

Name _____

The Country of Namibia



Namibia is a country in the southern part of the continent of Africa. The Atlantic Ocean is to the west of Africa while the Indian Ocean is on the east. The southern tip of Africa is occupied by the country called South Africa. Namibia is located just north of South Africa on the Atlantic Coast of Africa. Parts of Namibia once were colonial territories claimed by Portugal, Germany and South Africa but in 1990 Namibia finally became an independent nation.

A little over 2 million people live in Namibia. About 38% of the population or three quarters of a million people live in urban areas and the rest live in the countryside or small towns. About 20,000 people in Namibia are of German descent. German is one of the eleven national languages in Namibia. Beginning in the 1860s some parts of Namibia inland from the Atlantic Coast were once a German colony. As a result many buildings in Namibia are in the same style as German buildings. After being controlled by Germany and Portugal, Namibia was controlled by South Africa from 1915 until 1990.

A unique part of Namibia's geography is the largest sand dunes in the world. The huge sand dunes stretch all along the Atlantic Coast of Namibia and are called the Namib Desert. Geologists tell us that the Namib Desert is the oldest desert in



Name _____

the world. This desert is part of Africa's largest game preserve, Namib-Naukluft National Park. The desert and its dunes are not just tan or grey in color like ordinary sand. The sand has pretty colors that include shades of pink and orange.

The Namib Desert has the same types of creatures that live in deserts around the world. These include lizards, snakes and a few small animals like meerkats. This desert also contains large creatures including ostriches, Oryx gazelles, and a species of elephant that has adapted to living in the desert.

The famous Kalahari Desert is found in eastern Namibia. The Kalahari Desert stretches into the countries of Botswana and South Africa. The Kalahari isn't as dry as other deserts. After the rainy season in the Kalahari, there is enough grass for grazing animals and their predators. Some common African animals that live in the wetter parts of the Kalahari include lions, jackals, giraffes and antelope.



Name _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. What continent is the country of Namibia on?
 - a. Asia
 - b. North America
 - c. South America
 - d. None of the above

2. Namibia borders on the
 - a. Atlantic Ocean
 - b. Pacific Ocean
 - c. Indian Ocean
 - d. Southern Ocean

3. How many official languages does Namibia have?
 - a. One
 - b. Two
 - c. Three
 - d. More than three

4. How could you describe the Namib Desert compared to other deserts?
 - a. Hottest
 - b. Driest
 - c. Oldest
 - d. All of the above

5. What unexpected animal lives in the Namib Desert?
 - a. Snake
 - b. Meerkat
 - c. Lizard
 - d. Elephant

6. What other desert is in Namibia besides the Namib Desert?
 - a. Sahara
 - b. Kalahari
 - c. Mojave
 - d. Sonoran



Name _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Short Answer Questions

1. Locate Namibia, South Africa and Botswana on a map of Africa.
2. Using the information in the reading, calculate what percent of the population of Namibia is of German descent.
3. With a team of your classmates, create a PowerPoint presentation or notebook on the Namib Desert. Be sure to include pictures of different colors of sand dunes and information on the desert elephants.
4. Do some research and write a short report about the Cape Cross Seal Reserve in Namibia.
5. Oryx are one species of African gazelle. Name other types of African gazelles and locate a picture of each one.
6. Find a picture of some part of the Namib Desert that you like well. Write a descriptive essay that describes the picture.
7. Do some research on the Internet and listen to modern music from Namibia. Compare this music to modern American music.



Name _____

Answer Key

Multiple Choice

1. d.
2. a.
3. d.
4. c.
5. d.
6. b.

Short Answer

1. Individual response
2. $20,000 \text{ German descent} / 2 \text{ million population} = 0.01 * 100 = 1\%$
3. Individual response
4. Individual response
5. Individual response
6. Individual response
7. Individual response

