

Western Africa

Countries:

- What are the 16 countries in West Africa?

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- What do you notice about a majority of their flags? Why do you think this is? _____

Geography:

- **Crystalline Rocks:**

- Covers about _____% of the continent, including most of West Africa
- Lies below the surface and contains valuable minerals like _____

- **Sahel and Rainforests:**

- Along the _____ part of the region lies the Sahel
 - Semi-arid landscape between the _____ and the _____

- **Rivers:**

- _____ is the major river in West Africa
- Other major rivers include the _____
- Many short rivers flow to the _____

- **Climate:**

- West Africa lies within the _____
- There's a broad difference in climates
 - Ranges from _____ in the north to _____ in the south

- How does this region's geography compare North Africa? _____

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History:

- Ancient Civilizations:
 - _____ (1900 BCE - 300 BCE)
 - Credited for starting the _____
 - _____ (500 BCE - 200 CE)
 - Mysterious civilization
 - One of the only civilizations to go from _____ straight to _____ (skipping bronze and copper)
- _____ (500 CE - 1200 CE)
 - One of the _____ empires of its time
 - Used the _____ to trade iron, copper, gold, ivory, and had access to large rivers for trade
 - Kings of Ghana kept possession of gold to _____
- _____ (1240 - 1645)
 - One of the _____ empires in the history of the world!
 - Combination of trade and resources helped this
 - Owned an army of over _____ soldiers and _____ cavalry (HUGE at that time) and conquered rivals to gain wealth
 - _____ was the richest person to ever live (worth over \$400 Billion)
- _____ (1460 - 1591)
 - Took over what was left of Mali Empire after its decline, including its rich city of _____
 - _____ rulers massacred certain tribes who didn't want to follow their rule
 - _____ empire in West African history!
 - Controlled most of West African trade and constructed _____
- _____ (1701 - 1900)
 - Came to power by conquering other kingdoms and _____
 - Sold to Europeans in exchange for _____
 - This allowed them to defeat the _____ army in multiple wars in the future
- _____ (1914 - 1960)
 - The _____ controlled a majority of West Africa
 - Main goals were to export _____ and natural resources
 - European powers _____ their African colonies with an unbalanced _____

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- REFLECTION:

- What part of the West African history stood out to you the most? Why? _____

Modern Day:

- Civil Wars (Pre-2000):
 - Many years of civil wars amongst _____ and political parties/rulers
 - Left most nations in _____, and governments continue to try to _____ countries and economies
- Economic Growth:
 - Impressive economic growth in past _____
 - However, this has gone to a small percentage of people
 - The poor _____ and the rich _____
- Covid-19:
 - Low levels of infections and deaths, compared to rest of the world
 - Pushed millions of West Africans into _____
- Inequality:
 - _____ in Africa to reduce inequality
 - Public services (education, healthcare, social protection)
 - Taxation
 - Workers' rights
- Why do you think the region of West Africa is struggling so badly? _____

