



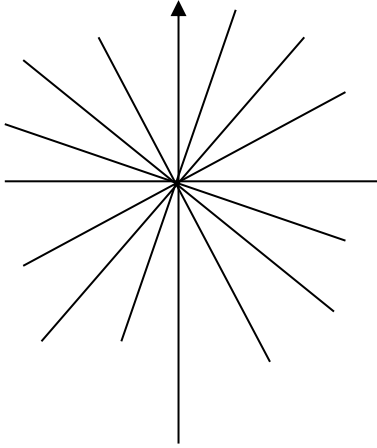
P.7 LESSONS NOTES
SOCIAL STUDIES
TERM ONE

LOCATION OF AFRICA

TOPIC ONE : WAYS OF LOCATING PLACES ON A MAP

- a) **African countries crossed by the prime meridian are:**
- a. Ghana
 - b. Burkina Faso
 - c. Algeria
 - d. Mali
- b) **African countries crossed by each of the major latitudes of the major latitudes**
- a. Equator
 - i. Uganda
 - ii. Kenya
 - iii. DRC
 - iv. Somalia
 - v. Congo Brazzaville
 - vi. Gabon
 - b. Tropic of Cancer
 - i. Egypt
 - ii. Libya
 - iii. Niger
 - iv. Chad
 - v. Mali
 - vi. Mauritania
 - vii. Western Sahara
 - c. Tropic of Capricorn
 - i. Namibia
 - ii. Botswana
 - iii. Zimbabwe
 - iv. Mozambique
 - v. Madagascar

THE 16 POINT COMPASS DIRECTION



SUB – TOPIC: AFRICA’S POSITION AND SIZE ON THE WORLD MAP

A continent is a large mass of land that is surrounded by water on the surface on the earth. There are seven continents in the world namely:

	size
1. Asia	- 43,608,000 sq km
2. Africa	- 30,335,000
3. North America	- 25,349,000
4. South America	- 17,611,000
5. Europe	- 10,498,000
6. Australia	- 07,682,000
7. Antarctica	- 13,340,000

These continents are surrounded by five major oceans. They are

- (i) Pacific ocean
- (ii) Atlantic ocean
- (iii) Indian ocean
- (iv) Arctic ocean
- (v) Antarctic / Southern ocean

There are other water ways that border Africa like the Mediterranean sea, Red sea, and the Suez canal.

Position of Africa

Africa is located between longitudes 17° W 52° E and latitudes 38° N 35° S (latitudes)

Diagram: A map of the world showing all the continents and the oceans.

Number and names of countries found in Northern Africa, Central Africa, Western Africa, Southern Africa Eastern Africa and at the Horn of Africa.

Ways of locating places on a map

1. Using lines of longitudes and latitudes (Grid references method)
 - (a) The major longitude that crosses Africa is the Greenwich Meridian (Prime Meridian) 0°

- (b) The major latitudes that cross Africa are basically three and they are:
- (i) Tropic of Cancer ($23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}\text{N}$)
 - (ii) Equator (0°)
 - (iii) Tropic of Capricorn ($23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}\text{S}$)

Note:

Longitudes are imaginary lines drawn on a map from North to South on the surface of the earth while latitudes are imaginary lines drawn on a map from East to West on the surface of the earth.

- (a) Longitude is the distance east or west of Greenwich meridian.
- (b) Latitude is the distance north or south of the Equator.

Importance of longitudes and latitudes

i) Longitudes:

These are used to determine time e.g. the prime meridian.
The International Date line determines days and dates

ii) Latitudes

Latitudes are used to determine climate e.g. the Equator

Both longitudes and latitudes locate places on a map.

NB:

- i) Other major latitudes outside Africa are
 - a. Arctic circle
 - b. Antarctic circle
- ii) Another major longitude outside Africa is the International Date Line (IDL) marked 180 East.

Other ways of locating places on a map

1. Using compass direction.
Review of the neighbours of Uganda and East Africa using the compass direction.
2. Using landmarks
3. Using neighbours

N.B: The method of locating places using longitudes and latitudes is called the **Grid Reference Method**.

A map of Africa showing the major longitudes and latitudes.

Guided Activity

1. What is a continent?
2. Name the countries in Africa crossed by
 - (i) Greenwich meridian : _____, _____, _____, _____
 - (ii) Equator: _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____
3. Name the major latitudes that cross Africa.
4. Why is the Equator marked 0° ?
5. Using the atlas, list all the islands and the oceans that surround Africa.
6. Name two Island countries of Africa.

TOPIC TWO

LESSON: PHYSICAL FEATURES OF AFRICA AND THEIR FORMATION

Physical features are the natural landforms on the earth's surface.

They can also be called **Relief features**.

Relief means the general appearance of the land.

Examples of physical features include: mountains, lakes and rivers, plain, valleys, plateau, highlands, coral reefs, lagoons, natural harbours.

Review of the examples of landforms in Uganda, East Africa and then Africa.

Physical features of Africa include:

- (i) coastal plain
- (ii) plateaus
- (iii) mountain ranges or highlands
- (iv) rift valleys
- (v) lakes and river oceans, seas (Drainage features)

Formation of physical features

Lakes: A lake is a large mass of water

Types of lakes

(a) Depression lakes (Down warped / Basin lakes)

Formation:

They were formed as a result of down warping. Examples are: Lake Victoria, L. Kyoga, lake Wamala, Lake Chad, Opeta, Bisina, Kwania, Nakuwa

Characteristics:

- (i) They are shallow
- (ii) They usually have fresh water
- (iii) They have irregular shape.

NB:

These lakes have fresh water because they have both inlets and outlets.

(b) Volcanic lakes:

Volcanicity is the process by which molten rocks (magma) is exposed on the earth's surface

These are lakes formed as a result of volcanicity. They are:

- (i) Crater lakes: found dead volcanic mountain e.g L. Katwe, L. Muhavura, Ngorongoro, Nyamunuka.
- (ii) Lava dammed lakes: formed as a result of lava blocking the drainage system e.g L. Bunyonyi, L. Mutanda
- (iii) Caldera lakes – An enlarged and deepened crater lakes

Rift valley lakes:

Formed as a result of faulting.

These include L. Tanganyika, L. Malawi, Lake Turkana, L. Naivasha, L. Natron, L. Eyasi, L. Baringo, L. Bogoria, L. Edward, L. Albert, L. Nakuru, L. Magadi, L. Manyara, L. Rukwa.

Characteristics of Rift valley lakes

- i. Most of them are salty. Why? They don't have outlets/They have salty rocks under them
- ii. Most of them are deep.
- iii. Most of them are long (oblong)
- iv. Most of them are narrow.
- v. They do not have outlets
- vi. They have salty rocks underneath

Oxbow lakes:

Formed as a result of river meandering and deposition.

N. B: A meander is a curved bend of a river,

Diagrams to show the formation of ox-bow lakes. (Refer to sharing our World BK 7 pg 16)

man-made lakes: Examples are: L. Kariba, L. Nasser, L. Volta (largest man made lake in Africa)

Rivers of Africa

Africa has many rivers but there are two major types:

- (i) **Perennial rivers:** These flow throughout the year.
- (ii) **Seasonal rivers:** These flow during the wet season and dry up during the dry season.
- Most of the rivers have their sources in highland areas because these areas receive reliable rainfall.

Stages of A river

- 1- Upper course / Youthful / Torrent
 2. Middle course / mature
 3. Lower course / old / serile
-
1. Water falls and rapids
 - water flows very fast
 - It has a V- shaped valley – Gorge
 2. U shaped valley
 - water flows gently
 - meanders start developing
 3. It forms Ox-bow lakes
 - Well developed meanders
 - Deltas and estuaries
 - River meandering causes flood plains due to deposition at the old stage of a river.

Importance of Upper course

1. Water falls help to generate HEP
Waterfalls and rapids attract tourists
Water sporting games e.g. rafting
2. Middle course
 - It is most suitable for Navigation
 - It is also used for fishing
3. Lower course
 - Agriculture due to deposited silt.

Terms associated with rivers. (Define each of these terms)

- Estuary
- Delta
- River bank
- River mouth
- River source
- A tributary
- Distributary
- Confluence
- Meander

THE MAIN RIVERS OF AFRICA

River	Length	Main tributary (ies)	Source	Nature of mouth
Nile	6500km	Atbara, Blue Nile, R. Bahr-el-Ghazel		Delta
Congo (Zaire)	4800km	Ubangi, Kasai, Lukaga, Lualaba	Southern rift valley and Angola plateau	Estuary
Niger	4000 km	Benue	Futa Djallon	Delta
Zambezi	3000 km	Linyonti, R. Kafue	Angola plateau	Delta
Limpopo	1700 km	Korocodile, Enruvuhu, Magalawena, Suna, Singuendeze	High veld	Estuary

Senegal	1700 km		Fouta Djallon	Estuary
Volta	1100 km	White, black Volta, Oti	Burkina Faso	Estuary
Orange	2100 km	Vaal, Modder, Caledon	Drakensberg Mts.	Estuary

Importance of lakes and rivers

Rivers:

- Some rivers help in the generation of hydro-electricity.
- They are used for water transport.
- They are fishing grounds.
- They provide water for domestic and industrial use.
- They attract tourists who bring foreign exchange
- They help in the formation of rainfall.
- They are used for recreation.
- Employment

Guiding Activity

1. Suggest any four values of lakes
2. What are perennial rivers?
3. Mention any two rivers which end in Estuary.
4. Give a reason why most rivers in Africa originate from Highland areas.

Problems caused by rivers

1. soil erosion
2. Floods
3. water borne diseases and vectors
4. They keep dangerous water animals.
5. They hinder road and railway construction.

Problems facing rivers

1. Dumping of wastes
2. silting
3. prolonged drought
4. bad fishing methods

Multi Purpose River projects in Africa.

These are projects set on rivers to serve many purposes.

Examples of multi purpose river projects in Africa.

River	Project	Country	Use
Nile	- Nalubaale Dam	Uganda	Generation of HEP
	- Kiira dam	Uganda	HEP
	- Aswan High dam	Egypt	HEP
	- El Rossiers	Sudan	HEP
	- Sennar dam	Sudan	HEP
	- Gezira Irrigation Scheme	Sudan	HEP & Irrigation
Congo	- Nziro dam	DRC	HEP
	- Inga dam	DRC	HEP
Niger	- Kainji dam	Nigeria	HEP
Zambezi	- Kariba dam	Zambia	HEP
	- Kafue dam	Zambia	HEP
	- Cabora Bossa	Mozambique	HEP & Irrigation
Volta	- The Volta Scheme	Ghana	HEP & fishing / irrigation & transport
	- Akasombo dam	Ghana	HEP
	- Kpong dam	Ghana	HEP
Tana	- seven folks scheme	Kenya	HEP

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grand falls dam - Kamburu dam - Mutonga dam - masingu dam - Gitaru dam - Kindaruma dam - Kiambere dam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kenya Kenya Kenya Kenya Kenya Kenya Kenya 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irrigation & HEP Irrigation & HEP Irrigation & HEP Irrigation & HEP Irrigation & HEP HEP Irrigation
Orange river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vaal dam - Verwoed dam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S. Africa S. Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HEP HEP
Pangani	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pangani dam 	Tanzania	HEP
Rifigi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mtera dam - Kilombero valley 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tanzania Tanzania 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irrigation Irrigation

Other values of multi purpose River projects

- Multi purpose projects help to control floods.
- Some are sources of water transport e.g. River Volta in Ghana.
- They are a source of employment.
- Some multi purpose projects are fishing grounds.
- They promote industrial growth.

Factors considered when setting up multi purpose river projects

- Constant flow of water.
- Presence of strong rocks
- Presence of reliable market
- Presence of narrow steep sided gorge (deep valley)

Disadvantages of multi purpose river projects

- They may cause people to be displaced and resettled else where.
- A lot of money is spent on constructing the dam and resettling people
- Some lines of communication are blocked when building the dam.
- They occupy big areas which would have been used for other purposes.

MOUNTAINS AND HIGHLANDS

There are three main types of mountains namely:

- Volcanic mountains
- Block mountains
- Fold mountains

Formation of mountains

Volcanic Mountains

- These are formed as a result of volcanic eruption.
- A volcano is a feature through which hot liquid rock, water, steam or ash pass from the inside of earth to the earth's surface.
- Volcanic mountains are formed when molten rock known as magma forces its way to the surface of the earth.

A diagram / formation of a volcano

Types of volcanic mountains

There are three types of volcanic mountains namely:

- Active volcanoes
- Dormant volcanoes (sleeping)

- Extinct volcanoes dead

Active volcano is the one which can erupt anytime.

Dormant volcano is the one that has taken long without erupting but has signs of erupting again.

Extinct volcano is the one which will never erupt at all.

A table showing volcanic mountains

Mountain	Country
Active volcanoes	
- Mt Nyiragongo	DRC
- Mt Nyamulangira	DRC
- Mt Oldonyo Lengai	TZ
- Mt Cameroon	Cameroon
- Mt Mufumbiro	Uganda
Dormant Volcanoes	
- Mt Longonot	Kenya
- Mt Muhavura	Uganda
- Mt Moroto	Uganda
Extinct Volcanoes	
- Mt Elgon	Uganda
- Mt Kenya	Kenya
- Mt Kilimanjaro	Tanzania

Economic activities carried out around volcanic mountains

- Crop farming
- Tourism
- Mining
- Lumbering
- Animal rearing

Block Mountains / HORST

- These are formed as a result of faulting
- Block Mountains can also be called Horst Mountains.

Examples of Block Mountains

- Mt Rwenzori in Uganda and DRC
- Mt Uluguru in TZ
- Mt Usambara in TZ
- Mt Umatengo in TZ
- Mt Ufipa in TZ
- Mt Danakil in Ethiopia
- Mt Pare in TZ
- Mt Great Karas in Namibia

Formation of Block Mountains (Diagrammatic Illustration)

Fold Mountains

- These are formed as a result of earth's rifting / folding

Diagram showing formation of fold Mountains (Comprehensive BK 7 pg 7)

Examples

- Cape ranges
- Atlas mountains in Morocco

Importance of mountains and highlands

- They help in the formation of rainfall
- They act as natural boundaries between countries
- They attract tourists who bring foreign exchange

- They are sources of mineral deposits.
- They have fertile soils for farming.
- Some mountains are sources of rivers.
- They are natural habitats for wild animals.

Disadvantages of mountains

- Mountains make construction of roads and railways difficult.
- When some volcanic mountains erupt, they kill people and destroy crops.
- They harbour dangerous animals.
- They are barriers to rain bearing winds.
- They promote severe soil erosion

Problems facing people who live in mountainous areas

- cold nights
- poor transport and communication
- land slides
- soil erosion

RIFT VALLEY

A rift valley is a long depression on the earth's surface with steep sides called escarpments

- It was formed as a result of faulting

How does faulting occur?

Two theories were put forward to explain how the rift valley was formed.

(i) Tensional force

(ii) Compressional force theory (Diagrams)

- Faulting occurred due to tension, two blocks of land pulled away from each other.
- Parallel faults formed and the land at the centre sank.
- The Great Rift Valley starts from Jordan in the Middle East through the Red sea i.e. Ethiopian Highlands.

In East Africa it divides to form two branches

- There are two major arms of the Great Rift Valley namely:
 - o Eastern Rift Valley and
 - o Western Rift Valley

In Southern Africa, the rift valley ends in Mozambique near Port Beira.

Examples of lakes found in Eastern Rift Valley

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| - L. Turkana | - L. Naivasha |
| - L. Natron | - L. Baringo |
| - L. Manyara | - L. Eyasi |
| - L. Magadi | - L. Nakuru |

Lakes in Western Rift Valley

- L. Albert
- L. Edward
- L. Kivu
- L. Tanganyika
- L. Rukwa

Activities done in the Rift Valley

- Mining
- farming
- Tourism

- Fishing
- Cattle keeping

Disadvantages / problems experienced in Rift Valley:

- High temperatures due to low altitude
- They hinder road and railway construction.
- soil erosion
- Land slides

PLATEAUS

- A plateau is a raised flat topped piece of land

Examples of plateaus in Africa;

- Jos plateau in Nigeria
- Ahagar plateau in Algeria
- Yatta and Nyika Plateau in Kenya
- Tibest plateau in Chad
- Bie plateau in Angola

Activities done on plateaus;

- Lumbering
- Farming
- Mining
- Tourism
- Fishing
- Building / Construction
- Industrialization
- Trade

COASTAL FEATURES

These include the following

- Lagoon lakes
- coastal plain
- Coral reefs
- Harbours
- River deltas and Estuaries

Other features include;

- Gulfs
- Straits

Examples of Gulfs;

- Gulf of Eden
- Gulf of Eden
- Gulf of Guinea
- Gulf of Sirte
- Gulf of Gabes

Define the terms

- Lagoon
- Coral reefs
- Gulf
- strait

Examples of Straits

- o Strait of Gibraltar
- o Strait of Babel Mandeb

- Gulf is a large area of sea that is partly surrounded by land
- Strait is a stream of water separating two big land masses.
- Peninsula – Narrow stretch of land penetrating into a water body.

Guided Activity

1. Why are some Rift Valley lakes salty?
2. What is another name for Block Mountain?
3. Give any two lakes which are found in the Eastern Rift Valley.
4. What are Coral reefs?
5. Suggest any two economic activities carried out on a plateau.
6. Explain the following terms;
 - (a) Active volcanoes
 - (b) Dormant volcanoes
 - (c) Extinct volcanoes
7. Name the only block mountain in Uganda.
8. Of what importance are mountains and highlands to man?
9. Name the longest arm of the Rift Valley.
10. State how mountains influence human activities in an area.

TOPIC THREE **CLIMATE OF AFRICA**

- Climate is the average weather condition of a place recorded for a long period of time.
- Weather is the condition of atmosphere at a given time.

Elements of weather

- Rainfall, Humidity, Temperature, sunshine, wind, Air pressure , cloud cover, fog, mist

Weather instruments and their functions

Conditions of weather

- Rainy
- Sunny
- Cloudy
- Misty
- Humid
- Foggy
- Windy

Terms associated with weather

- Isotherms - Temperature
- Isohytes - Rainfall
- Isonephs - Cloud cover
- Isohels - Sunshine
- Isobars - Atmospheric pressure

N.B Contours are lines drawn on a map joining places with the same altitude.

How is weather forecasting important to:-

- (a) Farmers
- (b) Sailors
- (c) Pilots
- (d) Trader
- (e) School children

How does weather influence:

- (a) People's ways of dressing
- (b) Economic activities

How does climate affect

- (a) People's dressing
- (b) Economic activities

Climatic regions of Africa

- Equatorial climatic region
- Tropical climatic region
- Temperate Climate
- Montane Climate
- Mediterranean
- Semi desert Climate
- Desert Climate

To draw the climatic regions of Africa

Equatorial climatic region 0° to 5

- This region lies within North and South of Equator
- In this region, the sun is always over head as a result the temperatures are usually high.
- Equatorial climate described as hot and wet through out the year.
- The temperatures are usually about 27°C.
- This region receives heavy rainfall; which is mainly convectonal.
- It usually occurs in the afternoons and
- It is usually accompanied by lightning and thunderstorms.
- Rainfall got is over 1500mm annually.

Countries which experience Equatorial climate

- DRC
- Congo – (Brazzaville)
- Gabon
- Equatorial Guinea
- Sierra Leone
- Central African Republic
- Areas around L. Victoria basin of E. Africa

Economic activities in the Equatorial regions

- Crop farming
- fishing
- tourism
- mining
- hunting
- lumbering

Teachers to draw a graph and table of Equatorial climate

Tropical climate region

Tropical climate is described as hot and wet.

- This region lies in areas between 5° – 15°N and 5° – 15° South of the Equator
- It mainly receives convectonal rainfall but some mountainous areas receive relief rainfall
- The region has two dry and two wet seasons.
- The amount rainfall decreases with the distance from the Equator.
- Heavy rain is received when the sun passes overhead the Equator.
- The period of the year when the sun overhead the Equator is called Equinox
- Around 21st March and 23rd September

Countries which experience tropical climate

- | | | |
|------------|------------|--------------------|
| - Uganda | - Zimbabwe | - Southern Nigeria |
| - Kenya | - Ghana | - South Mali |
| - Tanzania | - Gambia | - Chad |
| - Malawi | - Sudan | - |

Economic activities carried out in Tropical region

- crop farming

- Tourism
- Lumbering
- fishing
- mining
- hunting
- trade
- industrialization

Table and graph to show tropical climate

Semi Desert

- It has high temperatures 20°C – 32°C
- The dry season is longer than 4 months.
- The average annual rainfall is lower between 375 – 620mm

Areas which experience Semi climate

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| - N.E Uganda | - Central Tanzania |
| - N.W Kenya | - Northern Nigeria |
| - Mali | - Botswana |
| - Niger | |

Economic activities in Semi desert areas

- Animals rearing
- Tourism
- mining
- Trade

Teacher to draw the graph showing the climate of semi desert (Kano)

The Desert climatic zone

Desert climate is described as hot and dry throughout the year.

- Climate in this zone is very hot and dry.
- The summers have very hot temperatures and they are dry.
- Deserts lack rainfall because winds which blow from the dry land cannot pick up moisture.
- The cool winds which blow from the sea cannot also pick up moisture.
- It is very hot during the day and very cold at night.

NB: Days are very hot due to absence of cloud cover.

Hot Desert in Africa

- o Sahara Desert
- o Kalahari desert
- o Namibia desert

- The people who live in hot desert wear light and white clothes; in order to reflect heat.
- They build flat topped houses.
- They wear turbans to prevent heat from the sun.
- They get water from oases.

N.B Agriculture is very difficult, in this climatic region except by irrigation.

Economic activities in desert areas

- Tourism
- Mining
- Industrialization
- Farming
- By irrigation e.g. Egypt along R. Nile.

- This climatic region receives moderate rainfall. The temperatures decrease with altitude.

Economic activities carried out in temperate zone

- Farming (crop farming and animal rearing)
- Mining
- Tourism
- Lumbering

MOUNTAIN / MONTANE CLIMATIC ZONE

- This climatic zone is experienced in high altitude areas. The temperature here reduces with altitudinal increase making the higher slopes experience cool temperature throughout the year.

Factors affecting African climate

- Altitude
- latitude
- drainage (Distance from water bodies)
- Ocean currents
- Human activities
- relief
- prevailing winds
- vegetation

Influence of climate on Human activities

- In areas with plenty of rainfall, crops are grown and in those with little rainfall, pastoralism is practiced.
- Different crops do well in different climatic zones.
- Climate determines the way of dressing of people.
- Climate determines the types of houses built in different areas.
- It also determines the settlement patterns in different areas.

Influence of Human Activities on Climate

- Deforestation: It leads to drought
- Afforestation: Leads to increased rainfall received
- Industrialization: This leads to the destruction of the ozone layer hence global warming.
- Swamp drainage: It leads to scarcity of rainfall (drought)

Topical questions

1. How does climate influence people's ways of dressing?
2. How does altitude influence climate?
3. Mention any two activities carried out in the temperate climate.
4. Why are desert areas hot during day and very cold during night?
5. When does the sun overhead the tropic of Capricorn?

TOPIC FOUR

VEGETATION OF AFRICA

- Vegetation is the plant cover of an area.
- There are mainly two types of vegetation namely;
 - (i) Natural and
 - (ii) Planted vegetation

Differences between Natural and Planted vegetation.

Natural vegetation

- Trees have hard wood
- They have broad leaves and mixed up.
- They take long to (trees) mature
- The forests are thick
- They grow tall with large trunks e.g.s of trees.

Planted vegetation

- The trees have soft wood
- They are planted in rows
- They have one tree specie
- They take relatively short time to mature

Examples of tree species

- Eucalyptus, pine /cypress
 - Cedar – conifers
 - Fir
 - Musizi
-
- Natural vegetation is the plant cover of an area that grows on its own
 - Planted vegetation is the plant cover of an area planted by man.

VEGETATION ZONES IN AFRICA

- Equatorial / Tropical rain forests vegetation
- Savanna vegetation
- Mediterranean vegetation
- Semi desert vegetation
- Montane vegetation
- Desert vegetation
- Mangrove vegetation
- Temperate vegetation

A map showing the vegetation zones of Africa.

EQUATORIAL VEGETATION

- This type of vegetation grows in areas that experience high rainfall through out the year.
- Equatorial rainforests are found along the coast of West Africa in Nigeria, Gabon, Ghana, Democratic Republic of Congo and around the shores of L. Victoria in Uganda.

Examples of trees in Equatorial rain forests

- Mahogany
- Ebony
- Mvule
- Green Heart
- Rose wood
- Sepele

Characteristics of Equatorial rain forests

- The trees have hard wood
- The trees have broad leaves
- The trees have buttress roots, standing above the ground.
- The trees are very tall
- The forests form a canopy.

