



Economies and Cultures

TERMS & NAMES

pastoralism
overgrazing
kinship

MAIN IDEA

The economies of Eastern and Southern Africa are based primarily on agriculture.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Billions of dollars of U.S. aid goes to this region to boost its economy.

DATELINE

ETHIOPIA, 1985—Ethiopia has been experiencing a widespread famine for a year. In 1984, a drought hit Northern Ethiopia and other parts of Eastern Africa. Nearly all crops failed. Many nations sent food, but it was not enough. Almost one million Ethiopians have died of starvation.

The government has moved 600,000 people to Southern Ethiopia, where conditions are better. Another 100,000 went to Somalia, 10,000 to Djibouti, and 300,000 to Sudan. Currently, there is no end in sight to this tragedy.



Region • The drought has killed not only crops, but also many of Ethiopia's animals. ▲

Agriculture in Eastern and Southern Africa

Agriculture is the primary industry of countries in Eastern and Southern Africa, even though drought is a serious problem. An exception is the area around Lake Victoria, which tends to get enough rain to support many different kinds of crops. People in this area grow bananas, strawberries, sweet potatoes, and yams. Cash crops such as coffee and cotton are grown in parts of Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda.



Political Boundaries of Eastern Africa, 2001



GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting a Map

1. **Place** • What bodies of water border Eritrea, Djibouti, and northern Somalia?
2. **Place** • On the satellite image, which country in Eastern Africa is clearly landlocked?



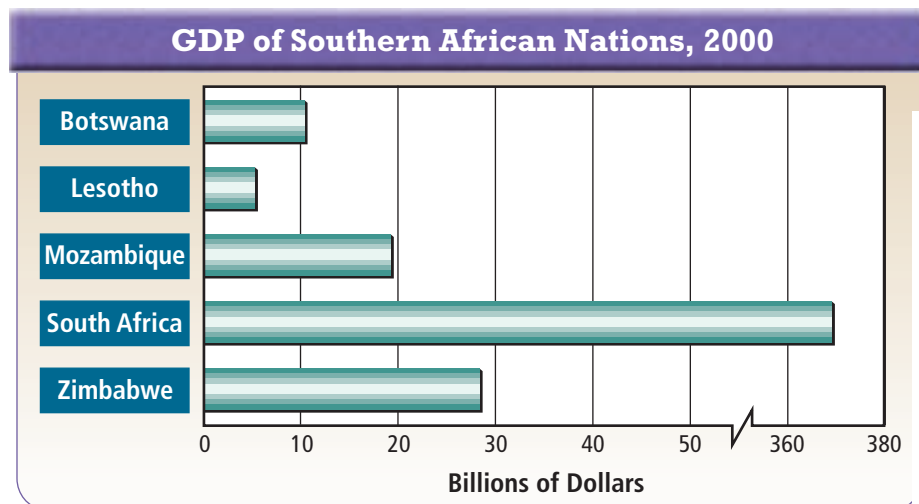
Place • Sorghum is a cereal grain plant native to Africa. It is a mainstay in the diets of 500 million people in more than 30 countries. ▲

Pastoralism In some areas of Africa, there is not enough rain to grow any crops. Somalia and most of Kenya receive less than 20 inches of rain each year. People survive by raising grazing animals, such as cattle, sheep, or goats. This way of life is called **pastoralism**. Many pastoralists are nomads. Today, because of Africa's increasing population, there are fewer places for nomads to graze their animals. As a result, the land is suffering from **overgrazing**, or the process in which animals graze grass faster than it can grow back. Overgrazing is a cause of desertification in Africa.

Fishing Africa's large lakes support commercial fishing. Lake Victoria was once home to almost 500 native species of fish. Most of these fish were too small to support a large fishing industry. The large Nile perch was then introduced into Lake Victoria. Since then, nearly all the native fish have disappeared. Today, commercial fishing of the Nile perch has brought many jobs to the area and provided an important export.

Place • Tanzanian fishermen spread nets along the shore of Lake Victoria. This cichlid is one of the native fish threatened by the Nile perch in the lake. ▼





SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting a Chart

1. Which of these countries had the largest GDP in 2000? the smallest?
2. Which country had a GDP about two times the size of Lesotho?

Africa's Economic Strength

Eastern Africa is the poorest region on the continent. Countries in Southern Africa have more diverse economies than do those in Eastern Africa. This means people have more ways to earn a living. For example, several countries in Southern Africa are rich in mineral resources, so there are jobs in mining. South Africa and Zimbabwe also have many manufacturing jobs. South Africa has by far the strongest economy in the region. In 2000 it had a Gross Domestic Product, or GDP, of approximately \$369 billion.

Reading Social Studies

A. Analyzing Causes What contributes to South Africa's strong economy?



The Beat Goes On People have made and played drums since at least 6000 B.C. In many African cultures, drums are more than musical instruments. The Yoruba used drums that imitate the pitch and pattern of human speech to transmit messages over many miles. These "talking" drums would, for example, send the message to an unpopular king that his people wanted him to resign. In Uganda, kettledrums were used to symbolize the king's power and offer him protection. Sacrifices of cattle were regularly made to the drums to give them a life force.

THINKING CRITICALLY



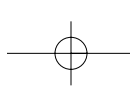
1. Making Inferences

What status do you think drum players hold in African society? Why?

2. Analyzing Motives

Why do you think the Yoruba people would use drums instead of a human messenger to send messages to their king?





Reading Social Studies

B. Making Inferences Why do you think good transportation and communication will improve Southern Africa's economies?

Transportation and Communication The countries of Southern Africa work together to improve the economy of the region. This includes improving transportation and communication among countries. For example, the railway lines of Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, South Africa, and Swaziland are linked. These lines carry goods from all areas of Southern Africa to major ports along the Atlantic and Indian coasts.

Cultures of Eastern and Southern Africa

Marriage and kinship are changing in Eastern and Southern Africa as people move to cities. **Kinship** means family relationships. Economic activity brings people together; as they trade goods, they trade ideas. Their behavior and attitudes change as well.

Music in Eastern and Southern Africa In Eastern and Southern Africa, musical traditions of many different cultural groups come together. One characteristic of Southern African music is repetition. The Shona people of Zimbabwe make *mbira* (em•BEER•uh) music. *Mbira* music forms patterns of repetition using different voices or instruments. In Zulu choral music, individual voices singing different parts enter a song at various points in a continuous cycle. This creates a rich and varied pattern of sound. Another traditional way of making music is called *hocketing*. Groups of musicians play flutes or trumpets. Each musician plays one note. Then they rotate, or take turns, playing one note after another to create a continuous, freeform song.

BACKGROUND

The Tumbuka healers of Malawi use special songs and dances to diagnose and cure their patients' diseases.

Culture • Joseph Shabalala, founder of the South African vocal group Ladysmith Black Mambazo, performs with women dancers in traditional Zulu dress. ▼





Connections to History

Ancient Churches Ethiopia adopted Christianity in the 500s. In the 1200s, Emperor Lalibela of Ethiopia commissioned 11 churches to be built in the town of Roha. The town was later renamed after the emperor. All of the churches were carved from solid volcanic rock. A network of tunnels was built to connect the churches. Today, a community of approximately 1,000 monks presides over these ancient churches and the pilgrims who visit them.



Changing the Tune African musical traditions moved across North America, South America, and Europe because of the slave trade and European colonization. African musicians have added elements of European, West Asian, and American music to their own styles to create new types of music. *Jiti*, for example, is a type of Shona *mbira* music that follows the traditional *mbira* rhythms using an electric guitar.

Religion in Eastern and Southern Africa

Today, about 85 percent of Southern and Eastern Africans practice Islam or Christianity. Only 15 percent practice a traditional African religion. Many traditional African religions focus on the worship of sky gods, ancestors, or spirits of rivers and of Earth. However, like Islam and Christianity, African religions recognize one supreme creator. Many Africans practice a traditional African religion that is combined with another religion.

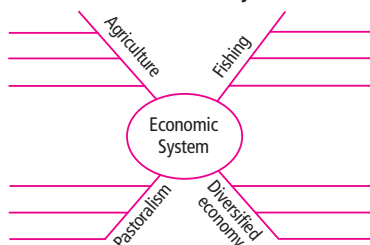
SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

Terms & Names

1. Identify: (a) pastoralism (b) overgrazing (c) kinship

Taking Notes

2. Using a spider map like the one shown, fill in details that describe each type of economic activity. Add more lines as necessary.



Main Ideas

3. (a) What geographic factors are responsible for the location of pastoralism in Eastern Africa?
 (b) How did cultural borrowing affect African music? How did it affect other types of music around the world?
 (c) What religious belief is common to all the major religions practiced by Africans?

Critical Thinking

4. Recognizing Important Details

Describe unique characteristics of the music of some African peoples. What influence do they have in common?

Think About

- the variety of African music
- how Africans incorporate European, West Asian, and American music

ACTIVITY -OPTION-

Imagine you have moved from a community of nomads in Kenya to South Africa. Write a **letter** describing what your life was like as a nomad and what kind of job you might find in your new home.