



Africa's bounty and borders

from the Esri GeoInquiries™ collection for World History

Target audience – World history learners

Time required – 15 minutes

Activity

Explore reasons for European colonization in Africa and investigate effects of colonial-imposed borders.

Standards

C3: D2.His.14.9-12. Analyze multiple & complex causes & effects of events in the past.
C3: D2.His.1.9-12. Evaluate how historical events and developments were shaped by unique circumstances of time and place, as well as broader historical contexts.
C3: D2.His.4.9-12. Analyze complex and interactions factors that influenced the perspectives of people during different historical eras.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will identify the causes and effects of the Berlin Conference, 1884–1885.
- Students will evaluate the relationship between colonial-imposed borders and political stability.

Map URL: <http://esriurl.com/worldHistoryGeoInquiry5>

Ask

What does Berlin have to do with Africa?

- Before 1870, Europeans had only claimed 10% of land in Africa.
- Click the link above to launch the map.
- Click the map note in Germany. Analyze the political cartoon.
- ? How many pieces of “cake” are shown? [6]
- ? What country is represented by the man with the knife? [Germany]
- ? What do you think he wants? [A piece of Africa]

Acquire

Why Africa?

- Click the button, Bookmarks. Select Africa.
- With the Details button depressed, click the button, Contents.
- Click the checkbox to the left of the layer name, Minerals in Africa.
- Click the layer name to display the legend.
- Ferrous minerals contain iron, a basic material in making steel.
- ? What types of resources are found within Africa? [Different types of metals, fuels, gems, etc]
- Describe the distribution of minerals. [A large variety of minerals is distributed throughout the continent.]
- ? Why did the Europeans want resources from Africa? [To support industrialization]

Explore

How did the Europeans divide Africa?

- Turn off the layer, Minerals in Africa.
- Click the Africa 1914 layer name to open the legend.
- Use the legend, and then click the countries that were independent.
- ? Which two African countries were independent in 1914? [Liberia and Ethiopia]
- ? Which two European countries controlled the most land in Africa? [France and Britain]
- Turn on the Ethnic Groups layer.
- ? Do you think the Europeans considered ethnicity when dividing up Africa? [No, ethnic groups are split between different countries.]
- ? Which do you think would form a better border—longitude line or river? [Longitude lines because rivers can change course.]

more ►



Analyze

How did competition among the Europeans influence borders in Africa?

- Turn off two layers, Ethnic Groups and Africa 1914.
- Turn on the National Geographic layer.
- ? Which countries do you think have unusual shapes? *[Namibia, Gambia, and others]*
- Open and read the map notes on Namibia, Cabinda, and Gambia.
- ? How did Namibia get its shape? *[Germany's attempt to reach the Indian Ocean via the Zambezi River.]*
- ? Why would the British resist the French efforts to acquire Gambia? *[To keep access to the river.]*
- ? Why was Angola split into two parts? *[To provide access to the Congo River.]*



Act

How does the legacy of European-imposed borders affect Africa today?

- Switch between the Africa 1914 and National Geographic layers.
- ? How did the borders change from 1914? *[Most are the same; French possessions broken into individual countries.]*
- ? How many African countries are landlocked? *[16]*
- ? How do you think being landlocked influences trade? *[It makes trade for interior countries more difficult.]*
- ? How could borders affect political stability? *[Territorial disputes, ethnic rivalry, civil war]*

IDENTIFY A MAP FEATURE

- Click a feature on the map, and a pop-up window will open with information.
- Links and images in the pop-up are often clickable.
- An arrow icon in the upper right of the window indicates that multiple features have been selected.
- Click the button to scroll through the features.

ADD MAP NOTES

- Click Add and from the drop-down list, choose Add Map Note.
- Type a name, select a template from the drop-down list, and click Create.
- In the Add Features pane, choose a symbol and click in the map to place it.
- In the pop-up window, add your desired information.

Next Steps

DID YOU KNOW? ArcGIS Online is a mapping platform freely available to public, private, and home schools. A school subscription provides additional security, privacy, and content features. Learn more about ArcGIS Online and how to get a school subscription at <http://www.esri.com/schools>.

THEN TRY THIS...

- Use the Filter tool to show the distribution of key resources within Africa.
- Create a web app with a filter to show countries colonized before and after the Berlin Conference.



TEXT REFERENCES

This GIS map has been cross-referenced to material in sections of chapters from these high school texts.

- *World History by Prentice Hall — Chapters 22 & 27*
- *World History, Patterns of Interaction by McDougal Littell — Chapter 27*
- *World History: The Human Journey by Rinehart and Holt — Chapter 17*
- *World History by Glencoe — Chapter 21*