

AFRICA

MOST of the countries of Africa have quite small populations – except for Nigeria and Egypt. But everywhere the population is growing fast. It is difficult to provide enough schools and clinics for all the children and there are not enough good jobs.

Imagine travelling southwards across Africa, along the 20°E line of longitude. You start in Libya. Your first 1000 kilometres will be across the great Sahara Desert (where you must travel in winter) – sand, rock and the high rugged Tibesti Mountains. Then you reach thorn bushes, in the semi-desert Sahel area of Chad.

By 15°N you are into savanna – very long grass and scattered trees. You cross the country known as CAR for short. The land becomes greener and at about 5°N you reach the

equatorial rainforest ... a real jungle! You are now in Congo.

Then the same story happens in reverse – savanna in Angola; then semi-desert (the Kalahari and the Karoo). Now you come down to green fields, fruit trees and vines that are grown in the far south. Finally, you reach the coast at the Cape of Good Hope – a journey of nearly 8000 kilometres.



▲ Railways are vital for exports from Africa – especially for the 'landlocked' countries.

WHERE DO NAMES C

CHAD Named from Lake Chad
GAMBIA, NIGER, NIGERIA From
GHANA, BENIN, MALI Named from
 empires in West Africa a
IVORY COAST Ivory, from
 elephants, was traded al
NAMIBIA From the Namib
SIERRA LEONE 'Lion Mountair
TANZANIA From Tanganyil
 mainland) and the island



▲ Children in Ghana. Everywhere in Africa, there are lots of children. The fathers of these children are fishermen: in the background you can see nets drying and big dug-out canoes. The canoes are made from the huge trees of the rainforest, and can cope with big waves in the Gulf of Guinea.

