Chapter 21: East Africa

Unit 6
Section 1: Physical Geography
Landforms

• Huge variety of landforms in East Africa
  – Plains
  – Volcanic mountains
  – Plateaus
  – Valleys
  – Rivers
  – Lakes
• Serengeti Plain
• Kilimanjaro
• Mount Kenya
• Great Rift Valley
Landforms

• Major countries of this region:
  – Burundi
  – Ethiopia
  – Kenya
  – Rwanda
  – Tanzania
  – Uganda
Landforms

- **Great Rift Valley**
  - Rift valley-crack in Earth’s surface formed by tectonic plates
  - Faults-breaks in Earth’s crust
  - Western and Eastern sections
Landforms

• Indian Ocean and Red Sea are great for trading with other areas
• Rivers help people to be able to get goods to these other bodies of water to sell
• Plateaus:
  – Escarpments-steep cliffs
  – Cataracts-large waterfalls
  – Ambas-steep-sided, flat-topped land
Landforms

- Mountain Region
  - Eastern Highlands
    - Ethiopian Highlands
    - Kilimanjaro
    - Mount Kenya
    - Ruwenzori Mountains
      - “Mountains of the Moon”
Water Systems

• Lake Victoria
  – Second-largest freshwater lake in the world
  – Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya
  – Where the White Nile River gets its start
  – Somewhat shallow
Lake Tanganyika
- Western Rift Valley
- One of the deepest freshwater lakes in the world
- Tanzania and DRC
- Drainage basin of the Congo River
Climate, Biomes, and Resources

• Tropical heat in subregion
  – Savanna vegetation
• Semi-arid stepp is north of Savanna
• Arid desert is north of the semi-arid steppe
• Humid subtropical climates exist in the mountains of the subregion
• Wide variety of climates and biomes means a wide variety of plant and animal life
  – Which also means the lives of people will be shaped because of these variations.
Section 2: Human Geography
History and Government

• Some of the oldest human fossils have been found in East Africa
• Due to its location along the Red Sea and near the Arabian Peninsula, trade is, and has always been, important.
• Historically it was easy for people to move in and out of the region, so wide variety of peoples exist in East Africa.
History and Government

• Traders established colonies in the 700s
  – Arabic and Islam
  – Slave trade
  – Arabs, Persians, and even Chinese moved through the area through the 1400s.

• Portuguese took control of the area in the late 1400s
History and Government

European Colonization

• Vasco da Gama
• RR built along the coast of Indian Ocean
• New medicines were brought to help treat tropical diseases
• Britain, France, Portugal, Germany, Italy all got involved in the region.
History and Government

• Rwandan Genocide
Society and Culture Today

- Lingua Franca - common language used among people with different native languages
- Levels of education vary
- Christianity (mostly the Orthodox Church) and Islam are the major religions
Economics

- Agriculture
- Cash crops: coffee, tea, spices, cashews
  - Has lead to food supply issues for countries
- Fishing
- Tourism
- Trade
Section 3: People and Their Environment
Managing Resources

• Poverty, hunger, drought are all serious issues
  – Most countries focusing on survival
  – Issue with environment?

• Sustainable Agriculture
Managing Resources

- War
- Refugees
- Governmental Corruption
Human Impact

- Carrying Capacity - the population that an area will support without undergoing deterioration

- Poaching