



Africa Vocabulary

Africa Vocabulary



savannah

a vast area of grassland spreading out from rainforests

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equator

imaginary line running through the centre of Africa

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safari

sightseeing trip to view African animals in their natural habitat

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desert

dry, sand-covered area of land without water and vegetation

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climate

the prevailing weather conditions in an area

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continent

one of the main continuous areas of land in the world

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Sahara

largest hot desert in the world, third largest desert overall

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Nile

longest river in Africa

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Springboks

nickname of South African rugby team

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Pharaoh

ruler or king of the ancient Egyptians

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apartheid

racial discrimination against non-white people

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rainforest

dense forest found in areas of heavy rainfall

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oasis

fertile spot in a desert where water is found



arabs

people from the Middle East who invaded North Africa



caravan

group of traders travelling across the desert using camels



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fufu

staple food of west Africa, made from yams

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Islam

religion that believes in Allah, spread to North Africa in 700s

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ivory

hard white material made from tusks of animals

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muslim

a person who follows the religion of Islam



nomads

people that travel from place to place



pyramids

large tombs built by the ancient Egyptians for Pharaohs



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Swahili

a language spoken in Africa; also an ethnic group

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Berber

native peoples of North Africa

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Boers

Dutch and French settlers in South Africa

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caste

a group of people that defines social class and rank

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hieroglyphics

system of writing used by the ancient Egyptians

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moors

people of North Africa under Islam rule after 709

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kora

stringed instrument, similar to a harp



griot

storyteller, musician and historian in West Africa



chariot

two-wheeled horse-drawn vehicle, used in warfare in N. Africa

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Adobe

mud brick material made from clay and straw to make walls

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Victoria Falls

famous waterfall on the Zambezi River

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Nelson Mandela

led the fight against apartheid in South Africa

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Mt. Kilimanjaro

dormant volcano in Tanzania, the highest mountain in Africa

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Lake Victoria

largest lake in Africa, through which the equator passes

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Kalahari

large, semi-arid sandy savannah in southern Africa

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Robben Island

known as the place where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned

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Suez Canal

waterway connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea

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Sahel

region between the Sahara and the savannah grasslands

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