

# RAINFOREST

# SAVANNA

# GRASSLAND

# DESERT

## AFRICAN ECOREGIONS

Cut along the dotted line, then cut the cards apart.

Place or identify a long horizontal line on a table or the floor.

Call that line the equator, then arrange these cards in a vertical row in proper order:

- rainforest by the equator,
- savanna to the north,
- then grassland,
- and finally desert.

These form the Y-axis - the headings on the rows of a big matrix.

The column headings have numbers:

- 1 - approximate latitude
- 2 - length of rainy season
- 3 - typical plant cover
- 4 - typical animals
- 5 - rivers
- 6 - soils
- 7 - plants used for food
- 8 - animals used for food
- 9 - building materials
- 10 - transportation
- 11 - major religion
- 12 - [blank]

Choose which ones you want students to match, and then arrange the headings for the columns.

Then have students place the answer cards in the proper places in the matrix - e.g. salty soils in deserts, cattle as animals to eat in the grassland region. etc.

# 1 APPROXIMATE LATITUDE

# 2 LENGTH OF THE RAINY SEASON

# 3 TYPICAL PLANT COVER

# 4 TYPICAL ANIMALS

## AFRICAN ECOREGIONS

Cut along the dotted line, then cut the cards apart.

Place or identify a long horizontal line on a table or the floor.

Call that line the equator, then put the four ecoregion cards in a vertical row in proper order:

- rainforest by the equator,
- savanna to the north,
- then grassland,
- and finally desert.

These form the Y-axis - the headings on the rows of a big matrix.

The cards on this page are the first four column headings.

Choose which ones you want students to match - one option is to do the first four all by themselves, for general background, then do some others at other times, when they fit other lessons.

Have the students place the answer cards in the proper places in the matrix - e.g. 2-4 month rainy season in the grassland, scattered trees in the savanna, etc.

**5**

**RIVERS**

**6**

**SOILS**

**7**

**PLANTS USED  
FOR FOOD**

**8**

**ANIMALS USED  
FOR FOOD**

**9**

**MATERIAL TO  
BUILD HOUSES**

**10**

**MODE OF  
TRANSPORTATION**  
(BEFORE CARS AND PLANES)

**11**

**MAJOR  
RELIGION**

**12**

GENERAL LATITUDE

0 - 5 degrees  
away from  
the Equator

GENERAL LATITUDE

5 - 15 degrees  
away from  
the Equator

GENERAL LATITUDE

15 - 20 degrees  
away from  
the Equator

GENERAL LATITUDE

20 - 30 degrees  
away from  
the Equator

LENGTH OF RAINY SEASON

rainy season is  
10+ months  
long

LENGTH OF RAINY SEASON

rainy season is  
5 - 9 months  
long

LENGTH OF RAINY SEASON

rainy season is  
2 - 4 months  
long

LENGTH OF RAINY SEASON

rainy season is  
less than 2  
months long

PLANT COVER

Tall trees, vines,  
mushrooms,  
swamp plants

PLANT COVER

Trees get shorter  
and spaced apart  
as land gets drier

PLANT COVER

Grasses  
and  
some flowers

PLANT COVER

Shrubs, cactus  
(no plants in  
some places)

TYPICAL ANIMALS

Birds,  
monkeys,  
insects, snakes

TYPICAL ANIMALS

Zebra, giraffe,  
lions, other  
large cats

TYPICAL ANIMALS

Impala,  
wildebeest

TYPICAL ANIMALS

Camels, lizards  
(no animals in  
some places)

RIVERS

full, steady,  
usually clear,  
few rapids

RIVERS

large floods  
in summer

RIVERS

summer floods,  
dry in winter,  
many sandbars

RIVERS

none,  
except coming in  
from outside the region

SOIL CHARACTERISTICS

infertile, leached  
(nutrients washed out  
by too much rain)

SOIL CHARACTERISTICS

iron-rich,  
often hard  
(like brick)

SOIL CHARACTERISTICS

dark, fertile,  
but often dry

SOIL CHARACTERISTICS

thin, salty  
(often rocky  
or sandy)

PLANTS USED FOR FOOD

date palm, nuts,  
tree fruits, roots,  
mushrooms

PLANTS USED FOR FOOD

sorghum  
(a tall grass),  
groundnut (peanut)

PLANTS USED FOR FOOD

millet  
(a short grass)

PLANTS USED FOR FOOD

none

ANIMALS USED FOR FOOD

fish, monkeys,  
some birds

ANIMALS USED FOR FOOD

deer, pigs,  
cattle

ANIMALS USED FOR FOOD

impala,  
cattle, goats

ANIMALS USED FOR FOOD

camel milk  
and blood



BUILDING MATERIALS

Wood,  
tied with vines,  
shingle roof

BUILDING MATERIALS

wood  
bundles of grass

BUILDING MATERIALS

bundles of grass,  
animal skins

BUILDING MATERIALS

stone,  
dried mud  
(called adobe  
in North America)

TRANSPORTATION

walking, boats

TRANSPORTATION

walking

TRANSPORTATION

walking,  
riding camels

TRANSPORTATION

walking,  
riding camels

RELIGIONS

Christianity,  
animism

RELIGIONS

animism,  
Islam

RELIGIONS

Islam,  
animism

RELIGIONS

Islam,  
animism

OTHER

OTHER

OTHER

OTHER