions, countries, and cities in order to understand the complexities of regions created by civilizations.



**Description/
Abstract of Lesson:** The teacher will have the students critically analyze their own stereotypes for other populations in the world (i.e. African peoples) and will study the political, cultural and physical geography of Africa. The class will develop an Atlas based on its study of several African countries.

Objective(s): Students will accomplish the following:

- Identify the major types of land forms and bodies of water found on earth.
- Differentiate between continents, regions, and countries.
- Cite examples of regions which are defined by characteristics other than absolute location. (e.g., culture, language, religion)
- Draw free-hand regional maps that include major physical features and political divisions.

Materials:

- Transparencies and/or jpeg files of map of the African continent
- Handout: Kenyan Stereotypes of Americans
- Map-ecological areas of Africa
- Media Center print/non-print resources for research
- Internet for research

Duration: Several Class Sessions

**Lesson Lead In/
Opening:**

1. Ask the students to tell you what comes to their minds when you say the word "Africa."
2. The teacher will write responses within a circle (or outline of the map of Africa) drawn on the board.
3. The class will discuss the responses. The teacher will challenge student responses that involve stereotypes with questions such as "Where did you get that idea?" or "Why do you believe that?"
4. After discussing where the students obtained their ideas about Africa, explain to the students how other people in the world hold very strong views of people that live in the United States that they may have

obtained through images on television, magazines, the Internet, etc.

5. Read to or along with the students the article on the stereotypical views that Kenyan students have about people that live in the United States. Discuss all of the stereotypes and ask the students after each topic, "Is this true?"

6. Discuss how the views of the Kenyan students views of America may be stereotypical by asking students, "Based on what just happened, what do you think about our view of Africa?" Realistic or stereotypical?

7. Discuss how diverse populations in Africa live, the regions of Africa and the countries of Africa. Be sure students understand that Africa is a continent (not a country) with different climates, countries, cultures. It should be emphasized that all of Africa is NOT a jungle or a desert and that it contains a vast amount of natural resources. It should also be pointed out that NOT all the people in Africa speak the same language, practice the same religion or eat the same foods.

Activity 1:

1. Distribute the map of the political outline of Africa. Have the students label and color the countries according to the way it is shown in their text or the visual display provided by the teacher.

2. Post up students' work on a classroom wall when finished. (Preserve the most developed pieces for almanac activity)

3. Using the text book or web materials, have the students complete a unit of study on the continent of Africa. The following are suggested web sites to use:

www.nationalgeographic.com

www.africaguide.com

www.geographia.com/indx06.htm

Activity 2:

1. After completing a unit of study on the continent of Africa, arrange the students into groups of five. Assign each group a country in Africa:

- Assign one student in each group the task of drawing and coloring a map of major landforms, bodies of water and surrounding political borders of the country assigned.
- Assign two students in the group the task of drawing two different special purpose maps of the country assigned. Their special purpose maps could illustrate topography, climate, religion, language, resources, imports, exports, population, ethnicity, etc.
- Assign one student the task of drawing, making a collage or cutting pictures from a magazine (or internet web sites) to create an image of the physical geography of the country assigned.
- Assign one student the task of drawing, making a collage or cutting pictures from a magazine (or internet web sites) to create an image of the cultural geography of the country assigned.

2. After completion, have the groups organize their projects By category (i.e. landforms, special purpose, physical geography, cultural geography).
3. Bind all of the group projects together, organized and divided by country, to form an atlas. (Be sure to include the best produced maps of the continent in the beginning section of the atlas)

Assessment:

- Evaluate maps based on accuracy of information, neatness and inclusion of legends.
- Consider creativity grade for pictures and format of atlas.
- Consider group grades for level of cooperation and leadership within each group.

Higher Order

Thinking Questions:

1. What problems could you experience if you had wrong ideas about certain people?
2. What wrong ideas do people commonly have about your culture? How does it make you feel?
3. What stereotypes held by the Kenyan teenagers about Americans make you feel hurt the most? Why?
4. Why would you suppose Kenyans would think that Americans are very violent?
5. What stereotypes that you have of African people would probably hurt the Kenyan teenagers the most?
6. Why would someone have the misconception that all African people speak the same language or even have the same religion?

Book Resources:

Grove, A. T. (1993) The Changing Geography of Africa, Oxford University Press

Web Resources:

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/school/Africa/Africamap.shtml>

maps.grida.no/go/collection/vital-climate-graphics-africa

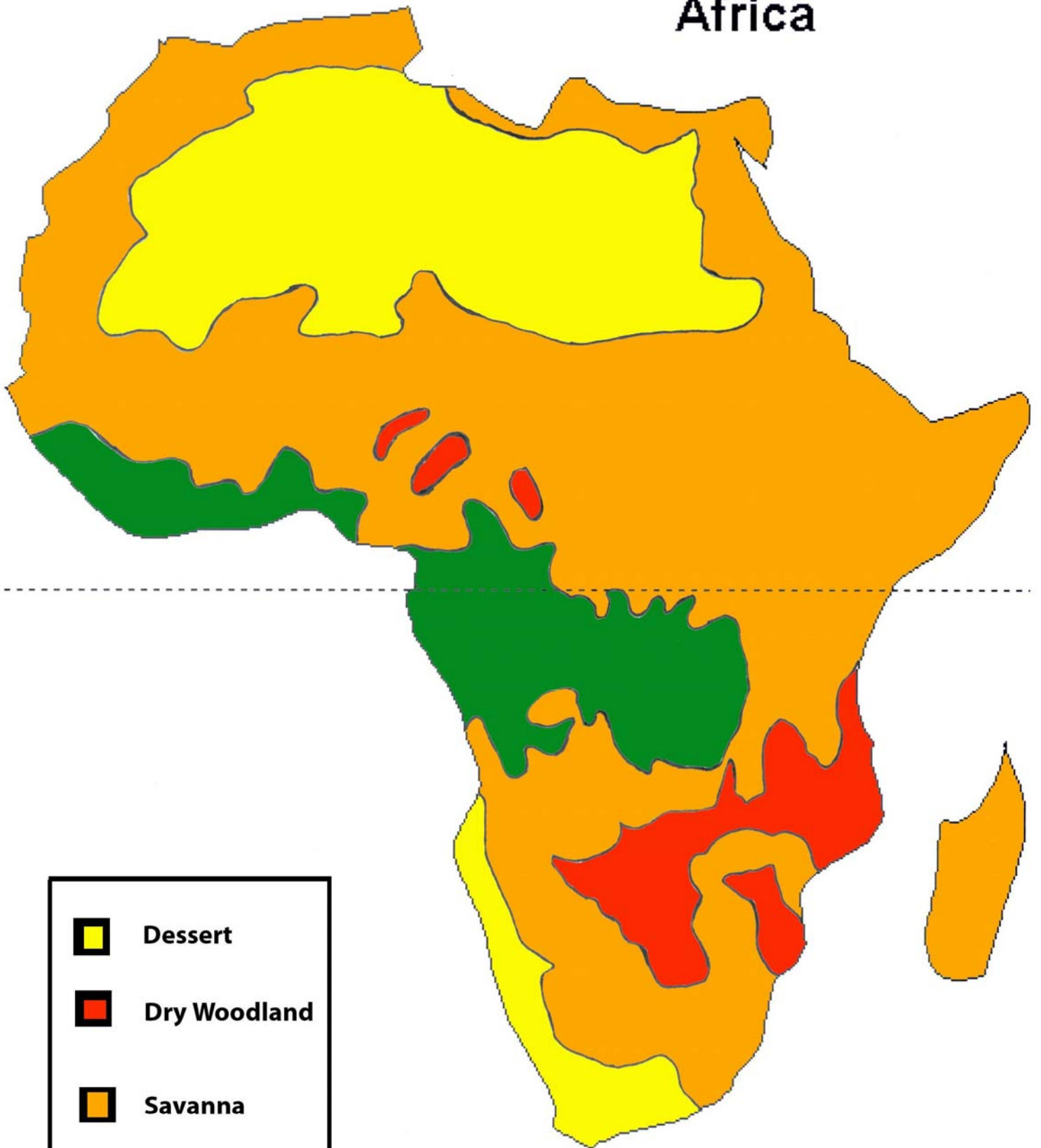
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www.pbs.org/wnet/africa/

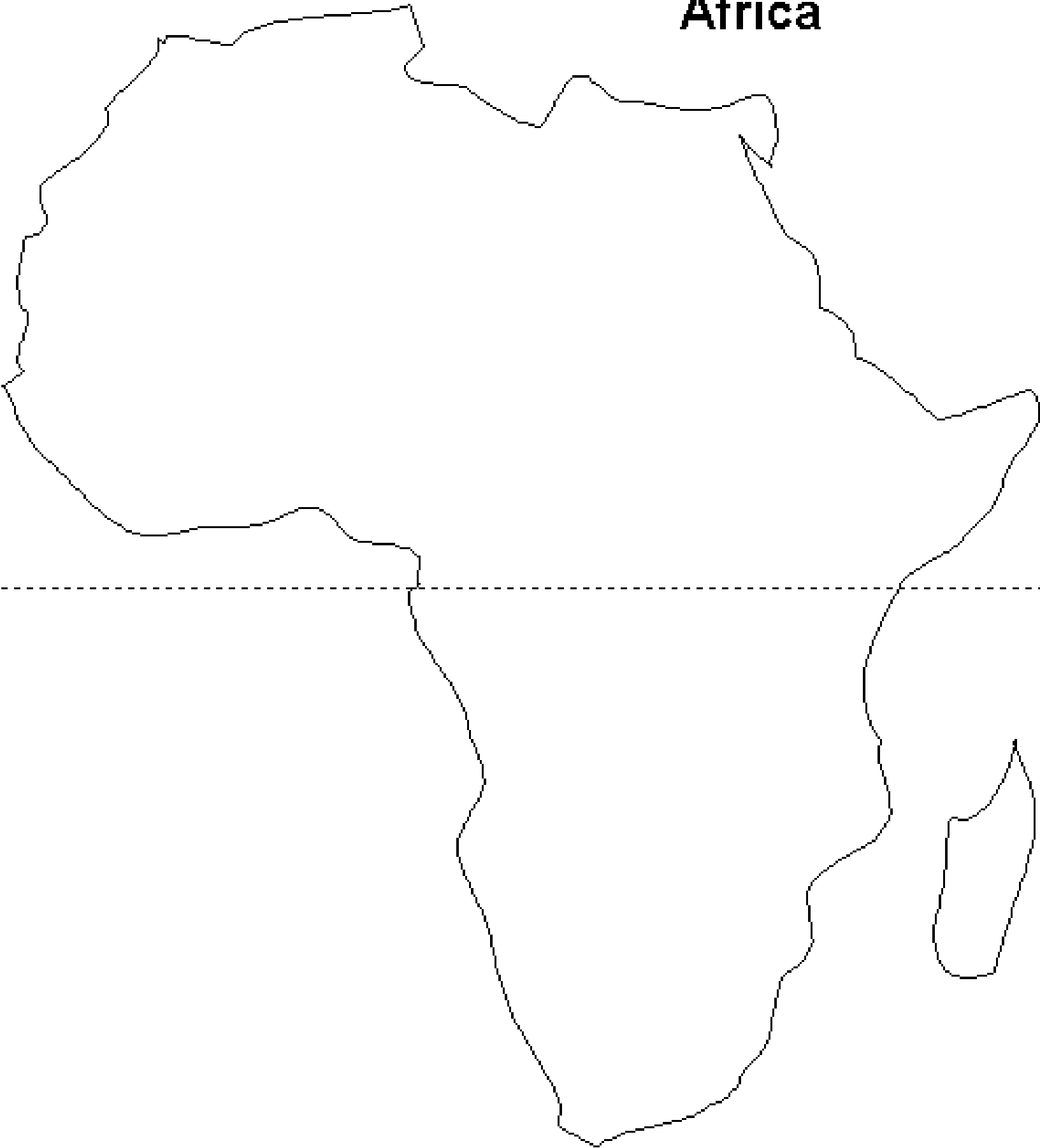
STEREOTYPES KENYAN TEENAGERS HAVE ABOUT AMERICANS

1. Americans all look alike. Americans are white, tall, and have big, long noses.
2. Americans are very rich. All Americans own two or more cars and have so much money they just do not know what to do with it. There are no poor people in America.
3. Americans carry guns with them at all times. Americans take guns everywhere they go. People should be careful because if an American is angered, he will shoot to kill.
4. Americans are tough and rough people. They like to fight. Crime is a big problem in the U.S. It is a dangerous place to visit.
5. Americans feel superior and have domineering characteristics. They think they are the best people in the world and believe everyone else is inferior.
6. Americans do not like Africans. White Americans do not like Black Africans because they have common ancestry with Black Americans. White Americans think all Blacks are inferior. They associate Black Americans with slavery.
7. Americans are very hardworking people. Americans are industrious and work harder than any other people in the world. There are no lazy people in America.
8. Americans like sports. The American enjoys his free time with boating, motoring, baseball, football and other sports.
9. Americans live in towns and cities. Americans don't live in villages or rural areas.
10. Americans eat a lot of good food. They eat anywhere and anytime. They eat while walking, talking, standing or sitting. This is why Americans are so big, bulky and tall. Most of them are very fat with stomachs sticking out.

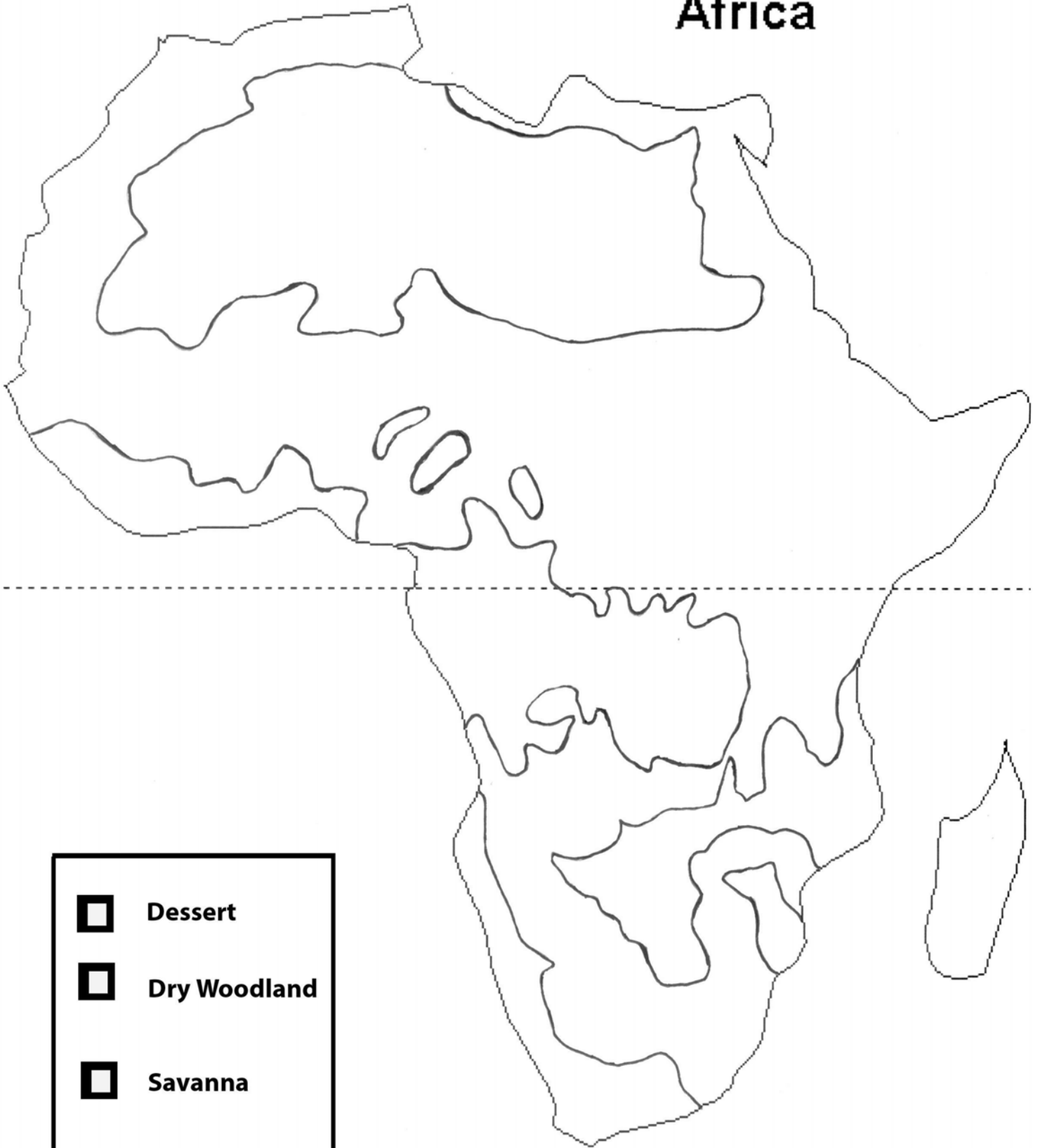
Africa



Africa



Africa



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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Dry Woodland |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Savanna |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Tropical Rain Forest |