



# Continent Close-up



**Egypt**

As the second-largest of Earth's seven continents, Africa is home to a dazzling array of cultures. Its mainland is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the west, the Mediterranean Sea to the north, the Red Sea to the northeast, and the Indian Ocean to the east. The continent also has many islands. In the Atlantic Ocean are São Tomé and Príncipe as well as Cape Verde. Madagascar, Seychelles, Comoros, and Mauritius lie in the Indian Ocean.



**Lake Victoria**

Land area	11,724,000 square miles (30,365,021 square kilometers)
Number of countries	55
Estimated population (2016)	1.216 billion
Main languages	Arabic, Swahili, Hausa, and between 1,000 and 2,000 other languages
Largest country	Algeria
Smallest country	Seychelles
Fast fact	There are about 170 million Facebook users in Africa.

Ngorongoro Conservation Area  
is located in the crater of a  
huge volcano!



Tanzania's Ngorongoro  
Conservation Area is  
home to an incredible  
range of wildlife.

CHAPTER



# Land and Climate

From vast deserts and towering mountain peaks to bustling cities, Africa contains a beautiful and varied landscape. The highest parts of the continent lie in Southern and East Africa, while West and North Africa are flatter. Most of the highlands and mountains in East Africa are a result of volcanic activity. Africa's coastline is straighter and smoother compared to most other continents. It has fewer bays and other inlets. As a result, it has fewer natural harbors.

THE BIG TRUTH!

# Electronic Waste

New and improved versions of the latest computers, phones, video game systems, and other electronics are constantly being released. Many people around the world throw out their electronics as soon as newer, shinier models become available. As a result, millions of tons of “e-waste” are created every year.

E-waste from around the world often ends up illegally dumped in African countries. These countries have little experience dealing with e-waste and lack the equipment to dispose of it properly. As a result, they have difficulty managing the mounds of trash. This can lead to major environmental and economic problems. The next page explains a few of them.



**DANGEROUS WORK**  
People are paid to sift through the landfills and sort out different types of items. However, these workers are not given proper protection.



**POLLUTED WATER**  
There is serious concern that people's blood might be absorbing lead from the electronics. Additionally, the e-waste causes pollution in nearby waterways. When people or animals eat fish from these waterways, they consume the pollution as well.



**PILING UP**  
The West African nation of Ghana is one of the countries that has been hit hardest by the consequences of e-waste. Agbogbloshe, an area in the capital city of Accra, is one of the most concentrated e-waste sites in the world. Here, massive landfills are piled high with electronics that have been discarded over the years.

