



SKILLBUILDER

Reading a Satellite Image

►► Defining the Skill

A satellite image is a photograph taken from a satellite. Photographs taken from satellites can be of continents or neighborhoods. A satellite image of a large area shows water, land, and clouds. The color of the land indicates whether it is desert, forest, farmland, or mountains.

►► Applying the Skill

This satellite image shows the continent of Africa. Use the strategies listed below to help you interpret the image.

How to Read a Satellite Image

Strategy 1 Distinguish the land from the water. Water on a satellite image is blue or green. Notice the cloud formations, which appear as white on the image.

Strategy 2 Look at the land. Areas that are desert are light tan. Mountainous areas are gray. Dark green areas show places where there is vegetation, or forests and farmland.

Strategy 3 Compare the satellite image with the political map of Africa in the Unit Atlas on page 486. Use the chart below to match the regions on the satellite image as closely as possible with countries. Because of clouds, you cannot see the land in all parts of Africa.



Make a Chart

A chart will help you organize the information found on the satellite image and on the political map of Africa.

Color on Satellite Map	Land Type	Countries
Light tan	Desert	Northern Africa
Orange	Semiarid	Sudan, Chad, Eastern Ethiopia, Namibia, Botswana
Dark green	Forest, farmland	Central Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe
Gray	Mountains	Ethiopia, Kenya

►► Practicing the Skill

Turn to the satellite image shown on page 347. Compare that satellite image with the political map on page 280. Make a chart like the one shown above to organize the information found on the map and photo.