

# Unit 11: Natural wonders of Africa

Grade 8

## Objective

In this unit, you will give information about places of natural beauty in Africa.

## A Listening and speaking

### LESSON ONE

#### Activity

Study the map of Africa below. Identify the major physical features and where they are found.



**Exercise 1:** Answer the following questions about the map.

1. Name the water bodies that surround Africa.
2. Where is the source of River Nile?
3. Name the island South-West of Africa.
4. Name the countries in the Sahara desert.
5. What is the location of Ethiopia on the map?
6. Mention the countries in which the rift valley passes.

**Exercise 2:** Your teacher will read to you a folktale about the formation of a little lake called Wamala in central Uganda. Listen carefully and then answer the questions.

1. What makes the story interesting?
2. What do you understand by “Wamala having water in his head”?
3. Where did the water come from?
4. Why did the twins’ mother eat the fruits?
5. Mention any other beliefs you have heard regarding any geographical place.

## LESSON TWO

### Listening practice

**Exercise 1:** Your teacher will read to you a passage about Mount Kilimanjaro. Listen carefully and answer the questions.

1. Where is Mount Kilimanjaro found?
2. Why is it regarded as **the roof of Africa**?
3. “As wide as all the world, great, high and unbelievably white.” Who made this description about Mount Kilimanjaro?
4. Name the three major volcanic centres of this mountain?
5. Name the highest peak on mount Kilimanjaro?

- List the features that hikers must get before they reach the peak of Mt. Kilimanjaro?
- Which time of the year is most suitable to climb Mount Kilimanjaro?
- Why is this the best time to go mountain climbing?

**Note:** The activity of climbing a mountain is also known as **mountaineering**.

### Describing location using North, South, East, West

**Exercise 2:** Read the sentences and do the exercise that follows.

**Example:** In which direction are the countries?

Teacher : Kenya is to the South of Ethiopia.

Student : Ethiopia is to the North of Kenya.

Teacher : Eritrea lies to the North of Ethiopia.

Student : Ethiopia is to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Eritrea.

Teacher : Somalia lies to the East of Ethiopia.

Student : Ethiopia is to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Somalia.

Teacher : Sudan is West of Ethiopia.

Student : Ethiopia is \_\_\_\_\_ of Sudan.

**Exercise 3:** Answer the following questions using a map.

- Which country lies West of Zambia?
- Which country lies East of Chad?
- Which country lies North-West of South Africa?
- Which country lies East of Congo Brazzaville?
- In which direction is Sudan from Libya?

## LESSON THREE

### Using adjectives: Northern Southern Eastern Western

Read these sentences.

- Examples:**
1. Ethiopia shares the **Southern border** with Kenya.
  2. Sudan shares the **Eastern border** with Ethiopia.

What is the meaning and importance of the words in bold?

#### Activity 1

Draw the map of Ethiopia in your exercise book. Suggest natural features found in the Eastern, Northern, Western, Southern and Central parts of Ethiopia.

**Example:** Axum is located in the Northern part of Ethiopia.

#### Activity 2

Work in groups. Name the positions of the various features in and around your school. Use adjectives such as Southern, Northern, etc.

**Example:** Our school flag is in the Central part of the school.

#### Grammar highlight

*An adjective is a word that is used to describe a noun.*

## LESSON FOUR

### Comparative adjectives

Read these sentences. Look at the words in bold. What do they describe?

- Example:**
- (a) Some farmers grow eucalyptus trees on the **steep** slopes of mountains.
  - (b) Do some people live in **hilly** areas in our country?

**Exercise 1:** Work with a partner. Look around your classroom and identify five objects to describe. Your partner will guess what you have described. Use a wide range of adjectives. Do this exercise in turns.

**Example:** It is large. It is black. It is big. It has a rectangular shape. It is fixed in the classroom wall. What is it?

It is a chalkboard.

**Exercise 2:** Use the information given in the table and write complete sentences in your exercise book.

**Example:** Lake Turkana is deeper than Ethiopia's rift valley lakes.

Feature		Adjective
Ethiopia's rift valley lakes	Boma National Park in Sudan	famous
Lake Faguibine in Mali	Lake Volta in Ghana	small
River Zambezi	River Niger	deep
The Sahara Desert	Kalahari Desert	wide
Libyan Plateau	Bie Plateau in Angola	large
The peak of Erte Ale in Ethiopia	The peak of Ras Dashen mountains	hot
Lake Victoria	Lake Turkana	wide

### LESSON FIVE

#### Superlative adjectives

##### Activity 1

Ask your partner questions using different adjectives.

**Example:** Which is the longest river in Africa? (Nile)

The Nile is the **longest river** in Africa.

Ask your partner questions about the beautiful natural features of Ethiopia.

Use: largest, smallest, widest, hottest, most famous, most exciting, oldest, most fascinating, coldest.

**Exercise 1:** Complete the sentences below with the appropriate form of the adjective in the brackets.

- Which girl is the \_\_\_\_\_ ? Halima or Zufan? (young)
- Tamini is the \_\_\_\_\_ boy in the class. (strong)



3. Ras Dashen is the \_\_\_\_\_ mountain in Ethiopia. (high)
4. Erta Ale is the \_\_\_\_\_ place in Ethiopia. (hot)
5. February is \_\_\_\_\_ than April. (short)
6. The book is \_\_\_\_\_ than the movie. I liked it. (interesting)
7. Love is the \_\_\_\_\_ thing in life. (important)

### Using: Present tense and riddles

A riddle is a question that you ask as a game. It is difficult to understand but the answer is surprisingly easy.

**Example:** I am green in the rainy season and yellow in the dry season. I occupy a large flat area. I am covered with grass, thickets and shrubs. I am a \_\_\_\_\_ (savannah).

#### Exercise 2: What am I?

1. My mouth is big and wide. I can move in the water like a snake on land. I rip my prey apart like a machine. My skin is like a brick wall. I am a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. I am like a pulp. I am like an oval ball. I work like a computer. I live inside a skull. I am a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I am found in snails. I visit you if you swim in ponds or drink dirty water. I am also called schistosomiasis. I am \_\_\_\_\_.
4. People call me 'ache'. When I visit their heads they feel pain. I am a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. I bite you if you are not protected. I usually travel at night in the dark and visit you in bed. I am very tiny. I am a \_\_\_\_\_.
6. I am found in Tanzania. I am very high. Tourists come to visit my snow capped peak. What am I? I am \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Activity 2

Work in groups. Play a game of riddles made up by each one of you.



## LESSON SIX

### Using: ... although... and but

#### Read the sentences below.

- (a) Victoria Falls are spectacular, **but** they are not the highest waterfalls in the world.  
(b) **Although** Victoria Falls are spectacular, they are not the highest waterfalls in the world.

Do the above sentences have the same meaning or are they different? Give reasons for your answer.

#### Exercise 1: Join the following sentences using **although**.

1. The artifacts in the museum are very old. They will last long.
2. Lake Tanganyika is long. It is not the largest in Africa.
3. The Blue Nile is called so. It is not blue in colour.
4. Serengeti National Park in Tanzania is old. It is not as ancient as the Ethiopian Stalea of Axum.
5. The Suez Canal is long. It is narrow.
6. The Congo forest is thick. It is penetrable.
7. The Sahara desert is very dry. People living there practise agriculture.
8. Lapiso likes watching gorillas. He fears to touch them.
9. Temperatures in North Africa are hot. The people wear dark clothing sometimes.
10. Those rock paintings are very old. They are not recorded in historical books.

#### Exercise 2: Rewrite the following sentences using **although**. Discuss their meaning.

1. Shiferaw was grazing cows in the National Park, but the game warders did not arrest him.
2. Timbuktu is a famous place in Mali, but it is not the capital city.
3. The Congo forest is thick and vast, but it is not as popular as the Amazon.
4. Students wanted to visit Lalibela, but the teacher insisted on visiting Omo valley.
5. Egypt is well known for its ancient history, but it does not surpass the historical features of Ethiopia.
6. Mountain Kilimanjaro is interesting, but Erta Ale in Ethiopia is more amazing for tourists.

**Grammar highlight**

**Although** is a conjunction used to join two clauses. It may be used at the beginning or in the middle of a sentence.

**NB:** When used at the beginning, a comma separates the two clauses. It can be used instead of **but**.

**LESSON SEVEN****Relative clauses****Using: which, that, where**

**Which, that** and **where** are relative pronouns that join two clauses.

**Exercise 1:** Join the following sentences using relative pronouns **which** and **where**.

**Example:** Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest in Africa. It is located in Tanzania.

Mount Kilimanjaro, which is the highest in Africa, is located in Tanzania.

1. Barena visited Zakouma National Park in Chad. He saw many lions (**where**).
2. I did not go to the zoo. My brother went there last week (**where**).
3. Plateau du Tademait is found in Algeria. It is an interesting physical feature (**which**).
4. Birtukan visited Lake Kariba in Zimbabwe. She enjoyed swimming (**where**).
5. Madagascar is part of the African continent. It is separated by the Indian Ocean (**which**).
6. Okavango swamps in Botswana are large. They are also fascinating to look at. (**which**)
7. Zebene went to a forest. He saw different types of wild birds (**where**).
8. Cape Town is a beautiful city. It is found in South Africa. (**which**).

**Exercise 2:** Complete the paragraph below with **which** or **where**.

Each summer my family and I visit my grandparents in Kelafo 1 we enjoy fresh air. We usually stay in a hut 2 is small and simple. My grandparents are famous for their herds 3 include goats, sheep, cattle and camels. The hut is small and low 4 doesn't allow one to enter while walking upright. I usually sleep outside 5 I can have fresh air.



**Activity**

In groups of three, form sentences using **which**, **that** and **where** in your exercise book.

**B Reading****LESSON EIGHT****Comprehension****Activity**

Work with a partner. Answer these questions.

1. List five man-made places of wonder in Ethiopia.
2. Which natural geographical features do you know in Ethiopia and Africa?
3. What is the difference between a natural geographical feature and a man-made one?
4. Which natural geographical features do you consider to be places of natural beauty?
5. Why should we preserve our places of natural beauty?

**Read the passage.****Lake Langano**

Lake Langano is set against the blue-grey backdrop of the Aris mountains. It is 215 kilometres away from the capital city, Addis Ababa. Langano provides an ideal place for sun bathing, water sports, fresh water cool breezes and fine **accommodation**.



*(Adapted from the Beauty of Ethiopia, 1997)*

The waters of Lake Langano are cool. There is a **variety** of flamingoes which seem to float as they wade in the shallow waters. There are also great pelicans which **soar** over the lake. There is a **myriad** of bird species around the lake which include fish eagles, cormorants which **perch** in the dry tree branches around Lake Langano.

**Exercise 1:** Answer the questions in your exercise book.

1. How far is Lake Langano from Addis Ababa?
2. What tourist activities take place on Lake Langano?
3. Mention three species of birds found around this lake.
4. Of what value is tourism to Ethiopia?

**Exercise 2:** Match the following words with their meaning as used in the passage.

Vocabulary	Meaning
accommodation	a large number of species.
variety	a collection of different kinds of objects.
soar	to fly in the sky above the lake.
myriad	a place for someone to stay.
perch	to sit or rest on a tree branch.

**Exercise 3:** Use the vocabulary words in the table above in your own sentences. Write the sentences in your exercise book.

**Example:** Our hotel has accommodation for only 100 guests.

## LESSON NINE

**Read this passage**

### Awash National Park

Awash National park is the oldest and most developed game **reserve** of its kind. It is **bordered** by the Awash River and lies 225 kilometres East of Addis Ababa on the Djibouti Highway.

The 1,800 metres high semi **dormant** Fantalle volcano is an **extensive** area of pools of mineral hot - springs fringed with doum palms, and the extraordinary



*Adapted from the Beauty of Ethiopia, 1997*

phenomenon of the rocky features. Hawaii is said to be the only other place on earth where these volcanic features are found.

The wildlife consists mostly of East African plains game with the exception of the giraffe and the buffalo. The oryx, bat-eared fox, caracal, aadvark, colobus and grey monkeys, Anubis and Hamadryas baboons, klip springer, leopards, bush bucks, hippopotamus, soemmerring gazelles, Grevy's zebras, cheetahs, greater and lesser kudus, and 400 species of birds are to be found within the 756 square kilometres of the Awash national park.

**Exercise:** Answer the questions in your exercise book. Write your answers in complete sentences.

1. Which river borders Awash National Park?
2. How far is this park from Addis Ababa?
3. What is the height of the dormant Fantalle volcano?
4. What attractive natural features are found in this park?
5. Name at least five animals found in this park.

### Activity

In groups of four, identify any four tourist sites you know and where they are located. Talk about the tourist attractions found there. Draw a table to present this information. Use the example of Awash National Park below to guide you.

Place of natural beauty	Tourist attraction	Location
Awash National Park	Fantalle volcano, oryx, bats, eared fox, caracal aadvark, colobus and green monkey, anubis and other wild life and 400 species of birds.	225 kilometres, East of Addis Ababa on the Djibouti highway.

After you have completed the activity, your teacher will display your tourist sites on a notice board for comparison.

## LESSON TEN

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

### Erta Ale

Erta Ale is an **amazing** active **volcano** in the Afar Region of North-Eastern Ethiopia. It is the most **active** volcano in Ethiopia and probably in Africa. In Afar, it is referred to as the **smoking mountain**.



Adapted from 'Discovering Ethiopia', 1983

It has a pit on its Southern slopes locally known as *the gateway to hell*. It has **searing** hot temperatures because large amounts of heat are released by the volcano. Local people do not visit it but many tourists do. The tourists avoid the hot points of the volcano and watch this amazing active volcano at a distance.

**Exercise:** Answer the following questions in your exercise book.

1. Why is Erta Ale regarded as an amazing volcano?
2. How long has the volcano been active?
3. What is the pit on its Southern slopes called?
4. Find the meaning of the words in bold and use them in your own sentences.

### Activity

In groups of three, identify the dangers that can affect our places of natural beauty and write them in a paragraph. In your exercise book, write a paragraph of what we can do to prevent destruction of our natural beauty places.



## Extra reading

Read the passage to each other in turns and answer the questions that follow.

## The beauty of The Great Rift Valley



Taken and adapted from 'Discovering Ethiopia', 1983

Much of African volcanic activity is concentrated along the immense 2800 kilometres of a long crack in the earth's surface known as the Rift Valley. It is the result of two roughly parallel faults in the earth's surface between which, in distant geological time, the **crust** was weakened and the land subsided.

Ethiopia is often referred to as *the water tower of Eastern Africa* because of the many rivers that pour off the high tableland. The great rift valley's passage through Ethiopia is marked by a chain of lakes and rivers. Lakes and rivers provide ideal habitats for the **exuberant** variety of **flora** and **fauna** that make the region a great delight for naturalists and tourists.

## Exercise 1: Write answers to the questions.

1. Where is the African volcanic activity concentrated?
2. How was the rift valley formed?
3. Why is Ethiopia referred to as *the water tower of Eastern Africa*?
4. What features mark the rift valley's passage through Ethiopia?
5. Write words that mean *flora* and *fauna*.

## Exercise 2: Match the words with their meaning in your exercise book.

myriad

dormant

amazing

searing

inactive

many

hot

surprising



## C Writing

### LESSON ELEVEN

#### Poster and letter writing

##### Activity

Make a poster describing a tourist spot. Give the name of the place of natural beauty, location, wildlife, physical features, any other exciting features.

**Exercise 1:** Complete the following letter from a friend using **but, although, so, which** or **where**.

Dear   1  

How are you? You'll definitely be surprised when I tell you that I have been to Jenka. Jenka   2   is a tourist site is a place worth visiting. I was asking my parents to take me there,   3   they were not interested. Finally, I persuaded them and they agreed with me,   4   we went there last week.

We stayed in a hotel   5   we could view the beautiful scenery.   6   the hotel has all the modern equipment, the way it is built is very traditional. We loved it. Therefore, if you are planning for a vacation, please go there. By the way, where did you spend your recent vacation? Reply soon.

Yours,

  7  

**Exercise 2:** Write a letter of reply to your friend. In your letter, describe the place where you spent your last vacation.