Day 1 Locating Africa

Name _____ Date _____ Section _____

Locate Africa using both zero degree lines and four surrounding waters with at least 80 percent accuracy.

Do Now

List three facts you believe about Africa. Which fact can you verify with a map?

Key vocabulary and word origins

Continent means a large landmass containing many countries.

Hemisphere means half of Earth. Greek hemi means half and sphaira means sphere.

Latitude measures degrees north or south of the Equator. Longitude measures degrees east or west of the Prime Meridian.

Relative location describes a place in relation to other places.

Source 1 Africa's location and scale

Africa is a continent, not a country. It contains 54 internationally recognized sovereign states and thousands of communities, languages, and cultural traditions. The continent is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the west, the Indian Ocean to the east and southeast, and the Red Sea to the northeast. The Isthmus of Suez connects Africa to Asia, while the Strait of Gibraltar separates northwestern Africa from Europe.

The Equator crosses Africa, placing the continent in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. The Prime Meridian also crosses Africa, placing it in both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. Africa is the only continent crossed by both zero degree reference lines. Most of Africa lies in the Eastern Hemisphere, and more of its land lies north of the Equator than south of it. These grid lines help geographers describe absolute location. Relative location explains where Africa is compared with other places, oceans, and seas.

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Day 1 Evidence and written responses

1. Why is it inaccurate to describe Africa as a country? Cite two details from Source 1.

2. Describe Africa's relative location using at least three bodies of water or nearby continents.

3. Explain why Africa occupies parts of all four hemispheres.

4. What is the difference between absolute and relative location? Apply both ideas to Africa.

Quick Write

Explain how the Equator and Prime Meridian help locate Africa. Use one detail from Source 1 and one observation from the reference map. Explain why both pieces of evidence matter.

Exit response

A student says Africa lies entirely south of the Equator. Correct the statement using one fact from Source 1 and one map observation.

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