

AFRICA

Population: 1.4 billion; 2nd-populous continent

Four major language families with over 2,000 languages

54
COUNTRIES

11.7 MILLION
SQUARE MILES

2ND-LARGEST
CONTINENT



TROPIC OF CANCER

PRIME
MERIDIAN

EQUATOR

TROPIC OF
CAPRICORN

~19,000 MILES OF COASTLINE

Natural Wonders in Africa

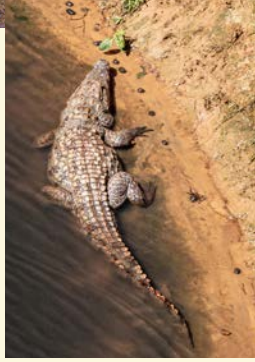
Atlas Mountains	Mount Kilimanjaro
Great Rift Valley	Niger River
Lake Victoria	Nile River
Lake Tanganyika	Serengeti Plain
Mount Kenya	Victoria Falls

Deserts of Africa

Kalahari Desert	Nubian Desert
Libyan Desert	Sahara Desert
Namib Desert	Somali Desert



A guelta is a natural waterhole or pool found in the desert, usually fed by underground springs or seasonal rains. These hidden water sources are vital for survival in places like the Sahara. Chad's **Guelta d'Archei** is one of the most famous—tucked between cliffs



and surrounded by endless sand. Here, wild camels travel long distances to drink, often moving in herds along ancient caravan paths. Beneath the water, a small group of Nile crocodiles have adapted to life in this harsh environment, surviving far from any river—a rare and surprising sight in such a dry region. This guelta shows how life finds a way, even in the most unlikely places.



High in the rocky plateau of **Tassili n'Ajjer**, ancient artists left behind over 15,000 paintings and carvings—but not of desert life. Instead, the walls show people swimming, hunting with bows, and herding cattle. Some even show animals like giraffes and elephants. These scenes seem out of place in the dry Sahara, but they point to a time when this region was green and full of life.

The artwork, hidden among cliffs and caves, is incredibly detailed and still visible after thousands of years. It leaves behind questions: Who made it? What did their world look like? How did it all change? Tassili n'Ajjer invites you to explore not only the desert but a forgotten chapter of its past.



In northern Tanzania, **Ol Doinyo Lengai** rises from the Great Rift Valley with one of the strangest lava flows on Earth. Its name means “Mountain of God” in the language of the Maasai people, who consider it a sacred site. While their beliefs are part of a false religion, the volcano itself is a real wonder. It is the only active volcano in the world that produces natrocarbonatite lava—a rare type of lava that looks black when it flows but turns white as it cools. Unlike most lava, it is cooler and thinner, almost like oil. The white surface around the volcano can look like snow, even though the area is hot and dry. This one-of-a-kind volcano is just one of many natural surprises hidden across the African continent.



Namibia's Sossusvlei region is home to some of the tallest sand dunes in the world—steep, wind-shaped mountains of deep orange sand. Some of these dunes can actually roar. When dry sand slides down their slopes, it creates a deep humming or booming sound, like far-off thunder. This strange effect happens when millions of tiny grains rub together just right. Scientists call them “**booming dunes**,” but locals sometimes call them singing or roaring dunes. A desert that makes music is a great surprise.

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA | EGYPT | LIBYA | MAURITANIA
MOROCCO | TUNISIA | WESTERN SAHARA

North Africa stretches along the Mediterranean Sea and is home to vast deserts, rugged mountains, and ancient civilizations. Much of the land is dry, but rivers, oases, and coastlines have supported life for thousands of years.



Algeria (*al-JEER-ee-uh*) is the largest country in Africa and is mostly covered by the Sahara Desert. Its landscapes include sand dunes, mountains, and coastal plains.

- The Sahara covers over 80% of the country.
- The Atlas Mountains run along the northern part and receive more rain.
- Coastal areas along the Mediterranean are fertile and more populated.
- Sandstorms and dry winds are common in the desert interior.

Egypt (*EE-jipt*) is known for the Nile River, which makes life possible in an otherwise dry land. Most people live near the river or along the coast.

- The Nile River flows north and forms a wide delta before reaching the sea.
- The Sahara Desert stretches across most of Egypt.
- The Sinai Peninsula connects Egypt to Asia and includes dry mountains.
- Oases in the desert provide water and support small communities.

Libya (*LIB-ee-uh*) lies between the Mediterranean Sea and the deep Sahara Desert. It is one of the driest countries in the world.

- Most of the land is flat desert with very little rainfall.
- The coastal plain is narrow but supports farming and cities.
- The Sahara's sand dunes and rocky plateaus cover the south.
- Underground water is pumped to cities through long pipelines.



Mauritania (*mawr-ih-TAY-nee-uh*) is a mostly desert country in western North Africa. The land is dry and sandy, with a few areas that support grazing and small farms.

- ✔ The Sahara covers most of the country, with shifting dunes and rocky land.
- ✔ A small stretch of coastline lies along the Atlantic Ocean.
- ✔ The Senegal River marks part of the southern border and provides water.
- ✔ Most people live in the south, where the land is more fertile.

Morocco (*muh-RAH-koh*) has a wide range of landscapes, from beaches to mountains to desert. Its location near Europe and Africa has made it a cultural crossroads.

- ✔ The Atlas Mountains run through central Morocco and rise above 13,000 feet.
- ✔ The Rif Mountains line the northern coast near the Mediterranean Sea.
- ✔ The Sahara Desert covers the southeast part of the country.
- ✔ Coastal plains along the Atlantic are good for farming and trade.

Tunisia (*too-NEE-zhuh*) is the smallest country in North Africa and lies between the sea and the desert. It has a mix of hills, plains, and dry lands.

- ✔ Northern Tunisia has mountains and more rainfall.
- ✔ The central region has fertile plains used for growing olives and grains.
- ✔ Ras ben Sakka (Cape Angela) is the northernmost point of Africa.
- ✔ The Mediterranean coastline supports cities and fishing.

Western Sahara (*sah-HAIR-uh*) is a disputed territory with dry desert landscapes and very little water. It lies along the Atlantic coast in northwest Africa. Both Morocco and the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic claim control of the region, leading to ongoing conflict.

- ✔ Most of the land is flat, rocky desert with sand dunes.
- ✔ Rain is rare, and temperatures can be extreme.
- ✔ There are few permanent rivers or lakes.
- ✔ The Atlantic Ocean borders the west, but most of the interior is empty and harsh.

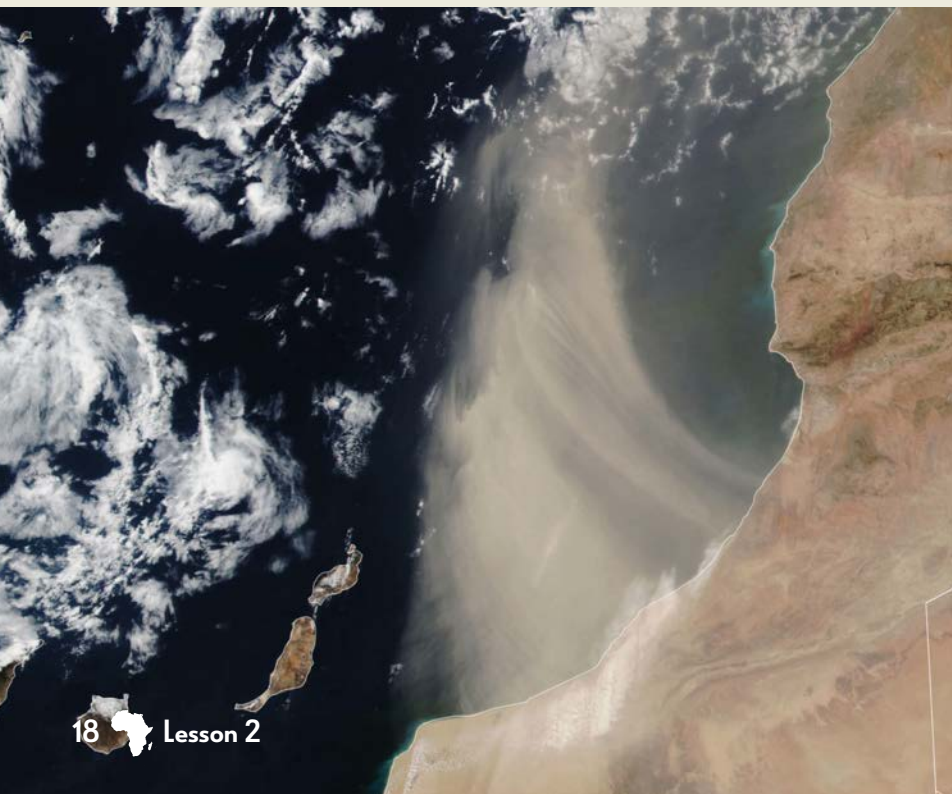
You might not think a desert in Africa could affect life halfway around the world—but the Sahara does just that. Every summer, strong winds scoop up huge clouds of dust and send them high into the sky. This dusty layer, called the Saharan Air Layer (or SAL), travels thousands of miles across the Atlantic Ocean.

Some of that dust falls into the sea, but a surprising amount keeps going. It can reach places like Brazil, Florida, Texas—and even as far away as Japan! Along the way, it does a mix of good and bad. The dust can stop hurricanes from growing, which can be a blessing. But it can also lead to heavier rain or health problems. The tiny particles can irritate people's eyes, noses, and throats—and sometimes even cause lung infections.

Still, there's a bright side. That Saharan dust carries important minerals like iron and phosphorus. When it lands, it helps fertilize soil in other parts of the world. So even from thousands of miles away, the Sahara is shaping the planet.

The **Maghreb** (*MAH-greb*) is the name for the western part of the Arab world. It includes Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, and Western Sahara—a region that's still disputed. Egypt and Sudan belong to a different region called the Mashriq, which means "eastern Arab world."

A long time ago, the Maghreb just meant the land between the Atlas Mountains and the coast. Today, the name covers a wider area, like you'll see on the map below.



SAHARA

As you look across the map of North Africa, one feature stands out right away—the **Sahara Desert**. It's hard to miss. Spreading across 11 countries, this massive desert takes up nearly a third of the continent. In fact, if you laid the United States over it, the two would be about the same size!

When you imagine the Sahara, you might picture endless sand dunes—and, yes, those are definitely there—but the landscape actually changes from place to place. Some areas are covered in soft waves of sand, while others are rocky and dry, almost like the surface of the moon. It is divided into regions with names like the Libyan Desert, Grand Erg Occidental, Grand Erg Oriental, Issaouane Erg, and Erg Chigaga, each with its own look and feel.

Temperatures can soar during the day and drop below freezing at night. Rain is rare. Most parts get less than two inches a year! Even so, life finds a way. Underground water sources called aquifers help support small pockets of life, and a few lakes—some salty, one fresh—still exist. You might even come across a green oasis tucked between the dryness. For thousands of years, nomads like the Tuareg have learned how to live here, traveling with their animals in search of water. Long ago, camel caravans carried salt and gold across these same sands, linking distant kingdoms and sharing languages and ideas. The Sahara may look empty at first glance, but it has always been full of movement, challenge, and history.



Gaberoun Lake Oasis in the
Awbari Sand Sea, Libya



The Sahara Desert is not just one endless sea of sand. It is full of different landforms, each shaped by wind, erosion, and rare bursts of rain. These features give clues about how deserts work and change over time.

Ergs are the classic sand seas, with dunes that can rise hundreds of feet. Some move with the wind, while others stay in place for years.

Hamadas are flat, rocky plateaus with little or no sand. Their stone surfaces are cracked and tough to cross.

Regs, or desert pavements, are areas covered in gravel or stones. The wind has blown away the finer sand, leaving rocks behind.

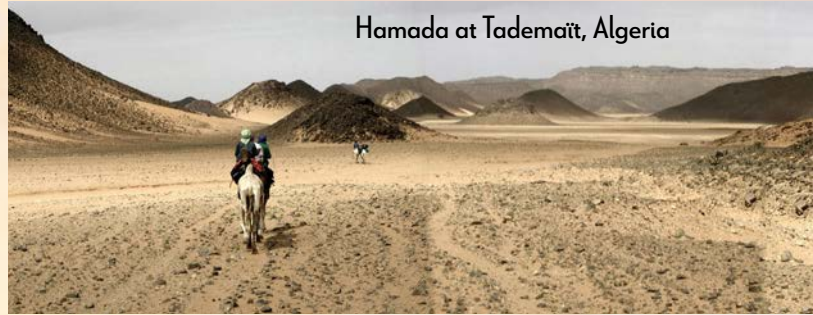
Wadis are dry riverbeds that only fill during sudden desert rains. Flash floods can carve deep paths through the land.

Chotts are shallow salt flats that may hold water after rain but usually dry out, leaving behind a crusty white layer.

The Sahara's not just sand; it's a desert full of variety.



The Erg Chebbi desert area



Hamada at Tademaït, Algeria



Reg in Adrar, Mauritania



Wadi Degla in Egypt during the dry season

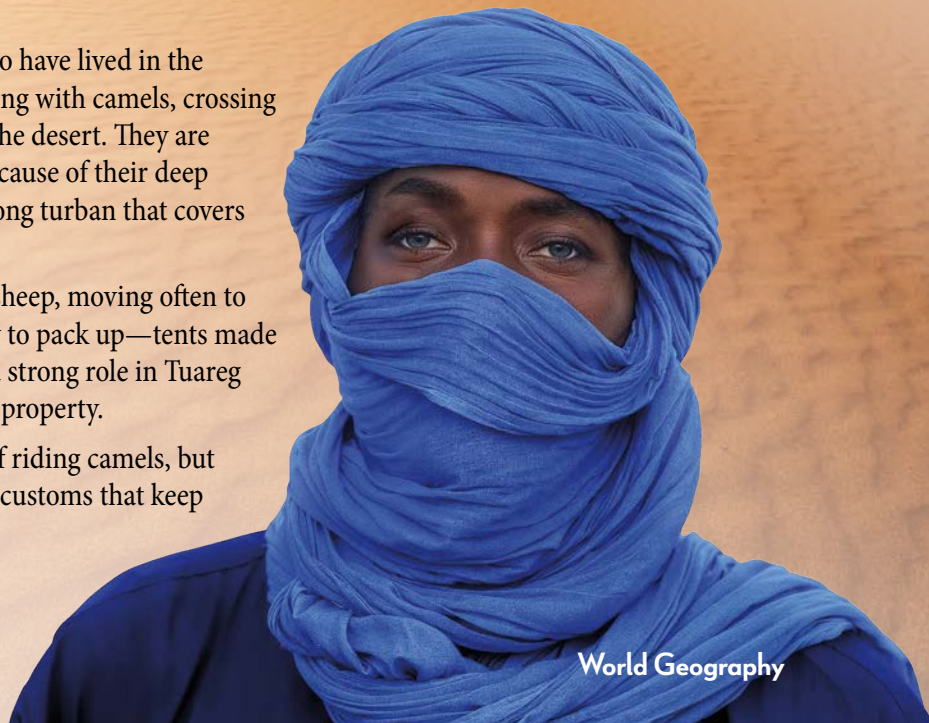
Chott el Jerid in southern Tunisia



The **Tuareg** (*TWAH-reg*) are a nomadic people who have lived in the Sahara for centuries. You will often see them traveling with camels, crossing dunes and rocky plains to guide caravans through the desert. They are sometimes called the “blue people of the desert” because of their deep indigo clothing. Tuareg men wear a tagelmust—a long turban that covers the face to block out sand and sun.

Traditionally, the Tuareg raised camels, goats, and sheep, moving often to find water and grazing land. Their homes were easy to pack up—tents made from animal hides or woven mats. Women played a strong role in Tuareg society, often managing the household and owning property.

Today, some Tuareg live in towns or drive instead of riding camels, but many still speak their own language and follow the customs that keep their desert heritage alive.



ECONOMY NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA | EGYPT | LIBYA
MAURITANIA | MOROCCO
TUNISIA | WESTERN SAHARA

North Africa's economy is shaped by both its land and its location. Along the Mediterranean coast, countries like Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia benefit from tourism, fishing, shipping, and trade. Ports in cities like Alexandria and Casablanca connect Africa to Europe and Asia, making the region an important hub for business and transportation.

Inland, the dry climate makes farming difficult, but people still grow wheat, olives, dates, and vegetables along the Nile River, in mountain valleys, and around oases. Rural communities often face challenges like poverty and limited resources, while cities continue to grow and modernize. Geography can make life hard, but it also pushes people to be creative with how they farm, build, and use energy.

	Top Economic Industries	Real GDP	GDP Growth Rate
Algeria	Industries: petroleum (crude oil) & natural gas (14% of GDP & 83% of exports 2019–2023), mining, light industries, pharmaceuticals, mechanical & electronic industries	\$700 billion	4%
	Agricultural commodities: wheat, barley, potatoes, dates, olives		
Egypt	Industries: petroleum & natural gas, textiles, tourism, food processing, chemicals, fertilizers	\$2 trillion	4%
	Agricultural commodities: wheat, rice, corn, cotton, citrus fruits		
Libya	Industries: petroleum (95% of exports; 60% of GDP), petrochemicals, mining, agriculture, tourism	\$122 billion	-2%
	Agricultural commodities: wheat, barley, olives, dates, vegetables		
Mauritania	Industries: mining, fishing, agriculture, petroleum, trade	\$30 billion	3%
	Agricultural commodities: sorghum, millet, wheat, dates, livestock (camels, sheep, goats)		
Morocco	Industries: automotive manufacturing, phosphate mining, textiles, agriculture, tourism	\$337 billion	3%
	Agricultural commodities: wheat, barley, olives, citrus fruits, sugar beets		
Tunisia	Industries: petroleum & mining, tourism, textiles, agriculture, electrical machinery	\$154 billion	0%
	Agricultural commodities: olives, wheat, barley, tomatoes, dates		
Western Sahara	Industries: phosphate mining, fishing, tourism, nomadic herding, public administration	\$906 million	0%
	Agricultural commodities: dates, fruits & vegetables (grown in oases), camels, sheep, goats		



Several North African countries—especially Libya, Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia—rely on **offshore oil drilling** to support their economies. This process involves building platforms out in the Mediterranean Sea to pull oil and gas from deep under the ocean floor. It is expensive and complex, but the profits can be large, especially for countries that depend on selling energy.

Libya earns most of its income from oil, and offshore drilling adds to its supply. Egypt made a major discovery with the Zohr gas field—one of the largest in the Mediterranean—giving its economy a strong boost. Tunisia and Algeria also benefit from smaller offshore sites.

Offshore drilling fuels more than just energy. It provides jobs in engineering, shipping, construction, and refining. It brings in foreign money, pays for national needs, and ties these countries into global trade. Even with great expense, it remains a major economic force in North Africa.

See notes on page 377 regarding data charts.

GOVERNMENTAL



Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi was elected president in 2014 and re-elected in 2018 and 2023. He won each election with over 89% of the vote.

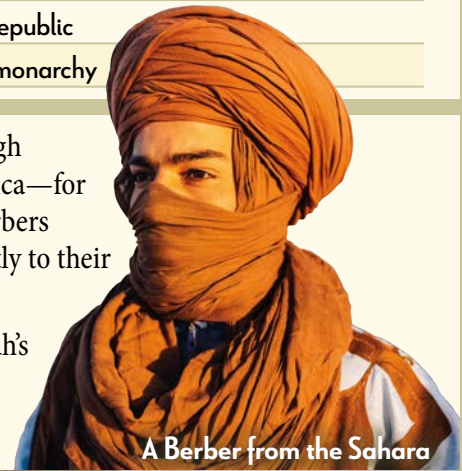
Egypt is a republic, which means the people vote to choose their president. In the past, the president could serve two four-year terms, but in 2019, a change in the law extended the term to six years and allowed the current president to stay in office longer. This change gave the leader more time to carry out plans but also reduced how often people could vote for a new president. Some citizens worry it gives too much power to one person for too long.

Algeria	Presidential republic
Egypt	Presidential republic
Libya	Provisional government since 2021
Mauritania	Presidential republic
Morocco	Parliamentary constitutional monarchy
Tunisia	Parliamentary republic
Western Sahara	Constitutional monarchy

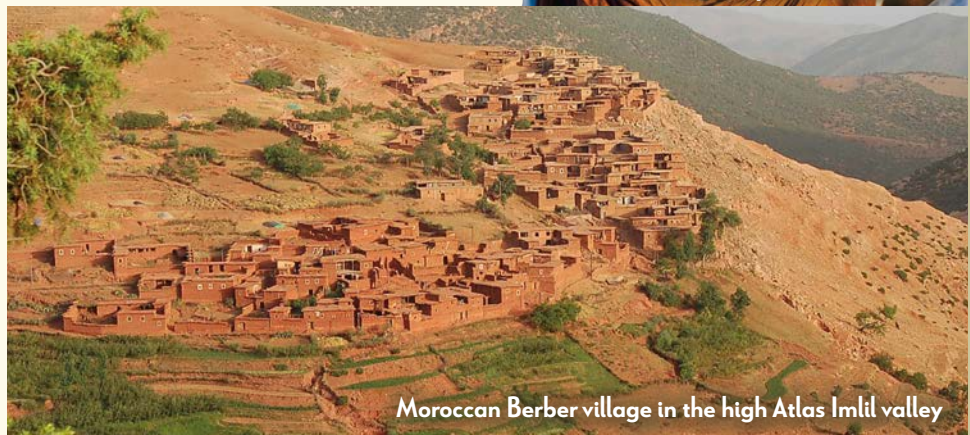
One of North Africa's oldest people groups is the **Berbers**, also called the Amazigh (*AH-mah-zeer*). They have lived in the Maghreb—the western part of North Africa—for thousands of years, long before the Roman Empire or the rise of Islam. Many Berbers continue to live in both cities and remote mountain or desert areas, holding tightly to their cultural identity.

According to tradition, Africa was settled by the descendants of Ham, one of Noah's sons. The Berbers are often connected to this family line and are known for their endurance, independence, and deep connection to the land. They have survived many invasions over the centuries but have managed to preserve their traditions and language.

Berber culture is known for its colorful woven fabrics, geometric designs, and strong oral storytelling passed down through generations. Many still speak Tamazight, a language with its own unique script and a long history of survival despite outside pressures.



A Berber from the Sahara



Moroccan Berber village in the high Atlas Imlil valley

	Ethnic Groups	Language(s)	Population	Population Growth Rate	Life Expectancy	Literacy
Algeria	Arab-Amazigh 99%	Arabic	47,020,000	2%	78 years	81%
Egypt	Egyptian 100%	Arabic	111,250,000	1%	75 years	73%
Libya	Arab-Amazigh 97%	Arabic	7,360,000	1%	78 years	91%
Mauritania	Black Moors 40%, White Moors 30%, Sub-Saharan Mauritaniens 30%	Arabic	4,330,000	2%	66 years	67%
Morocco	Arab-Amazigh 99%	Arabic	37,390,000	1%	73 years	76%
Tunisia	Arab 98%	Arabic	12,000,000	1%	77 years	83%
Western Sahara	Arab-Amazigh	Arabic, Spanish	620,000	3%	54 years	50%

NORTH AFRICA



- ALGERIA
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Islam spread across North Africa in the 600s and soon became the dominant religion. Today, most people in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia follow Sunni Islam, the largest branch of the faith. It teaches submission to a false god called Allah and denies key truths from the Bible—especially that Jesus is the Son of God who died and rose again. These Islamic beliefs stand in direct contrast to the true gospel. Before the rise of Islam, North Africa had strong Christian roots. The early Church in Alexandria was known for Bible study and teaching, and leaders like Augustine shaped Christian history from this region. Over time, however, Islam replaced Christianity in many places. Today, some Christians meet in secret, and those who leave Islam to follow Christ may face rejection, threats, violence, or even death. North Africa is part of the 10/40 window—a region between 10 and 40 degrees north latitude that stretches across Africa and Asia. It includes more than 8,700 people

groups, many of whom have little or no access to the gospel.

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear ... for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. —Deuteronomy 31:6

	Total Population	Percent Christian			Percent Muslim	Percent None
		Catholic	Orthodox	Protestant		
Algeria	47,020,000	--	--	--	99%	1%
Egypt	111,250,000	2%	5%	1%	90%	1%
Libya	7,360,000	--	--	--	97%	2%
Mauritania	4,330,000	--	--	--	100%	--
Morocco	37,390,000	--	--	--	99%	1%
Tunisia	12,000,000	--	--	--	99%	1%
Western Sahara	620,000	--	--	--	100%	--

If you are a Christian in parts of North Africa and follow Jesus openly, you face serious danger. Many countries in this region have laws that limit religious freedom, especially for those who leave Islam. Converts to Christianity may be shunned by relatives, monitored by authorities, or punished under local laws. Churches that are allowed often stay small and are closely watched by the government. In countries like Libya, Algeria, and Morocco, believers sometimes meet secretly in homes to avoid drawing attention. Still, many North African Christians remain firm in their faith. Christian groups from outside the region continue to support them through prayer, Bible distribution, and discipleship.

Note: Percentages in the religion charts may not add up to 100 percent. All numbers are rounded. Some data is not available. Religions with small percentages are not included. Unless specified, Orthodox percentages include all major Orthodox branches.



EVENTS THAT HAVE IMPACTED THE REGION

c. 2000 B.C.	Abraham Visits Egypt During a Famine Abraham journeys to Egypt during a time of drought, marking one of the earliest biblical connections to North Africa.
c. 1446 B.C.	Israelites Leave Egypt in the Exodus God delivers His people from slavery through Moses. The journey to the Promised Land begins in Egypt.
A.D. 40s–300s	Christianity Spreads Across North Africa John Mark brings the gospel to Alexandria, Egypt, starting the Coptic Church. Christianity grows in Libya and Tunisia, with leaders like Augustine shaping the early church.
600s	Islam Spreads Rapidly Through North Africa Arab armies bring Islam. Arabic becomes the main language, and most of the region becomes Muslim.
c. 1100s–1300s	Great Cities and Trade Routes Flourish Cairo, Fez, and Marrakesh become centers of learning and trade, linking Africa with Europe and Asia.
1517	Ottoman Empire Takes Control of Egypt and Surrounding Lands Turkish influence spreads across North Africa. Mosques, palaces, and trade routes grow under Ottoman rule.
1798	Napoleon Invades Egypt The French invasion opens Egypt to European ideas and begins a season of change.
1830	France Invades Algeria France takes over Algeria, then Tunisia and Morocco. Resistance movements begin, especially in mountain regions.
1911	Italy Invades Libya Italy removes the Ottomans and rules Libya. The people face harsh control and cultural pressure.
1954–1962	Algerian War for Independence After years of brutal conflict, Algeria gains freedom from France. The war inspires other independence movements.
1963	Earthquake Strikes Northeastern Algeria A powerful quake kills over 1,800 people in Skikda. Families rebuild with little outside help. Churches pray and serve.
1969	Muammar Gaddafi Takes Power in Libya Gaddafi rules for 42 years with strict control. He is removed during the Arab Spring in 2011.
1975–Present	Dispute Over Western Sahara Morocco and independence groups claim the land. The area remains unsettled, and many live in refugee camps.
1980s–Present	Desertification Expands in the South The Sahara grows into parts of Mauritania, Algeria, and Libya. Christian groups help teach soil care and tree planting.
2011	Arab Spring Brings Upheaval Across North Africa Protests in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya lead to major political changes. People call for justice and reform.
2015–Present	Persecution and Church Growth in Secret Though most of North Africa is Muslim, small house churches continue to grow. Believers worship quietly and share their faith carefully.

PRAYER POINTS

THANK God for the early roots of Christianity in North Africa and for believers who continue to follow Christ faithfully in modern times.

PRAY for boldness and wisdom for Christians worshiping in secret across Egypt, Algeria, Libya, and Morocco, where persecution is often severe.

ASK God to provide clean water, sustainable farming solutions, and relief in areas suffering from extreme drought and desertification.

PRAY that Muslims in the region would encounter the truth of Christ—through dreams, digital ministries, or personal conversations—and turn to Him in faith.



Lord, thank You for the early Christian heritage of North Africa and for believers who continue to follow You with courage. Strengthen and protect those who must worship in hidden places. Please provide water for dry lands and help restore farms and communities. Open hearts across the region to the truth of Christ through dreams, technology, and the bold witness of Your people. In Jesus' name, Amen.

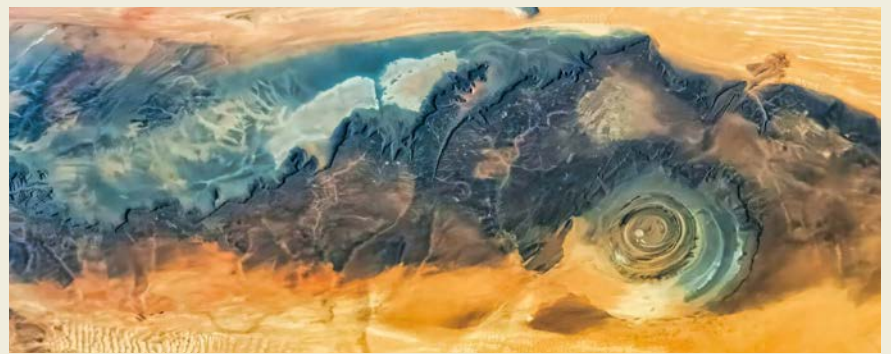
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The Moroccan **Western Sahara Wall** is a long desert barrier that stretches about 1,700 miles from north to south. Made of sand and rock, it stands around 6 feet tall and 10 feet wide. It runs through dry, empty land and separates Western Sahara from areas controlled by the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic.

Beside the wall lies the longest minefield in the world. Morocco placed these landmines during the 1980s, during a war with the Polisario Front—a group that has fought for independence for Western Sahara. The mines were meant to protect the wall and stop attacks. Many of them are still in place today and remain extremely dangerous.



The **Richat Structure**, also known as the Eye of the Sahara, is a massive circular landform in Mauritania's Adrar region. From above, it looks like a giant bullseye made of rock, with ring-shaped layers stretching about 25 miles across. It is so large and distinct that astronauts can see it from space.

Over the years, many early artifacts have been found in and around the structure. These discoveries show that people once lived in this area and traveled through the region long ago.

The **Matmata Homes**

of southern Tunisia are one of North Africa's most surprising examples of how people adapt to their environment. In this dry desert region, Berber families have



built underground homes called troglodyte dwellings for generations. They start by digging a wide, round pit into the ground, then carve rooms into the sides. These cave-like homes stay cool in the summer and warm in the winter, making them perfect for a place with extreme temperatures.

Some of these homes are still lived in today. Their unusual design has appeared as inspiration in several older films.

The **Giza Pyramid Complex** sits just outside modern-day Cairo. It includes the Great Pyramid, also known as Khufu's Pyramid, along with the Pyramid of Khafre and the Pyramid of Menkaure. The site also holds three smaller pyramids built for queens, ancient boat pits, and the famous Great Sphinx. These structures were built during Egypt's Old Kingdom, between 2580 and 2470 B.C.

The pyramids were made from large stone blocks, each carefully cut to the same size. As the pyramids rose, builders had to find smart ways to lift and place the heavy stones. Even today, no one is fully sure how they built one of the world's greatest construction achievements.



UNESCO World Heritage Site pyramid complex

In the middle of Egypt's Western Desert, you will find two landscapes that could not look more different: one bright white and the other dark black. Together, they are known as the **White Desert** and the **Black Desert**, and they sit not far from each other like a study in opposites.

The White Desert is filled with giant rock formations made of chalk—a soft white stone formed from the remains of sea creatures buried and pressed into layers during Noah's Flood. Over time, wind and sand carved these chalk deposits into wild shapes that look like animals, mushrooms, or towers. Because chalk erodes easily, the land keeps changing, almost like it is alive.

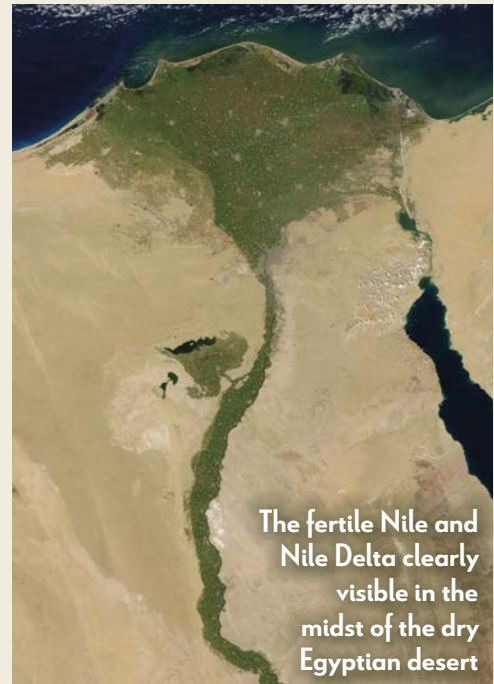
Not far away, the Black Desert has rolling hills covered in dark volcanic rock and gravel. Instead of soft white stone, it is made of hard, black basalt left behind by ancient volcanic activity. The dark color absorbs heat, and the landscape feels dry and rugged, completely opposite from the glowing white sculptures nearby. Together, these two deserts show the incredible variety God placed on Earth—even in the middle of what seems like empty sand.



The **Nile River** is the longest river in the world, stretching over 4,100 miles. It flows north from just below the equator all the way to the Mediterranean Sea. Its drainage basin—the area where a river collects water—covers about one-tenth of Africa and passes through eleven countries. The river is fed by two large lakes—Lake Victoria and Lake Albert—and three main rivers: the White Nile, the Blue Nile, and the Atbara. In most places, the Nile is 26 to 36 feet deep and can be more than a mile wide.

At the northern end is the Nile Delta, a wide, triangle-shaped area along the coast. It is about 150 miles long and 100 miles from north to south. The Nile and its delta were the heart of ancient Egyptian life. Major places like the Giza Pyramids, Aswan, and Cairo are nearby.

The Bible refers to the Nile as the river of Egypt rather than using its modern name. In Genesis 46:28–34, Joseph's family moved to the land of Goshen during a famine, settling near this great river. They lived in Egypt until Moses later led them out during the Exodus (Exodus 12:31–42). For thousands of years, the river's yearly flooding brought rich soil for farming. In the 1960s, Egypt built the Aswan Dam to control flooding and manage water. Even today, the Nile remains vital for life, agriculture, and history across northeastern Africa.



The desert on the far side of the Nile Valley as seen from the Nile near Aswan. The Nile Valley is a narrow (12 mile average) strip of fertile land along the river.