



LEVEL
2

African Independence and Coups

from the GeoInquiries™ collection for World History

Target audience – World history learners

Time required – 25 minutes

Activity	Study coups in Africa to evaluate if there is correlation to the number of ethnic groups in each country.
Social studies Standards	C3:D2.Geo.8.6-8. Analyze how relationships between humans and environments extend or contract spatial patterns of settlement and movement. C3:D2.Geo.1.9-12. Use geospatial and related technologies to create maps to display and explain the spatial patterns of cultural and environmental characteristics.
Learning Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• View two variables to evaluate possible correlation.• Use symbol color and size to represent two variables in one layer of mapping.
Level 2 GeoInquiry Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A free school ArcGIS Online organization account. Instructors or students must be signed in to the account to complete this activity.• Approximately XX credits will be used per person in the completion of this activity as scripted.

Map URL: <http://esriurl.com/worldHistoryGeoInquiry6>



Ask

What did the total number of coups look like in Africa in 2010?

- Click the link above to launch the map.
- In the upper-right corner, click Sign In, and then use your ArcGIS Online organizational account to sign in.
- To the left of the map, widen the Details pane until you see the names of the buttons and click Content.
- Uncheck the Independent Africa layer box to turn off the layer and turn on the Number Of Coups To 2010 layer.
- ?
- Can you see any patterns in the number of coups in each African country? *[This layer solely indicates the number of coups by dot size. No definitive pattern emerges.]*



Explore

What other factors might affect the number of coups in a country?

- Now, you will explore some possible factors that might have contributed to the number of coups in each country using a different mapping method.
- Pause over the Number Of Coups To 2010 layer and click the Show Table button.
- ?
- What two attributes are present in the table other than Name and # Of Coups? *[Population and # Ethnic Groups]*
- ?
- Do you think there may have been any connection between either of those two factors and the number of coups in a country? *[Answers may vary, but Ethnic Groups will be explored next.]*



Acquire

What might be a good way to compare two variables of data in the same layer?

- Close the table, and then in the upper-left corner of the map, click the Default Extent (house) button.
- Review the Copy A Layer and Rename A Layer ToolTips on the next page, and then make a copy of the Number Of Coups To 2010 layer and rename the copy to **Coups to Ethnic Groups**.
- Pause over the Coups To Ethnic Groups layer and click the Change Style icon.
- For Choose An Attribute To Show, ensure that # Of Coups is chosen.
- Click Add Attribute and ensure that # Ethnic Groups is chosen.
- Note the drawing style is automatically set to Color And Size and symbolized. Click Done.

more ➔



Acquire (cont'd)

- Turn off the Number Of Coups To 2010 layer.
- Pause over the Coups To Ethnic Groups layer and click the Show Legend button.
- ? What do the lighter to darker colors represent? *[The darker the color, the more coups in the country.]*
- ? What do the size of the dots represent? *[The larger the dot, the more ethnic groups in the country.]*



Analyze

What is shown on the map with different size symbols and colors on the same layer?

- ? Looking at the color ramp in the legend, where are the countries with the higher number of coups? *[There is a band of the darkest-color dots running west from Sudan to Sierra Leone.]*
- ? Do the countries represented by the darkest-color dots (highest number of coups) have the largest-sized dots? *[Sudan and Nigeria do have large dots representing 25 and 15 ethnic groups, respectively. However, the largest dots for Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania have the largest number of ethnic groups with over 31 and 30, respectively, but very light colors. Remember, the lighter the color, the fewer the number of coups in the country.]*



Act

What is the connection between number of ethnicities and number of coups in Africa?

- ? Was the number of ethnic groups a driver for the number of coups in African countries? *[Using the Color And Size comparison map, it is easier to see that there was not necessarily a connection to a high number of ethnic groups to a high number of coups in African countries up to 2010. Research does show that the presence of a dominant ethnic group could be destabilizing. Other factors include social mobilization and cultural pluralism.]*

COPY A LAYER

- In the Contents pane, pause over a layer, and then click the More Options (ellipses) button and choose Copy.

RENAME A LAYER

- In the Contents pane, pause over a layer, and then click the More Options (ellipses) button and choose Rename.
- Rename the layer, and then click OK.

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...

- Acquire data on dominant ethnic groups for each African country.
- Create a Color And Size map as you did in this activity to see if you can see correlation between those two variables.



TEXT REFERENCES

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

- *World History by Glencoe — Chapter 21*

- *World History by Prentice Hall — Chapter 20*