



Africa's Geography

Standards

SS7G1 The student will locate selected features of Africa.

- a. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map: the Sahara, Sahel, savanna, tropical rain forest, Congo River, Niger River, Nile River, Lake Tanganyika, Lake Victoria, Atlas Mountains, and Kalahari Desert.

- b. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map the countries of Democratic Republic of the Congo (Zaire), Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, and South Sudan.

Africa

- Africa is the world's second largest continent (11,700,000 miles).
- It is home to 52 countries, 1,000 different languages, and 800 million people.
 - 10% of the world's population lives in Africa.
- The one thing that all African nations have in common is their reliance on the land's physical characteristics, which affect where people live, work, & trade.
- Africa can be divided into many different regions:
 - The Sahara, the Sahel, the savannahs, the tropical rain forests, the Ethiopian Highlands, and Southern Africa.



Desert

Savanna

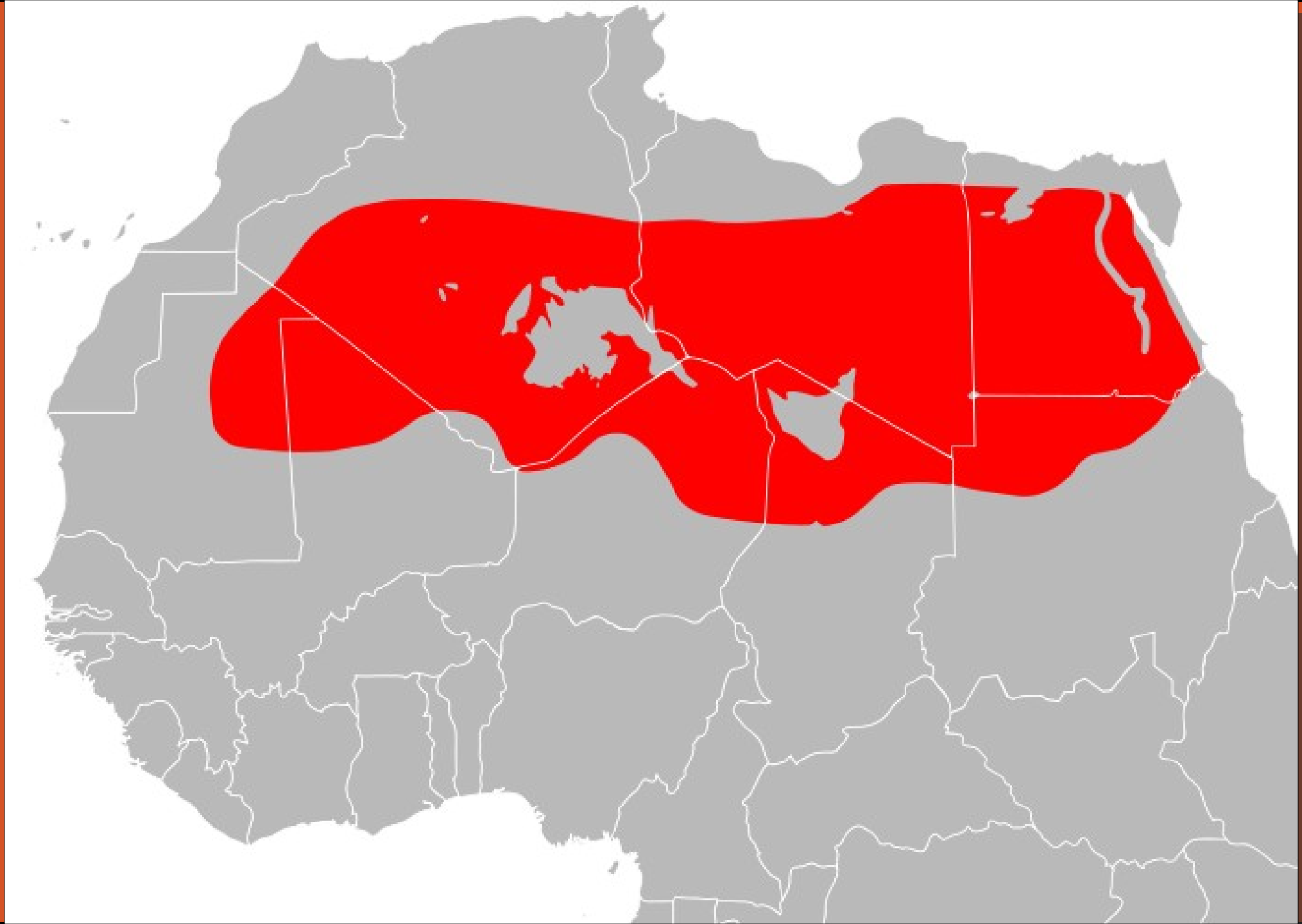
Rainforest

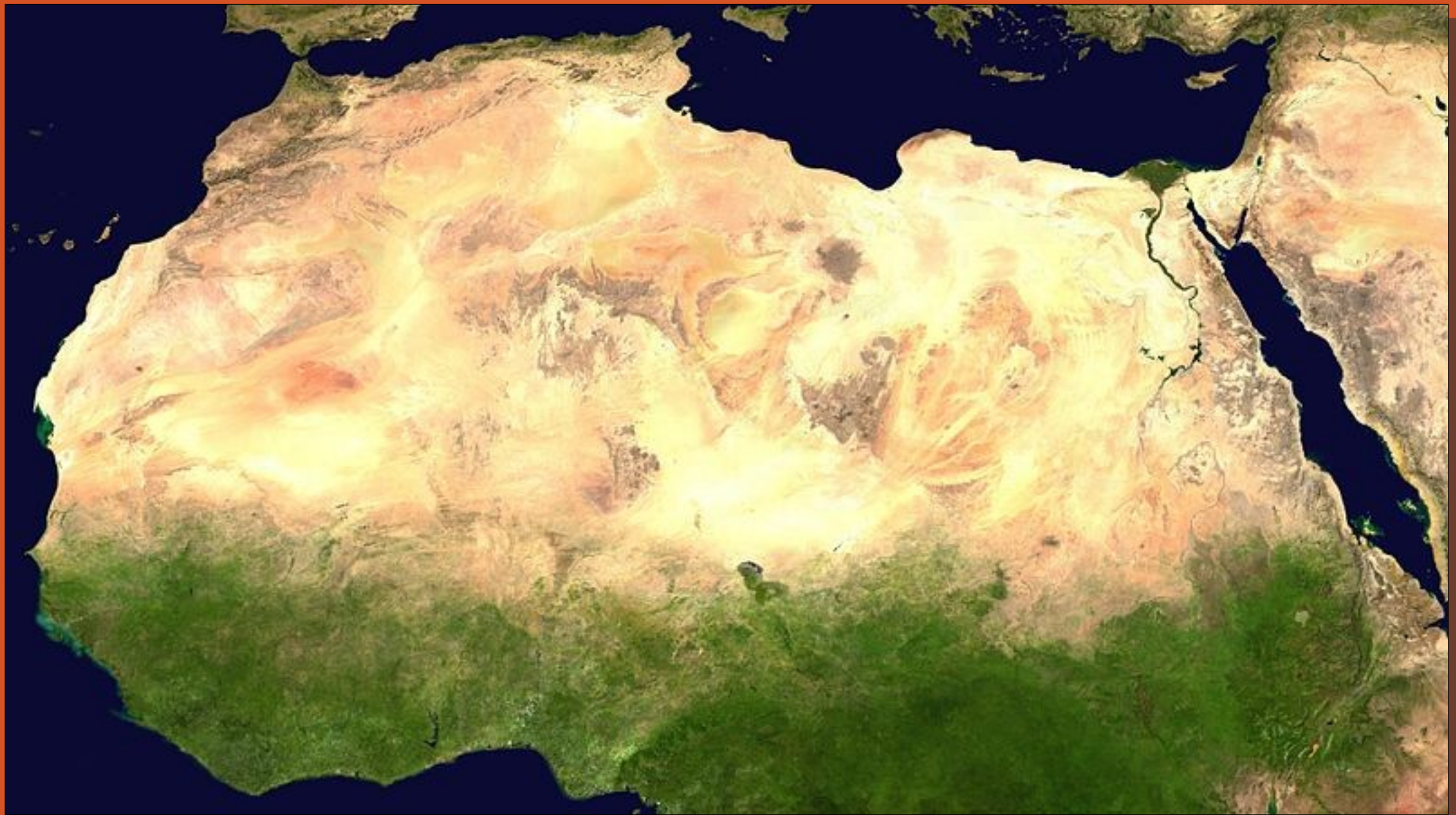
Savanna

Desert

Sahara Desert

- The Sahara is the world's largest desert (3,500,000 miles).
 - It runs across the width of northern Africa.
 - It covers 1/3rd of the continent.
- It divides the continent into two distinct regions - North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa.
- The Sahara is covered with sand dunes, rocky hills, and stretches of gravel that continue for miles and miles.
- Very few people live in the desert because it is considered one of the harshest places to live in the world.
 - The people who do live here are called nomads.
 - They move from place to place, usually traveling by camel, looking for food & water.



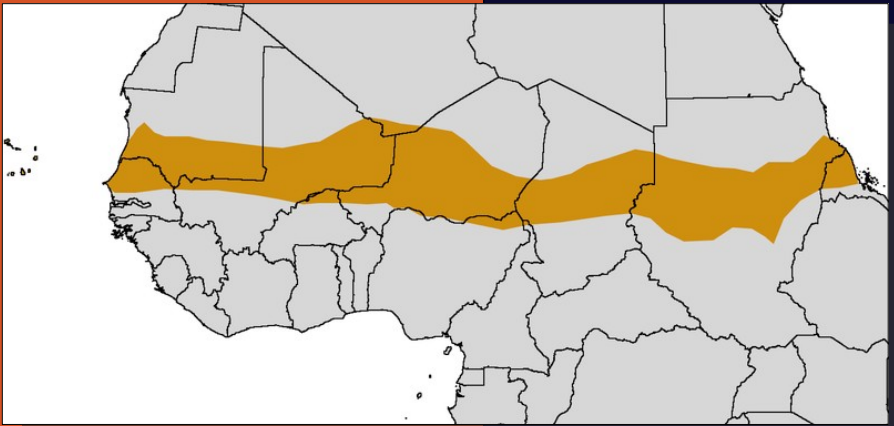
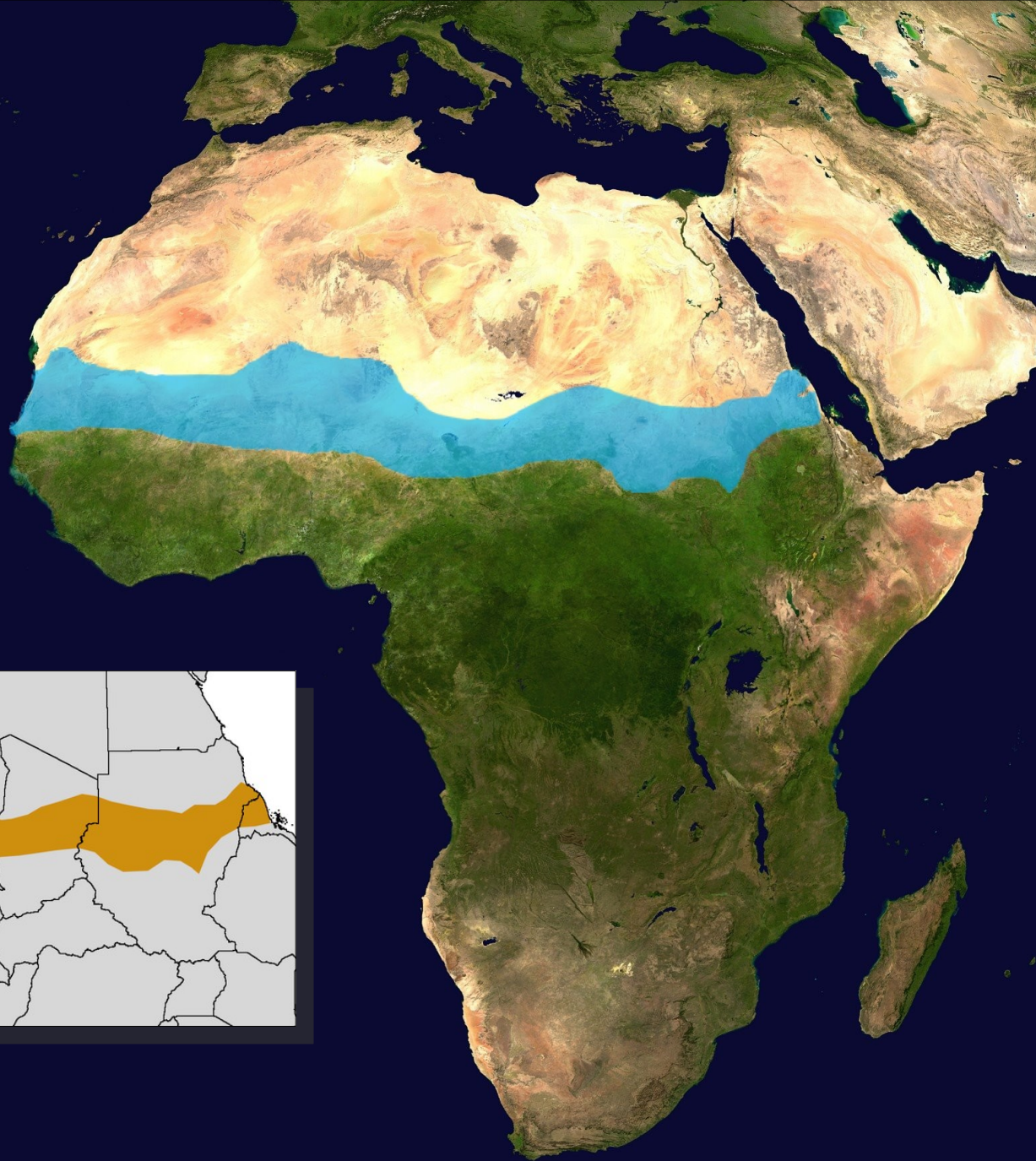






The Sahel

- The Sahel is a strip of dry grassland that is located south of the Sahara.
 - The word “Sahel” means “border” or “margin”.
 - It is the region between the desert to the north and the grasslands and rainforest to the south.
- It is a dry, semi-arid region that is slowly turning into desert.
 - It gets more rainfall than the desert, but still receives very little, ranging from 6-20 inches.
- People have tried to live here but generations of overgrazing and desertification have caused soil erosion.
 - Vegetation is sparse here—grasses and shrubs are unevenly distributed.
- The Sahel is relatively flat with few mountains and hills.





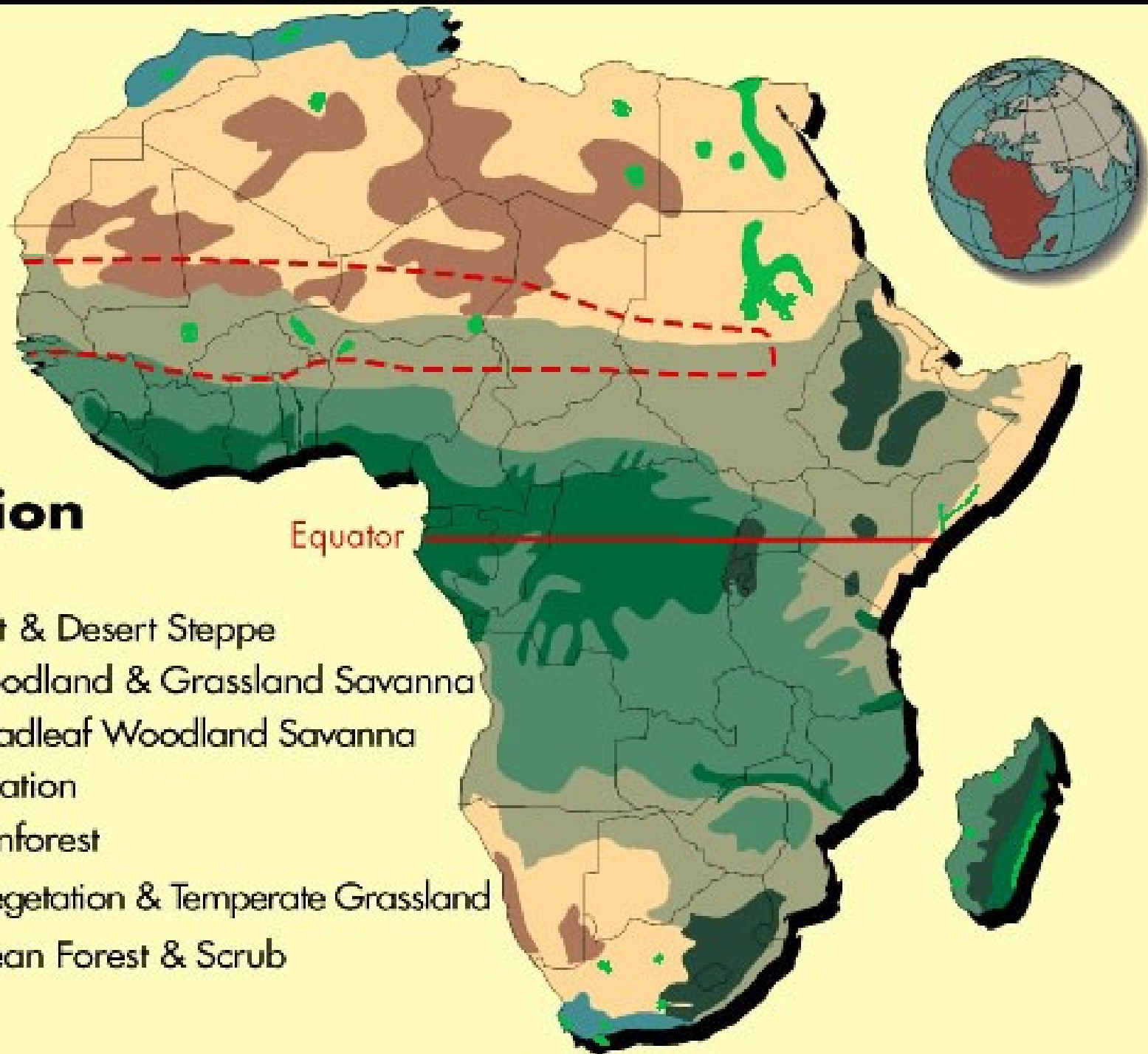


Savanna

- The African savannas are hot, dry grasslands that are located near the Equator and cover almost half of Africa.
 - They actually cover the regions just north and south of the rainforests that lie along the equator.
- The African savanna is the largest in the world.
 - There is a large variety of wildlife here, including lions, zebras, & elephants.
- Farming is good here, but only if there is good rainfall.
 - Grasses and grains like wheat, oats, and sorghum grown in the region.
- The area receives enough rain to support drought resistant undergrowth, but not enough to support forest-type vegetation.
 - Grasses are tall and thick, while trees are short and scattered.

Vegetation

- Desert
- Semi-Desert & Desert Steppe
- Tropical Woodland & Grassland Savanna
- Tropical Broadleaf Woodland Savanna
- Oasis Vegetation
- Tropical Rainforest
- Mountain Vegetation & Temperate Grassland
- Mediterranean Forest & Scrub
- The Sahel









Tropical Rain Forest

- Africa's tropical rain forest is located along the central coast of Africa, near the Equator.
 - It lies in the Congo River Basin.
- The rain forest covers 1/5th of the land surface of Africa and touches 37 countries.
 - The rain forest has a hot, humid climate.
 - The annual rainfall is over 17 feet.
 - There is a large variety of animals found in this region.
- Trees are so thick and tall that sunlight never reaches the forest floor!
 - The trees grow hundreds of feet tall.
- It's the second largest rain forest in the world; the Amazon rain forest in Brazil is the largest.
 - Unfortunately, this rain forest has shrunk due to deforestation.



 Tropical Rain Forest







Congo River

- The Congo River is located in western central Africa.
 - It begins in central Africa, near Lake Tanganyika, and flows west through the tropical rain forest.
- The Congo River is the second largest river in Africa.
 - It's over 3,000 miles long.



AFRICA

Republic of the
Congo

Democratic Republic
of the Congo

Equator

South Atlantic
Ocean

Lake
Tanganyika

Indian
Ocean





Niger River

- The Niger River is located in western Africa.
 - It flows through Guinea, Mali, Niger, Benin, & Nigeria.
- The Niger River is the third largest river in Africa.
 - It runs over 2,600 miles.
- The mouth of the Niger River flows through a large delta, often referred to as the “Oil Delta” because of the petroleum industry that’s centered here.





Nile River

- The Nile River is located in eastern Africa.
 - It starts in East Burundi and flows northward and empties into the Mediterranean Sea.
- The Nile is the world's longest river at 4,150 miles.
- It provides water for Sudan and Egypt.
- It's an important waterway for transporting people and goods.
- The Nile also provides a source of irrigation for agriculture



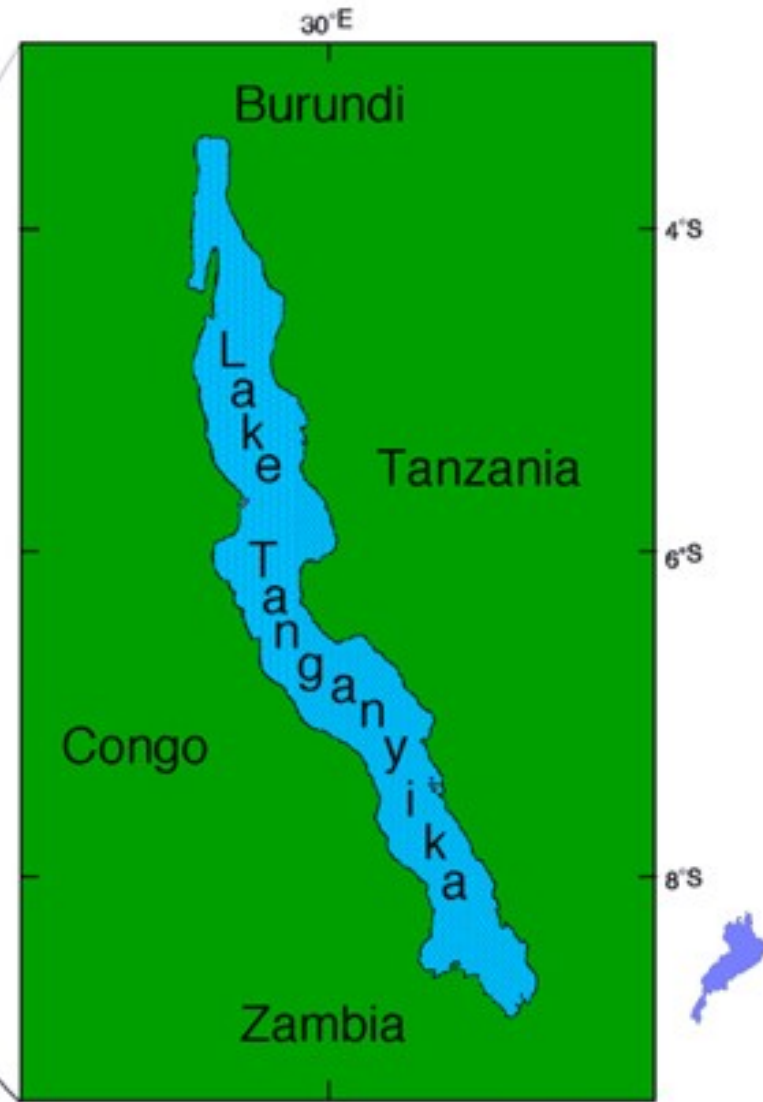






Lake Tanganyika

- Lake Tanganyika is located in central Africa.
 - It's divided between Burundi, Congo, Tanzania, and Zambia.
- Lake Tanganyika is the deepest lake in Africa and one of the deepest in the world.
- It's also one of the largest freshwater lakes in the world.



100 km





Lake Victoria

- Lake Victoria is the largest lake in Africa and the second largest freshwater lake in the world (Lake Superior is the largest).
- It is located in central Africa and extends into three countries: Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya.
 - White Nile begins here.
- Lake Victoria is vital in supporting the millions of people that live nearby.
 - It provides a living for many fishermen and attracts millions of tourists each year.



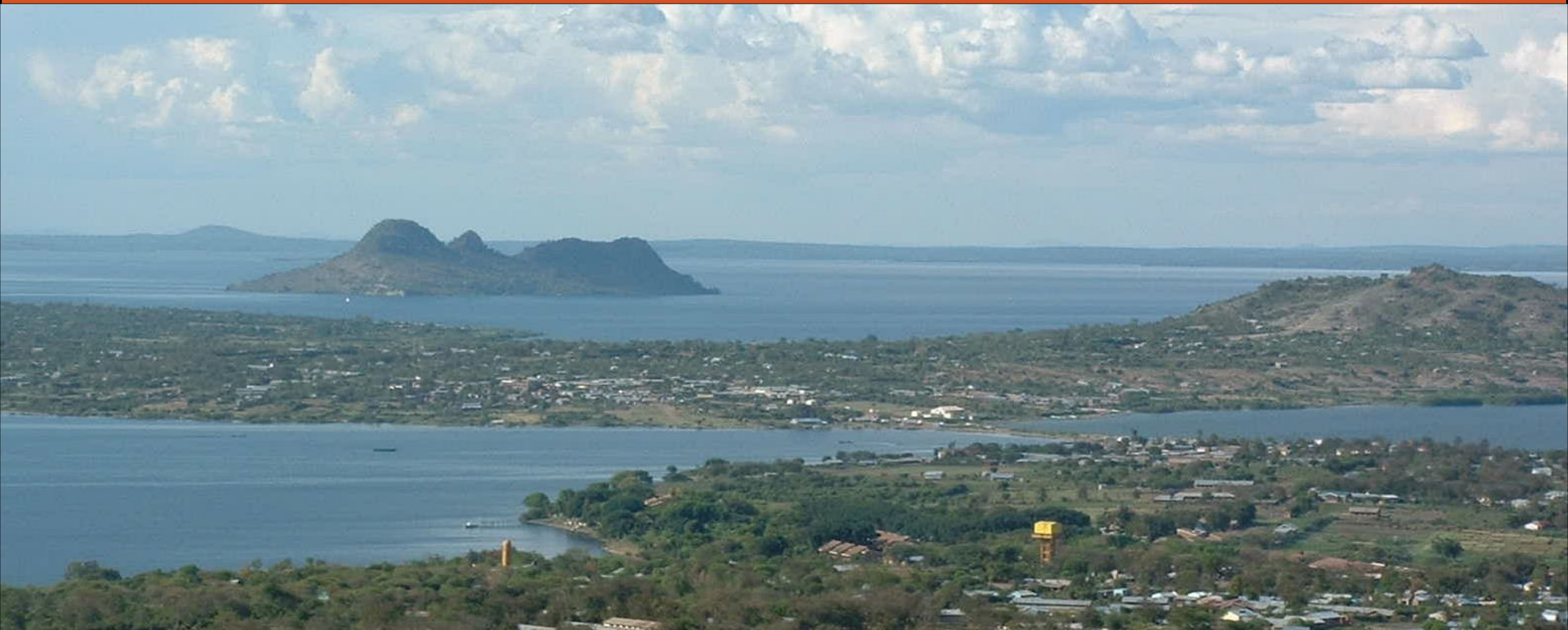
AFRICA

Lake Victoria

Tanzania

**Lake
Victoria**

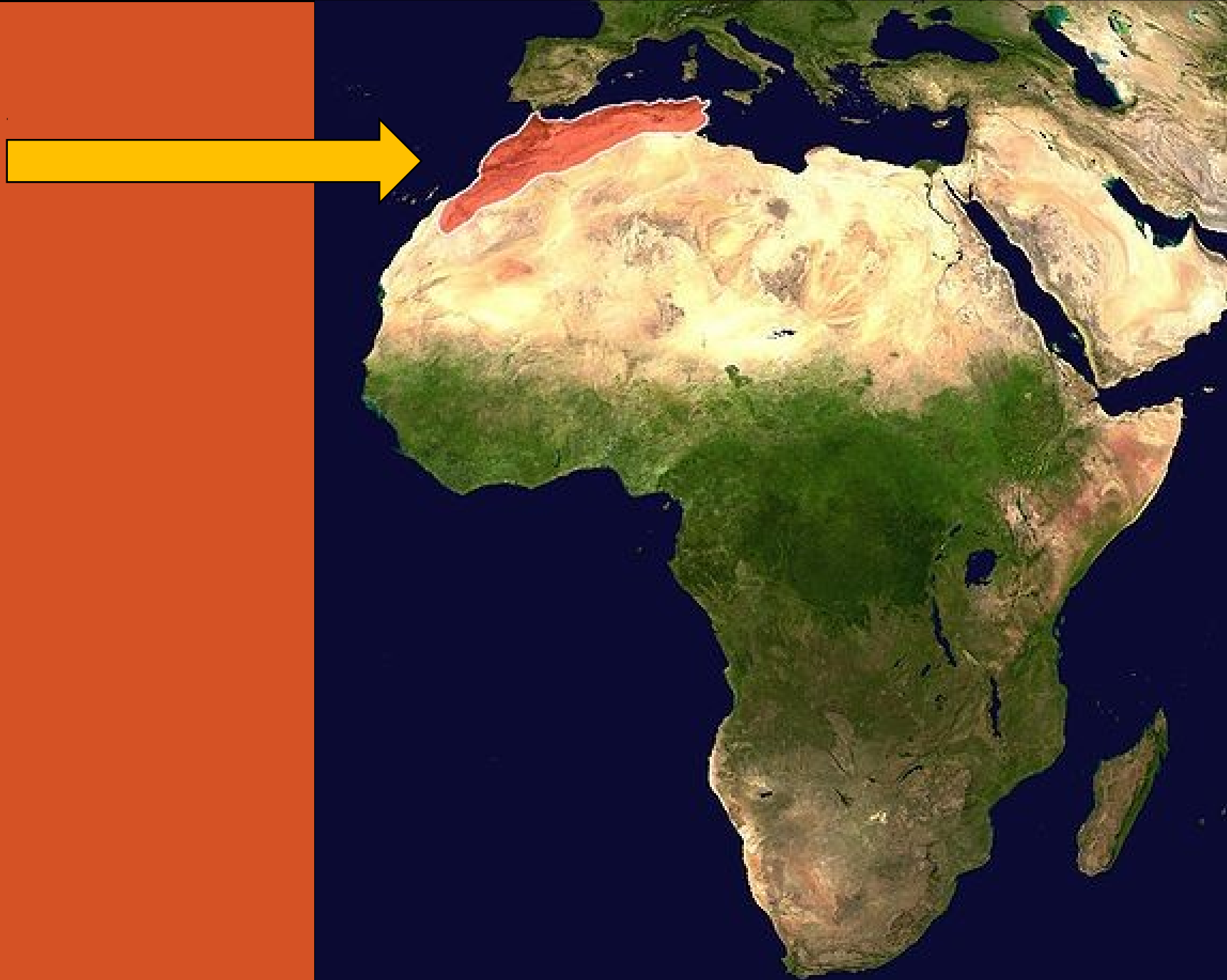
Ukerewe Island





Atlas Mountains

- The Atlas Mountains are a mountain range in north Africa.
- The mountains extend from Morocco to Tunisia, between the Mediterranean Sea and the Sahara desert.
- They separate the coastal regions from the Sahara Desert.







Kalahari Desert

- The Kalahari Desert is located in southwestern Africa.
 - It covers parts of Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa.
- The region is surrounded by semi-arid areas that are slowly becoming more dry.
- It is not a “true” desert because it receives 3-10 inches of rain per year.
- Because of the precipitation and underground water supplies, grass, shrubs, and wild animals manage to live in the Kalahari desert.

