

AFRICA: WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

DIRECTIONS: Carefully read each of the following statements, then write the word True or False on the blank line.

1. _____ Africa is mainly a land of sweltering jungles.
2. _____ Large numbers of leopards, lions, and elephants can be found freely wandering all over Africa.
3. _____ Most of the people in Africa living south of the Sahara Desert are Bushmen, Pygmies, and Watusi.
4. _____ Many of Africa's ancient civilizations were rich in culture and pre-date those of western Europe.
5. _____ Most Africans live in cities.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

DIRECTIONS: Put a check beside the statements that are true for you:

1. _____ I have lived in one of the countries of Africa.

2. _____ I have visited one of the countries of Africa.

3. _____ I know someone who has lived or traveled in Africa.

4. _____ The last three movies (or T.V. shows) I saw about Africa were:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

5. _____ The last book or magazine article I read about Africa was:

ANSWERS TO AFRICA: WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

DIRECTIONS: Use this page to correct your responses to "Africa: What Do You Know?"

1. Africa is mainly a land of sweltering jungles.

FALSE: About one-seventh of the African continent is covered by rain forest. These areas can be found in the Congo Basin, in the Gulf of Guinea area, and along the eastern coast of Madagascar. About one third of the continent is covered by savanna or grassland; increasingly large areas of land are covered by desert.

2. Large numbers of leopards, lions, tigers and elephants can be found freely wandering all over Africa.

FALSE: Most of the game animals found in Africa live in game parks in southern and eastern Africa. These parks are set aside as game preserves and sometimes as tourist attractions. (Note: Tigers are indigenous to Asia not Africa.)

3. Most of the people in Africa living south of the Sahara are Bushmen, Pygmies, and Watusi.

FALSE: Of the more than 660 million people who live in Africa, approximately 435 million live south of the Sahara. Of these, about 1.5 million are Bushmen, Watusi, and Pygmies or related groups; approximately six million are white Africans and people of European descent.

4. Many of Africa's ancient civilizations were rich in culture and pre-date those of western Europe.

TRUE: Each of Africa's more than 50 countries is rich in history and culture. Many of Africa's flourishing ancient civilizations -- the Nok of Nigeria and the Kush of East Africa, for example -- pre-date those of western Europe. It goes without saying that although Egyptian culture itself is often regarded as the "cradle" of Western civilization, it too, is an African culture.

5. Most Africans live in cities.

FALSE: Most Africans live in rural rather than urban areas, but as a look at any number of African cities from Johannesburg to Casablanca will prove, many Africans do, indeed, live and work in thriving urban centers. In Senegal, for example, between 30-35% of the population live in cities. This trend toward urban migration continues to grow annually.