

AFRICA – WORD LIST

- **abroad** = from overseas
- **AD** =anno Domini = after the birth of Christ
- **administrate** = govern, rule a country
- **adulthood** = state of becoming an adult
- **advanced** = well-developed
- **advisor** = someone who tells you how something works; they know a lot about a subject and can teach you
- **agree** = say yes, be of the same opinion
- **agriculture** = farming
- **aid** = help in the form of money, food, education etc...
- **although** = while, even if
- **altitude** = height
- **amount** = how much of something
- **ancient** = old
- **Apartheid** = political and social system in South Africa up to the beginning of the 1990s; white people controlled the government and economy; blacks and Asians had to go to separate schools and live in separate areas
- **appear** = show up, emerge
- **as a result** = that is why
- **assistance** = help
- **average** = usual, normal
- **balance** = equal amounts
- **bank** = side of a river
- **barely** = hardly , just
- **base** = build, create
- **basin** =an area of low land that is lower in the centre than at the edges
- **bauxite** = soft material that is used to make aluminium
- **billion** = a thousand million
- **birth rate** = the number of babies born per 1,000 people
- **blend in** = when other people become part of the native population and live with them
- **cape** = small piece of land that stretches out into the sea
- **carry** = transport
- **cash crops** = food that is grown in order to be exported and earn money
- **cattle** = cows
- **century** = period of a hundred years
- **ceremony** = ritual; important religious or social event
- **Christianity** = religion based on the life of Jesus Christ
- **chronic** = long-lasting
- **city-state** = a free state that consists of a city and the land around it
- **civil war** = war in which two groups of people from the same country fight against each other
- **coastline** = where land meets the sea
- **cocoa** = powder made from beans and used to make chocolate
- **colonial period** = time during which European countries governed areas that were far away
- **colonial war** = conflict between a European country and the people in the country it controls
- **colony** = area that a more powerful country controls
- **compare** = in contrast to; to match against each other
- **consist of** = to be made up of
- **cope** = deal with
- **copper** = soft reddish brown metal that allows electricity to pass through easily; it is used to make wires and water pipes
- **cover** = contain
- **crack** = very small space between two things
- **cradle** = here: where something began
- **debt** = money that a person or organization has to pay back to someone else
- **decade** = a period of ten years
- **decline** = go down
- **decrease** = to go down
- **deforestation** = the cutting or burning down of trees
- **densely** = very crowded
- **depend on** = need
- **deposit** = a layer of minerals or metals in the rocks of the earth
- **depression** = land that is lower than other land around it
- **develop** = grow, create

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- **developed countries** = industrialised or rich countries
- **developing countries** = the poor countries in the world
- **diet** = the kind of food that you eat every day
- **disease** = illness
- **distribute** = spread
- **divide** = split up
- **dominant** = number one
- **double** = to become twice as many
- **dozen** = twelve
- **drop** = go down to
- **drought** = long period of dry weather , in which there is not enough water for plants and animals
- **due to** = because of
- **dune** = hill made of sand near the sea or in the desert
- **earn** = to get money from the work that you do
- **earthquake** = a sudden shaking of the earth's surface; it happens when plates move
- **economy** = system by which a country's money and goods are produced
- **ecosystem** = all the animals and plants in a certain region and the way they live together
- **election** = people vote for a government or leader
- **emerge** = here: come out of the sea
- **empire** = group of countries that are controlled by a single ruler
- **equally** = to the same amount
- **equator** = line around the middle of the earth
- **escarpment** = a high slope or cliff between two levels on a hill or mountain
- **exception** = something that does not follow a general pattern or is not normal
- **expand** = grow, move to
- **experience** = practice, knowledge
- **extend** = to reach from one place to another
- **fern** = type of plant with green leaves shaped like feathers, but with no flowers
- **firm** = company
- **flow** = the movement of water
- **force** = drive
- **free will** = to do something because you want to, not because someone has made you do it
- **freshwater** = water with no salt in it
- **frosty** = very cold
- **gain independence** = become free
- **game reserve** = large area of land in which wild animals can live safely
- **gather** = collect
- **GDP = gross domestic product** = total value of all goods and services produced in a country in one year
- **gigantic** = very big
- **global warming** = increase in the world's temperature because of too much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere
- **globe** = world
- **graze** = an animal eats grass that is growing
- **gruesome** = brutal
- **habitat** = natural home for plants and animals
- **harvest** = to bring in crops from the field
- **height** = how high something is
- **high-tech goods** = the use of modern machines and computers in industry
- **human being** = person
- **humidity** = when the air is very wet and warm
- **illegally** = against the law; not allowed
- **improve** = to get better
- **in favour of** = for , to the advantage of
- **in-between** = in the middle of two things
- **income** = money you get from jobs and work
- **increase** = go up
- **independent** = free
- **influence** = affect, power
- **inhabited** = living in a place
- **inland** = away from the coast
- **involvement** = here: control of a country
- **inwards** = away from the coast towards the inner part of the continent
- **irregular** = here: not at the same time every year
- **irrigate** = bring water to a dry areas

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- **isolated** = alone, separated
- **keep up with** = to be as fast as something else
- **lack** = not enough
- **landmass** = land, area
- **largely** = mainly
- **leading** = number one
- **least developed** = not very industrialized; with much poverty
- **left out** = gone by; not included
- **lend** = to let someone borrow money from you
- **life expectancy** = the number of years a person is expected to live when they are born
- **lion's share** = the largest part of
- **livestock** = animals, such as cows, that are kept on a farm
- **loan** = amount of money that you borrow from a bank
- **local** = here: only in a small area
- **mainland** = the main part of a continent, not the islands
- **majority** = most of the people in a country
- **mankind** = people, humans
- **marriage** = two people who promise to live together and have children
- **massacre** = when many people are killed in a violent way
- **measure** = here: to find how high or low something is
- **Mediterranean Sea** = sea between Europe and Africa
- **merge** = combine, join, get together
- **method** = way
- **missionary** = someone who goes to another country to teach people about the life of Jesus Christ and tries turn them into Christians
- **mountain range** = long line of mountain tops
- **narrow** = thin, not wide
- **nationalism** = when a group of people wants to become free and form an independent country
- **native** = here: people who have always lived in a place
- **nutrient** = chemical or food that gives plants and animals what they need to grow
- **oasis** = place with water and trees in a desert
- **on a regular basis** = regularly ; very often
- **opportunity** = chance to do something
- **overhead** = above your head
- **own** = possess, have
- **patch** = area, spot
- **peak** = highest part of a mountain
- **phosphate** = kind of salt that has phosphorus in it
- **plains** = large area of flat, dry land
- **plateau** = large area of flat land that is higher than the land around it
- **platinum** = silver-grey metal that does not change colour; used in industry and for making jewellery
- **poorly developed** = not very advanced
- **populous** = full of people
- **poverty** = the situation of being poor
- **pray** = say words to God
- **precipitation** = rainfall
- **process** = to make a product out of a raw material, so that it is ready to be used
- **raise** = feed animals so that you can sell them or use them as food
- **raw materials** = things that exist in nature and are used by people, like coal, wood, oil etc..
- **reach** = go up to
- **receive** = get
- **refer to** = call, name
- **rely on** = depend on, need
- **replace** = to take the place of
- **resist** = fight, to be against something
- **resources** = something like useful land, minerals, oil etc... that a country has
- **revolt** = rebel
- **ridge** = a long area of high land, at the top of a mountain
- **roam** = wander
- **rule** = govern; to be in control of
- **rural** = about the countryside

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- **sanitation** = the protection of people's health by removing waste and making dirty water clean again
- **savannah** = flat area of grassy land
- **scare** = rare; not enough
- **scatter** = spread over a large area
- **scientist** = person who works in a laboratory and is trained in science
- **series** = many
- **set up** = start
- **settle** = start to live in a new place
- **shallow** = not deep
- **shifting cultivation** = farming method where you cut down areas of land and grow crops on them as long as the soil is fertile; then you move on to another area
- **shortage** = not enough
- **shrub** = small bush
- **single** = only, one
- **situated** = located
- **slash** = cut down with a knife
- **slightly** = a little
- **slope** = side of a hill or mountain
- **society** = civilization
- **soil** = top layer of earth, on which plants grow
- **sorghum** = plant that is grown in tropical areas and used as food for the people there
- **source** = where something comes from
- **source of income** = from where you get money
- **sparsely** = thinly; here: not many people live in a certain area
- **species** = a group of animals and plants that are very similar
- **sphere** = field
- **spirit** = a creature without a body that may have strange and magical powers
- **split** = separate
- **spread** = move to
- **square mile** = a square with a base length of one mile
- **standard of living** = how rich a person or a country is and what someone can afford
- **staple crops** = food that you need to live
- **starvation** = hunger
- **steadily** = slowly, little by little
- **stretch** = to reach from one place to another
- **struggle** = fight
- **suffer** = here: experience in a bad way
- **surface** = the top part of an object
- **therefore** = that is why
- **threaten** = to be in danger
- **throughout** = to all of
- **tip** = move, bend
- **torrential** = heavy, pouring
- **trade** = buy and sell things
- **trading post** = place where people come to buy and sell their products
- **traditional** = old-style, not modern
- **tribe** = social group of people of the same race who have the same traditions, religion and speak the same language
- **unevenly** = not equally; not the same everywhere
- **unpleasant** = not nice, not comfortable
- **unstable** = something that will probably change and become worse
- **uprising** = rebellion, revolution
- **urban** = in the city
- **valley** = area of lower land between two mountains; in most cases a river flows through it
- **valuable** = very important and worth a lot of money
- **value** = what something is worth
- **various** = different
- **vary** = change
- **virus** = a small living thing that can cause an illness
- **well-developed** = something that works very well
- **wheat** = plant that is used to make white bread
- **widespread** = common
- **wind** = turn and twist