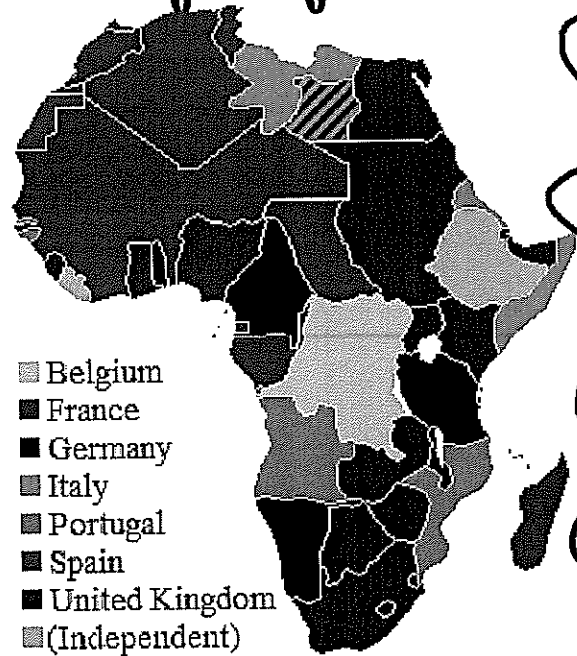


Name _____

The Decolonization of Africa

During the late nineteenth century, European powers divided Africa and its resources into political partitions at the Berlin Conference. By 1905, Africa was almost completely controlled by European countries. The two exceptions were Liberia, which had been settled by African-American former slaves, and Ethiopia, which successfully resisted colonization by Italy. Britain and France had the largest amount of control in Africa, but Germany, Spain, Italy, Belgium, and Portugal also had colonies. Africa suffered from long term effects as a result of the colonialism and imperialism.

One negative effect was the loss of important natural resources like gold and rubber. The countries were devastated economically. Europeans went into Africa and tried to make the natives just like they were, or what they considered "civilized," also known as the "White Man's Burden." When European leaders divided Africa, they did not take into account the natives' cultural beliefs or rivalries among tribes. This led to conflict among many nations.



Causes of Decolonization

During World II, the African colonies helped their ruling European nations fight their enemies. Despite this, there was no promise of independence for the African nations. There was a shortage of raw materials during the war because Japan conquered many areas where items had previously been found. Africa had to compensate for this shortage, which was beneficial to them. European nations used the help their African colonies gave them, but saw no reason to reward them with independence after the war. They still saw their African colonies as "children" and "immature," only introducing democratic governments on local levels.

Problems with Decolonization

Even when African nations achieved their independence, they had a difficult time developing stable nations.

Problem #1: When the European nations had set their boundaries, they did not take into account the ethnic groups involved. This created situations that led to conflicts.

Problem #2: The economies of African nations had been geared toward colonial goals, so Europeans did not create mature and stable economies. These newly independent countries had weak economies typically geared toward one industry intended to be exported.

Problem #3: There was a lack of educated citizens to take over running the government and economy of African nations. Colonizers did not care about educating Africans because they had little need for highly educated people. Once African nations became independent, not enough Africans had been educated or trained well enough to take over major governmental positions.

Matching: Match each term with its description.

1. _____ White Man's Burden	A. Along with France, they held the most colonies in Africa
2. _____ Liberia	B. Europeans created this type of economy in Africa so they were weak and usually only focused on one industry
3. _____ World War II	C. Meeting of European nations where African borders were established
4. _____ government	D. Along with rubber, this natural resource was a profitable raw material in Africa
5. _____ Berlin Conference	E. There was a lack of educated citizens to take over this once the European nations left
6. _____ ethnic groups	F. Country established by African-American former slaves that was not controlled by the Europeans
7. _____ colonial	G. The idea that Europeans must civilize Africans
8. _____ Ethiopia	H. African colonies helped European countries fight in this conflict
9. _____ Britain	I. Country that resisted colonization by Italy and remained independent
10. _____ gold	J. These were not taken into account when European nations divided African boundaries

Multiple Choice: Choose the best answer from the choices provided.

11. Which of the following was NOT a reason decolonization was a problem?
- A. African nations were excited to have control over their own nations.
 - B. Boundaries set by European nations did not take into account ethnic groups.
 - C. There was a lack of educated citizens to take over the government.
 - D. African nations were focused on only one export, making the economies weak.

12. Which of the following is an accurate description of the "White Man's Burden?"

- A. Europeans felt it was their duty to control others.
- B. Europeans felt it was their duty to make Africans "civilized."
- C. Europeans caused conflicts between African ethnic groups.
- D. Europeans forced Africans to fight for their nations during World War II.

Short Answer: Write a sentence or two to answer each question below.

13. Why do you think some European nations were willing to give up their colonies without a fight?
14. Why do you think some European nations fought for their colonies?
15. Why were African nations unprepared to take over the leadership of their countries?
16. Why do you think the European countries did not prepare the African nations for their independence?

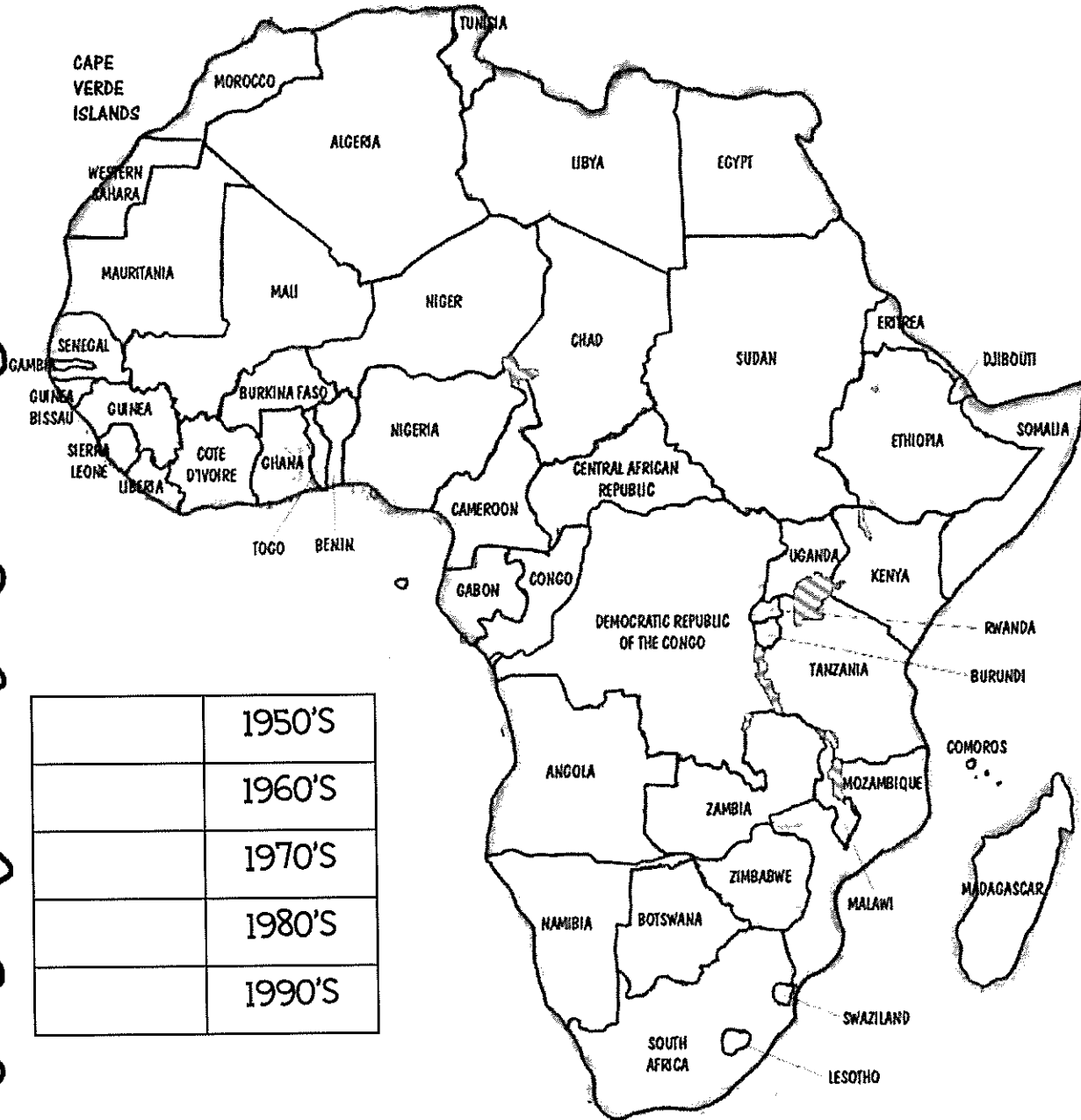
Timeline: Use this information to complete the map activity.

COUNTRY	COLONIAL NAME	COLONIAL POWER	INDEPENDENCE DATE	WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE
Ethiopia	Kingdom of Aksum	Remained independent	Remained independent	-
Liberia	Commonwealth of Liberia	American Colonization Society	July 26, 1847	-
Libya	Libya	Italy, Britain, France	December 24, 1951	Western Desert Campaign
Egypt	Egypt	Britain	1922, 1936, 1952	1952 Egyptian Revolution
Sudan	Sudan	Britain	January 1, 1956	-
Tunisia	Tunisia	France	March 20, 1956	-
Morocco	Protectorate of Morocco	France, Spain	April 7, 1956	Rifi War, Ifni War
Ghana	Gold Coast	Britain, Germany	March 6, 1957	-
Cameroon	Cameroun	Germany, France, Britain	January 1, 1960	UPC Rebellion
Senegal	French West Africa	France	April 4, 1960	-
Togo	French Togoland	Germany, France	April 27, 1960	-
Mali	French West Africa	France	June 20, 1960	-
Madagascar	Malagasy Protectorate	France	June 26, 1960	-
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Belgian Congo	Belgium	June 30, 1960	Congo Crisis
Somalia	British Somaliland, Italian Somaliland	Britain, Italy	June 26, 1960	-
Benin	French West Africa	France	August 1, 1960	-

COUNTRY	COLONIAL NAME	COLONIAL POWER	INDEPENDENCE DATE	WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE
Niger	French West Africa	France	August 3, 1960	-
Burkina Faso	Upper Volta	France	August 5, 1960	-
Cote d'Ivoire	Cote d'Ivoire	France	August 7, 1960	-
Chad	French Equatorial Africa	France	August 11, 1960	-
Central African Republic	French Equatorial Africa	France	August 13, 1960	-
Congo	French Equatorial Africa	France	August 15, 1960	-
Gabon	French Equatorial Africa	France	August 16, 1960	-
Nigeria	Nigeria	Britain	October 1, 1960	-
Mauritania	French West Africa	France	November 28, 1960	-
Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone	Britain	April 17, 1961	-
South Africa	South Africa	Britain	1910, 1931, 1961	-
Tanzania	Tanganyika	Germany, Britain	December 9, 1961, December 10, 1963	-
Rwanda	Ruanda-randi	Germany	July 1, 1962	-
Burundi	Ruanda-Urandi	Germany	July 1, 1962	-
Algeria	Algeria	France	July 3, 1962	Algerian War of Independence
Uganda	Uganda	Britain	October 9, 1962	-

COUNTRY	COLONIAL NAME	COLONIAL POWER	INDEPENDENCE DATE	WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE
Kenya	British East Africa	Britain	December 12, 1962	Mau Mau Uprising
Malawi	Nyasaland	Britain	July 6, 1964	-
Zambia	Northern Rhodesia	Britain	October 24, 1964	-
The Gambia	Gambia	Britain	February 18, 1965	-
Botswana	Bechuanaland	Britain	September 30, 1966	-
Lesotho	Basutoland	Britain	October 4, 1966	-
Swaziland	Swaziland	Britain	September 6, 1968	-
Equatorial Guinea	Spanish Guinea	Spain	October 12, 1968	-
Guinea-Bissau	Portuguese Guinea	Portugal	September 24, 1973	Guinea-Bissau War of Independence
Mozambique	Mozambique	Portugal	June 25, 1975	Mozambican War of Independence
Cape Verde	-	Portugal	July 5, 1975	Influence by Guinea-Bissau War of Independence
Comoros	-	Portugal	July 12, 1975	-
Angola	Angola AKA Portuguese East Africa	Portugal	November 11, 1975	Angolan War of Independence
Western Sahara	Spanish Sahara	Spain	February 28, 1976	-
Djibouti	French Somaliland	France	June 27, 1977	-
Zimbabwe	Southern Rhodesia	Britain	April 18, 1980	Rhodesian Bush War
Namibia	South West Africa	Germany, South Africa	March 21, 1990	Namibian War of Independence
Eritrea	Eritrea	Italy, Britain, Ethiopia	May 24, 1993	Eritrean War of Independence

AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE



	1950'S
	1960'S
	1970'S
	1980'S
	1990'S

DIRECTIONS:

- 1) Assign a color to each decade in the key.
- 2) Use the information from the chart to color the country in the decade they won their independence. (If there are multiple dates of independence, choose the last one for the color-coding).
- 3) Use the information to answer the multiple-choice questions that follow.

Use the map and chart to answer the following questions.

1. Of the following, which country received their independence FIRST?
A. Chad B. Madagascar C. Lesotho D. Egypt

2. Of the following, which country received their independence LAST?
A. Mozambique B. Namibia C. Niger D. Mali

3. Which of the following countries did NOT get their independence in 1960?
A. Burkina Faso B. Sudan C. Mali D. Madagascar

4. Which two countries were never controlled by Europeans?
A. South Africa and Eritrea B. Zimbabwe and Nigeria
C. Ethiopia and Liberia D. Mali and Algeria

5. In which decade did African nations experience the MOST independence?
A. 1950s B. 1960s C. 1970s D. 1980s

6. Which European country controlled the most colonies in Africa?
A. Britain B. Portugal C. Germany D. Italy

7. French Equatorial Africa was broken into all of the following countries EXCEPT which one?
A. Chad B. Central African Republic C. Nigeria D. Gabon

8. Which of the following was not an African national colonized by France?
A. Djibouti B. Mali C. Tunisia D. Mozambique

9. What is the most likely reason there were more wars for independence later in the timeline?
A. Africans became angrier as time went on.
B. The European countries were not as willing to let these areas go easily.
C. The European countries wanted to help their colonies set up their government.
D. The Africans developed superior weapons.

10. Which of the following statements is NOT an accurate statement according to the map?
A. Northern Africa was the first to get their independence.
B. Most of central Africa gained their independence during the 1960s.
C. Most of northern Africa gained their independence during the 1970s.
D. Most African countries gained their independence in the 1960s.