General World Cultures

Chapter 13- East Africa

**rift**- a crack or separation in the Earth’s crust, usually caused by forces deep beneath the surface

**famine**- a serious food shortage that causes many people to die of starvation

**anthropologist**- a scientist who studies the origins and development of human life and culture

**nationalism**- a strong feeling of loyalty to one’s country

**game reserve**- a large area set aside for wild animals

**endangered species**- an animal in danger of dying out because its numbers are few

**The Regions of East Africa**

\* There are four countries in East Africa on the horn: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Somalia. South of the horn are: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. West of the horn is the Sudan.

*Complete the East Africa Mao Study on page 176*

\* East Africa’s climate is very dry in the north but is less dry farther South. East Africa has gentle, rolling hills and steep mountains, some of which are volcanoes. Kenya is cool because of its high elevation.

\* East Africa has four famous landforms. One is the Great **Rift** Valley, which is a huge crack in the Earth’s surface. Another is Lake Victoria- the world’s third largest lake. East of Lake Victoria is the Serengeti Plain- a flat grassland that is home top lions, giraffes, and many other wild animals. The fourth famous landmark is Mount Kilimanjaro. This snow-capped mountain is not part of a range but a stand alone. It rises nearly 20,000 feet above the plains.

**War and Famine in the Northeast**

What are some ways that we could end world hunger? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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\* Hunger is widespread in Africa. The continent simply does not grow enough food for all of its people. Many children and adults suffer from **malnutrition** because their diet does not give them enough nutrients. Malnutrition is when you do not have enough vitamins and other good things needed in a diet. It can lead to health problems such as hair loss, abdominal swelling, and liver disease. Even worse that malnutrition is **famine**.

\* Why is there famine in Africa? One cause is population growth. In most of the continent, the food supply is growing- but the population is growing three to four times faster. In some paces, the food supply is actually shrinking. War also continues to increase the famine and starvation.

\* All of the fighting has caused millions of people to flee their homes and become refugees. They cannot produce food. In the middle of a war, herders cannot care for their herds. Armed gangs take whatever food is grown. The U.S. has tried to help by sending food. Unfortunately, much of the shipment does not make it to the people who need it. Soldiers also do not want their enemies fed.

*Complete Global Issues World Famine on page 179*

**The Great Rift Valley**

We will begin with a Google search of the Great Rift Valley

\* Some experts believe that East Africa is splitting away from the rest of the continent. Millions of years from now, the Great Rift Valley may be an ocean.

Currently, this is the most striking landform in East Africa.

\* The walls of the Great Rift Valley contain many **fossils**. Fossils are the remains of plants and animals that died thousands or even millions ago.

The Great Rift Valley attracts **anthropologists**. These scientists use physical clues, such as long-buried human bones, to study people from the distant past.

**Kenya’s Ethnic Groups**

\* Over 28 million people live in Kenya. They belong to more than 40 ethnic groups. These groups have different dialects, languages, and customs. Their villages are separate.

\* Kenya’s largest ethnic group lives throughout the country. These people are the Kikuyu. There are 5 million people in this group. Many Kenyans have adopted western customs, especially in the cities. People dress in European style clothes, live in modern apartments and houses, drive cars, and work in offices. Some groups, however, are trying to keep their traditional ways. Do you think technology and human advancement is a good thing or would you want things the same in 20 yrs.?

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\* Government leaders in Kenya are trying to build up **nationalism.** They know this will strengthen the central government. They believe it will lead to even greater cooperation among the many different ethnic groups.

**Swahili: A Language of Trade**

\* Most Kenyan people speak many languages. For example, those who live in Nairobi speak English, French, and Portuguese in addition to their native language. Those who live in rural villages might speak a few of the local languages. For example, the Lou people speak Jaluo. A Luo farmer also might speak the languages of the Kikuyu and Luhya. This helps the farmer to communicate with neighboring villages.

\* There is one language that almost all Kenyans speak. It is called Swahili, which belongs to the Niger-Congo language group. The word *Swahili* means “of the coast” in Arabic. Swahili is the official language of Tanzania. It is and has been the single most useful language for getting around in Africa.

*Complete the Geographer’s Tool Kit Using Language Maps on page 183.*

**Marriage Customs**

\* When it comes to marriage, many East Africans- as do other Africans- follow the traditional customs of their ethnic groups. For example, boys and girls do not, as a rule, go out on dates. Marriage joins two families, not just two individuals. For a marriage to work, the families have to get along. The couple getting married may have little or no relationship before their wedding.

\* Many African cultures and religions practice polygamy, which means that men are permitted to have two or more wives. In sub-Saharan Africa, polygamy goes back long before Islam.

\* Almost all African cultures have a custom called bridewealth. This is a payment that a man makes to a bride’s family. Once wealth has changed hands, no one is likely to back out of the marriage agreement. Among some groups, bridewealth serves as a marriage certificate. Traditionally, a man pays bridewealth in gold, grain, sheep, goats, or other valuable goods. Cattle are the most common form of bridewealth for the Masai men of Kenya. City dwellers may pay cash instead of goods.

**Colonialism in East Africa**

\* Arab traders came to East Africa for ivory, spices, and other goods. They also came to enslave people. They took thousands of Africans to the Arabian Peninsula each year. Some ended up as far away as India and China.

\* The British set up the colony of Kenya. They began by building a railroad from the Indian Ocean to Lake Victoria. They brought 30,000 workers from India to lay the tracks. One place along the tracks was a center for trade between the Masai and the Kikuyu. This station became the city of Nairobi.

\* The train brought travelers across the Kenyan plains. Many of them were from the British middle class. In Kenya, they could become upper class by taking land from the Africans and building large tea and coffee plantations. The Africans also lost many basic rights to the British. For example, the British would not allow them to travel freely. The government ordered Africans to pay taxes. Most Africans, however, could not pay these taxes in money, because in their culture there was no such thing as money. So the government forced the Africans to work for the British, and the Africans became little more than enslaved peoples in their own land.

\* Around 1951, a group of Africans in Kenya started a guerilla army. They called themselves the Mau Mau. For seven years, they waged war against British rule. After seven years and over 10,000 deaths, the British at last agreed to share power. In 1963, Kenya became independent.

**East Africa’s Game Reserves**

\* East Africa has a **game reserve**. Here people set aside land to protect endangered and other animals from **poachers** and other dangers. Poaching is when animals are illegally killed for money. Hunting within the boundaries of a reserve is forbidden We have forest preserves in Illinois and throughout the U.S. as well.

\* East Africa’s reserves are needed because Africa has so many **endangered species** of wild animals. One endangered species is the mountain gorilla of Rwanda, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Rhinoceroses, zebras, giraffes, and cheetahs are some of the many other species that roam freely on the game reserves.

\* The governments of East Africa try to balance the needs of people with those of wildlife. Tanzania, for example, limits tourism. Yet Africa’s population is growing. As population grows, people may press to use more land. Preserving wildlife may then become more difficult.

What is more important in your opinion, protecting animals or helping people live more comfortably? Defend your answer. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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<http://www.kidsplanet.org/factsheets/map.html>

**Using the above website, you will choose an animal on the endangered species list. You will complete a simple report by researching details provided by your teacher. You will create a poster and compose a letter requesting action to protect your creature.**