

## Africa Study Guide

African Union - organization formed in 2002 to promote unity among African states and to foster development and end poverty

arable land - land that can be used for farming

Copts - minority group in Egypt that practices Christianity

corruption - use of power for personal gain

deforestation - the loss of forest cover in a region that results from the trees in a forest being destroyed faster than they can grow back

delta - a flat plain formed on the seabed where a river deposits material over many years

desertification - the change when arable land dries out and becomes desert

ecotourism - tourism that focuses on the environment and seeks to minimize environmental impact

genocide - attempt to destroy a whole people

Great Rift Valley - long, unusually flat area of land between areas of higher ground in eastern Africa

griot - African musician-storyteller who uses music to track heritage and record history as well as entertain

gross domestic product (GDP) - total value of all goods and services produced in a country in a year

Human Development Index - a measure of living conditions using factors such as life expectancy, education, and income

indigenous - native to a region

infrastructure - body of public works, such as roads, bridges, and hospitals, that a country needs to support a modern economy

malaria - life-threatening disease spread by mosquitoes and caused by parasites

micro-credit - small loan

nomad - person who moves from place to place without a permanent home

nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) - group that operates with private funding

oasis - place in the desert where water can be found

poaching - illegal hunting

Sahel - a semiarid, fairly dry area that lies between the Sahara and moister regions to the south in northern Africa.

savanna - park-like landscape of grasslands with scattered trees that can survive dry spells, found in tropical areas with dry seasons

secularism - idea that government should be separate from religion

Serengeti Plain - a part of the savanna in Kenya and Tanzania, home to many animals such as elephants and gazelles

Swahili - Bantu language that has many Arabic elements and words from other languages

urbanization - movement of people from rural to urban areas

What are 2 important rivers in the west and central Africa region? (p.505)

The Niger River and the Congo River are 2 important rivers in this region.

What harm does the tsetse fly cause? (p. 537)

The tsetse fly carries sleeping sickness.

What nation is the world's largest supplier of diamonds?

South Africa is the world's largest supplier of diamonds.

What African nation is noted for its large national parks and wildlife reserves?

Kenya is noted for its large national parks and wildlife reserves.

What is the official language of Ghana?

English is the official language of Ghana.

What native of Ghana became the Secretary General of the United Nations in 1997?

Kofi Annan was a native of Ghana who became the Secretary General of the United Nations in 1997.