

Year 1



Continent Focus: Africa (Kenya) - Knowledge Organiser

How would our lives be different if we lived in Kenya?

Key Vocabulary

Equator: an imaginary line around the Earth that goes exactly midway between the North Pole and the South Pole.

Migrate: A long journey to a new home

Countryside: land that is away from big towns and cities.

Maasai Mara: game reserve type of park, meant to protect the animals on the savannah of the Serengeti.

Kenya: A country in Africa.

Climate: the average weather conditions in a place over 30 years or more.

Continent: A large solid area of land, made up of many countries.

Where is Kenya? How does the climate differ around the world?

- Africa is a continent which is close to the equator.
- Kenya lies on the Equator, which means the climate is hot, sunny and dry for most of the year.
- Countries closer to the equator are warmer.

In the north it is hot and dry with arid deserts.

In the west it is hot and humid, and the rainfall can be highest here.

If there is no rainfall for a long time, droughts can occur.



Key Questions and Facts

What is it like in a Kenyan city?

- Nairobi is the capital city and the largest city in Kenya.
- More than 60 languages are spoken in Kenya. The official languages of Kenya are Swahili and English.
- Music and storytelling are very important in Kenya.

There are many different types of food in Kenya such as cassava, ugali and Kenyan stew.

Maize and other cereals are the staple grains.



What is it like in the Kenyan countryside?

- The Great Rift Valley is an enormous valley of mountains which runs from the north to south of Kenya.
- Mount Kenya is the highest mountain in Kenya, and the country itself was named after the mountain!
- The Tana River is the longest river in Kenya.



Nairobi: It is the main city of eastern Africa.

Wildlife: wild animals that live free of humans.

Poverty: when a person has limited access to or, in some cases, no access to, the essential resources they need to survive and live well.

Humid: the feeling of being very damp (wet air) when the temperature is high.

Farming: growing and harvesting crops and raising animals, or livestock.

Safari: people search for animals in their natural environments.

Forest: A large area filled with many trees.

Endangered: any type of plant or animal that is in danger of disappearing forever.

Rain: water that falls from the sky in drops.

Lake: bodies of water surrounded on all sides by land.

Why do people visit the Maasai Mara?

- Kenya has over 50 national parks and game reserves across the country.
- A national park is a protected area of land where only tourism and research is allowed by humans. No humans live in national parks.
- A game reserve is still a protected area of land, but it allows humans to live there and to carry out other activities such as fishing, road building, mining and gathering wood.
- The most popular reserve in Kenya is the Maasai Mara Reserve, which can be found in the south west of the country. It is named in honour of the Maasai tribe who have lived in the area.



Why do animals migrate?

- Kenya has many different species of animals.
- Millions of people visit Kenya each year to see the huge savannah and the animals that inhabit it such as elephants, lions, cheetahs, meerkats and zebras.
- The 'big five' animals in Africa are the African lion, white/black rhinoceros, African leopard, Cape buffalo, and the African elephant.
- In Kenya, animals migrate (move) from one place to another, across the land.
- Animals migrate for many reasons, such as to find food, water or shelter.



What is life like for a child in Kenya?

- Not all Kenyan children go to school.
- Many children are too busy helping their families by working on the land, farming, cooking or fetching water.
- Some children may have over an hour's walk to school.
- Some children may be different ages but in the same year group.



Mountain: a large rock that rises high above the surrounding land and is taller than 600 metres.

Capital City: It usually serves as the location of the government's central meeting place and offices.

Culture: beliefs and behaviours that are traditionally practiced by a group of people.

Tourism: the business of encouraging and supporting tourists.

