Introduction

“For centuries, Africa has mesmerized the world with its stunning scenery, its ancient civilizations, and its hypnotizing music (PBS).” This is your chance to experience the world’s most fascinating continent. You will discover African culture, physical geography and environmental problems with this interactive tool.

Task

Students will work in groups and should research by clicking on links within the Web Quest. Students will learn about regions in Africa, water scarcity, art and literature and desertification. Focus on finding information under each category in order to produce an African newsletter or news report.

Process

DAY I

1. Research the various regions of Africa. Become familiar with different aspects of human geography. Explore the regions by clicking the following link and filling in the chart on Pg. 10 in your packet.

   Regional Search

2. Complete Introductory Activities on Pg. 11 in class.
3. Conduct internet research on CLEAR WATER and share with class.
   
a. Instructor will divide class into small research groups: read the groups assigned article(s).
   Create a poster which highlights the pertinent issues in each article. Posters will be presented
   and groups should summarize the articles for the entire class.
   
b. Articles:

   World warned on water refugees (3/22/01)
   http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/1234244.stm

   Water Arithmetic "Doesn’t Add Up” (3/13/00)
   http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/671800.stm

   A Fight to the Last Drop (1/1/00)
   http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/245363.stm

   Food at Risk as Water Drips Away (7/17/00)
   http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/396270.stm

   World Water Shortage Threatens Harvests (2/7/99)
   http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/274099.stm

   Africa’s Potential Water Wars (11/15/99)
   http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/454926.stm

4. Use the following websites to examine how geography and climate impact DESERTIFICATION &
   WATER ISSUES in Africa:

   PBS AFRICA - Explore the Regions
   http://www.pbs.org/africa/explore/sahel/sahel_overview_lo.html

   African Conservation
   http://www.africanconservation.com/

Divide into small groups to investigate Africa’s Sahel countries by clicking on the Choose a Country or
the Country Profiles link. Groups will report about the particular geographic and climatic characteristics
that distinguish each country, particularly as they relate to desertification and water scarcity. Each group
will research one of the countries below:

Mali          Chad
Senegal       Sudan
Niger          Burkina Faso
5. The purpose of this activity is for students to explore different elements of Africa through **ART & LITERATURE**.

Read the following poem

```
Africa
I know a place in the world
Where resources are plenty
It's not in the first world but in the third world
When the rest get one, they have twenty
It's definitely a beautiful place
Everyone would embrace

But there is the sad part of the story
That makes all the listeners sorry
The brain drain
The people slain
Poverty and starvation
Yet everything is sold
From platinum to Gold

Some call it the Dark Continent
Or the Black Continent
And the place is mine
Someday it will shine

I have lots of love for Africa
Peculiarly South Africa
You don't have to be African or South African
To feel African

Adam Phiri
```

“War is often the result of acute scarcity of the most fundamental and essential commodities, such as food and water. Think of examples throughout history when this has occurred.”

Look through articles from Africa Action – a website to change foreign aid to Africa. [http://www.africaaction.org/](http://www.africaaction.org/)

Focus on the opinions of African students and explain the needs of the nation.

- What do they need?
- Why do they need change to happen with foreign aid?
- What are the effects of current foreign policy?
- Why do you think the author of the poem calls Africa the Dark Continent?

Write an email to your instructor explaining the needs of African citizens citing examples.

---

**DAY 5**

6. Examine how the media portrays issues regarding Africa, and how people can effect social change through **ACTIVISM**.

Answer the following questions:

- What provokes activism? What sustains it?
- How does activism often relate to economics and the distribution of resources?
- Why are these environmental issues confronting Africa important to us?
Research ways in which people and organizations can make a positive difference regarding these global matters. Group will share its ideas with the whole class.

Use the following Africa-specific Web sites, and focus particularly upon environmental issues relating to desertification and water:

http://allafrica.com/environment
http://www.pbs.org/wnet/africa/photoscope/photoscope_environment.html

DAY 6 - 8

7. Draw upon what knowledge gained throughout these lessons to create a coherent portrait of the issues of desertification and clean water in Africa.

Create a newsletter or news report detailing the problem of desertification and water scarcity in Africa.

Work on different segments of the news story to address several facets of the problem from the perspective of various news departments. One student from each group will work on one department. Departments should include the following:

**The Science Correspondent:** This person should focus on the geographic, meteorological, and other human factors producing desertification. Graphics illustrating the problem should be included.

**The Community Correspondent:** This person should focus on the personal or human costs of desertification and water scarcity. Further Internet research may be helpful.

**The Economic Correspondent:** This person should focus on the impacts of desertification upon the local and national economies of Africa as well as the global economy.

**The Political Correspondent:** This person should focus on the various political tensions created and exacerbated by these problems.

**Evaluations**

Click on ONE of the following to coordinate with your project.

[Newsletter](#)

[News Report](#) (Picture and audio movie)

**Conclusion**

Thanks for completing this Web Quest. It is with great hope that we can learn to understand, anticipate and solve global issues.
Credits


Back to Top