

9.2 IS AFRICA A PRISONER OF ITS GEOGRAPHY?



INTENT– In this unit you will build on your understanding of differing levels of development by focusing on Africa and one of its regions. You will look at how the physical geography of the Sahel has hindered its development and how climate change will continue to make this a challenging place to live. You will also look at how human activity has contributed to these challenges. You will evaluate what the future holds for this region.

Builds on – Y7 – quality of life variations, tropical rainforests, climate of the UK. Y8 – water insecurity, food insecurity

Feedforward – GCSE – Development Dynamics, People and the Biosphere



KEY LOCATIONS



Continental Scale – Africa as a continent.



Regional Scale – The Sahel



Local Scale – Local projects can support development

KEY KNOWLEDGE

- Africa is a continent made up of 54 countries.
- Africa is made of different climatic regions which have led to the distribution of different biomes across the continent.
- The Sahel region lies below the Sahara Desert and is made up of many different countries.
- The dominant biome in the Sahel region is tropical grasslands.
- Tropical grasslands have a seasonal climate which has led to adaptations for the plants and animals that live there.
- Desertification is the main challenge to tropical grasslands and is caused by physical and human processes.
- Climate change will continue to put this region under pressure causing problems for people and the environment.
- There are different projects which aim to make this biome for sustainable in the future.

Key Concepts:



Place



Space



Environment

Catholic Social Teaching

KEY TERMINOLOGY

CAREERS



Working for an NGO— You could work for an NGO, many of which are charity organisations like CAFOD. There are opportunities to work raising awareness in the UK or supporting projects on the ground in different countries.

Curriculum Links

Arid	Dry regions- that receive less than 250mm precipitation per year.
Biome	A large scale ecosystem. A large area characterised by specific vegetation, soil, climate and wildlife.
Bottom-up development	A project that is controlled and led by local people and communities, sometimes with help from outside organisations.
Climate	The weather and conditions typical for an area over a long period of time (usually 30years or more).
Climate Change	Changes in the climate of places around the world. These can be natural but the term is now usually used in relation to changes caused by human activity.
Climate graph	A graph showing the average monthly temperature and rainfall for a place over a year.
Continent	A continuous expanse of land; there are considered to be seven in total globally.
Deforestation	Taking away the trees from a forested area by cutting them down or burning them.
Depopulation	A decline in the population of an area.
Desert	A dry area that receives less than 250mm precipitation per year.
Drought	A lack of precipitation over a long period of time that can cause a water shortage.
Ecosystem	A natural environment in which biotic (plants and animals) interact with abiotic components.
Exploit/exploitation	The unfair extraction or use of natural resources or people.
Famine	Extreme and widespread scarcity of food.
Desertification	The process by which land turns into desert.
Irrigation	Brining water from a source to use on land or crops.
Soil erosion	When the topsoil is washed away by water or blown away by the wind.
Primary consumer	In a food chain, an animal that feeds on primary producers (herbivore)
Primary producer	Organisms at the start of the food chain that make their own food using photosynthesis
Secondary consumer	In a food chain, an animal that feeds on primary consumers (carnivore)