

Chapter 10

Republic of Kenya

Chapter Preview

People

Wangari Maathai, Jomo Kenyatta

Places

Lake Victoria, Great Rift Valley, Nile River, Mount Kenya, Serengeti Plain, Nairobi, Mombasa

Terms

tectonic plate, savanna, poaching, desertification, urbanization, Berlin Conference, nationalism, Mau Mau movement, Pan-African movement, presidential democracy, Parliament of Kenya, Supreme Court, shilling, East African Community (EAC), African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)

Top: Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, is home to more than three million people. **Background:** Giraffes graze on Kenya's savanna with Mount Kilimanjaro's snowcapped peak across the border in Tanzania.

The country of Kenya is located on the eastern coast of Africa. If you have ever watched the Summer Olympics, you have probably heard of Kenya. It is famous for its marathon and long-distance runners. Kenya is also known for its wildlife. Many of the animals associated with Africa live in Kenya. These include elephants, cheetahs, leopards, lions, rhinoceroses, giraffes, hyenas, baboons, monkeys, zebras, and hippopotamuses.

Like Australia, Canada, the United States and many other countries, Kenya was once a colony of the British Empire. It gained its independence in 1963 but is still a part of the British Commonwealth of Nations. In fact, one reminder of British rule is that people drive their automobiles on the left side of the road like drivers in the United Kingdom. Also, one of the two official languages of Kenya is English. Another reminder of British rule is the name Kenya. The indigenous people of Kenya, the Kikuyu, called the area Kirinyaga, which means “mountain of whiteness.” This refers to Mount Kirinyaga (now Mount Kenya), which always has a snowcapped peak. When the British claimed the land, it became known as Kenya because the British found it difficult to pronounce Kirinyaga correctly.

Today, Kenya is one of the top tourist destinations in Africa because of its famous wildlife and scenic beauty. Kenya has several national parks that were created to protect the wildlife and their habitats. The people have worked together to build up the economy and quality of life for Kenyans. In fact, Kenya’s national slogan is “Harambee,” a Swahili word meaning “all pull together,” which reminds the people of the need to work together to build a better country.

“

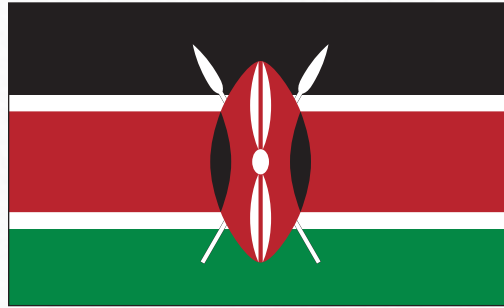
In Kenya women are the first victims of environmental degradation, because they are the ones who walk for hours looking for water, who fetch firewood, who provide food for their families.

- Wangari Maathai
Nigerian Poet
and Nobel Peace
Prize Winner

Right: Nomadic Maasai tribesmen make their home in Kenya’s Maasai Mara National Reserve.



PASSPORT



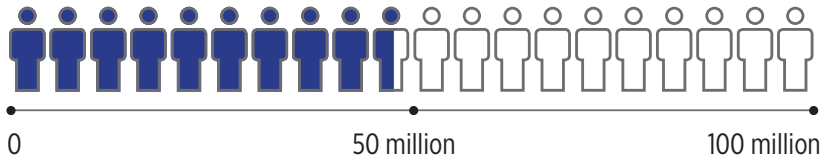
Official Name: Republic of Kenya (Jamhuri ya Kenya)
Capital: Nairobi
Form of Government: presidential republic
Head of Government: President
Head of State: President
Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal
Currency: Kenyan shilling (KES)



Top Left: Flag of Kenya. **Top Right:** Uhuru Kenyatta became president in 2013.
Middle: The Parliament of Kenya meets in this building in Nairobi.
Right: Kenyan banknotes.

CULTURE CONNECTION

POPULATION



Kenya
46,790,758 (est. July 2016)
Population Rank 31

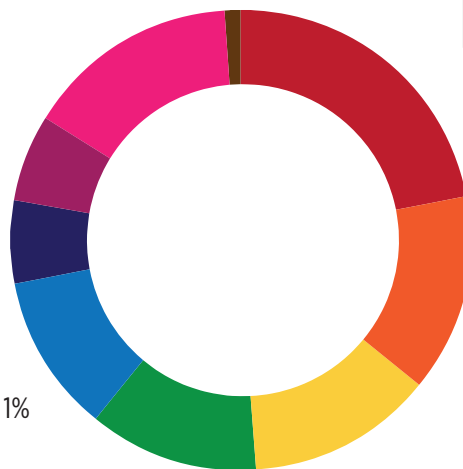
United States
324,386,000 (est. 2017)
Population Rank 3

FUN FACTS

Kenya's biggest export is coffee, though the people do not typically drink it themselves.

ETHNIC GROUPS

- Kikuyu 22%
- Luhya 14%
- Luo 13%
- Kalenjin 12%
- Kamba 11%
- Kisii 6%
- Meru 6%
- other African 15%
- non-African (Asian, European, and Arab) 1%



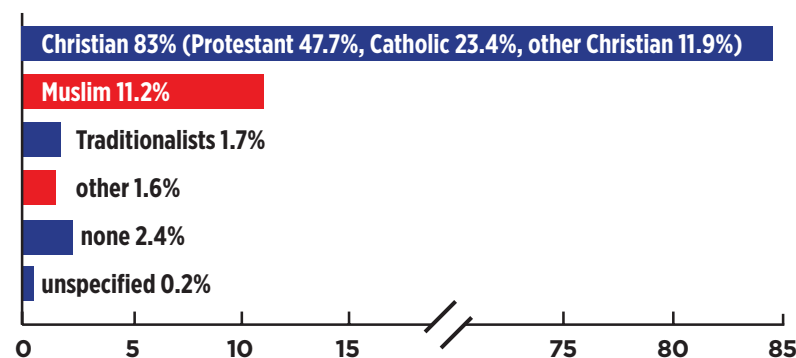
Official Languages:

English
Kiswahili (Swahili)

Phrases in Swahili

- Hello** - Habari
- Goodbye** - Kwaheri
- Good morning** - Habari za asubuhi
- Good afternoon** - Good mchana
- Thank You** - Asante
- You're welcome** - Karibu
- Yes** - Ndiyo
- No** - Hapana

RELIGION (2009 est.)



LIFE EXPECTANCY (2016 est.)

Average 64 years
Male 62.6 years
Female 65.5 years



EDUCATION (2012 est.)

Literacy total population 78%;
male 81.1% / female 74.9%

Below: European leaders met in Berlin, Germany, in 1884-1885 to divide control of Africa among themselves.

Middle: Wangari Maathai of Kenya won the Nobel Peace Prize for work in human and women's rights. **Bottom:** US President Barack Obama visited schoolchildren at the US Embassy in Nairobi in 2015. **Bottom Right:** Jomo Kenyatta fought for an independent Kenya and served as the country's first prime minister (1963) and as president (1964-1978). **Background:** Ruins of ancient Gedi (Gede), a Swahili town in Kenya near Malindi.

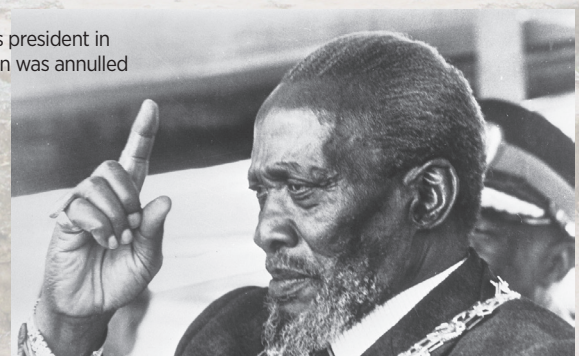


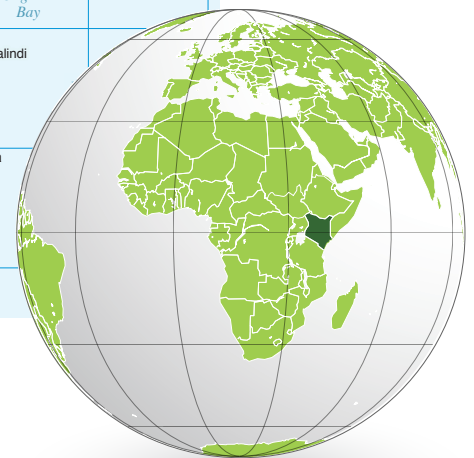
TIMELINE OF KENYA HISTORY



Figure 10.1

- 1800**
- 1885** Berlin Conference divided Africa among European countries
- 1895** Kenya became official British colony
- 1900**
- 1942** Mau Mau movement began
- 1952** British put Kenya under a state of emergency
- 1954** Africans and Asians allowed to take part in government
- 1959** State of emergency lifted
- 1963** Kenya gained independence
- 1976** Wangari Maathai created Green Belt Movement
- 1982** Constitution amended to designate Kenya a one-party country
- 1998** Al-Qaeda attack on US Embassy in Kenya killed over 200 people
- 2000**
- 2000** United States enacted African Growth and Opportunity Act
- 2001** Maasai gave United States gift of cows
- 2002** Wangari Maathai elected to parliament
- NARC candidate won presidency
- 2004** Wangari Maathai won Nobel Peace Prize
- 2009** Severe drought hit Kenya
- 2013** Office of prime minister abolished
- Terror attack at Nairobi's Westgate Mall
- 2015** Terror attack at Garissa University College
- US President Barack Obama visited Kenya
- 2016** Government began reforestation project
- 2017** Uhuru Kenyatta reelected as president in 2nd election after 1st election was annulled





Area: 224,080.95 square miles

Rank: 49

Natural Resources:

limestone, soda ash, salt, gemstones, fluorspar, zinc, diatomite, gypsum, wildlife, hydropower

Environmental Issues:

water pollution from urban and industrial wastes; degradation of water quality from increased use of pesticides and fertilizers; water hyacinth infestation in Lake Victoria; deforestation; soil erosion; desertification; poaching

Map 10.1

Kenya

Map Skill: What do the green areas on the map indicate?

Section 1

The Geography of Kenya

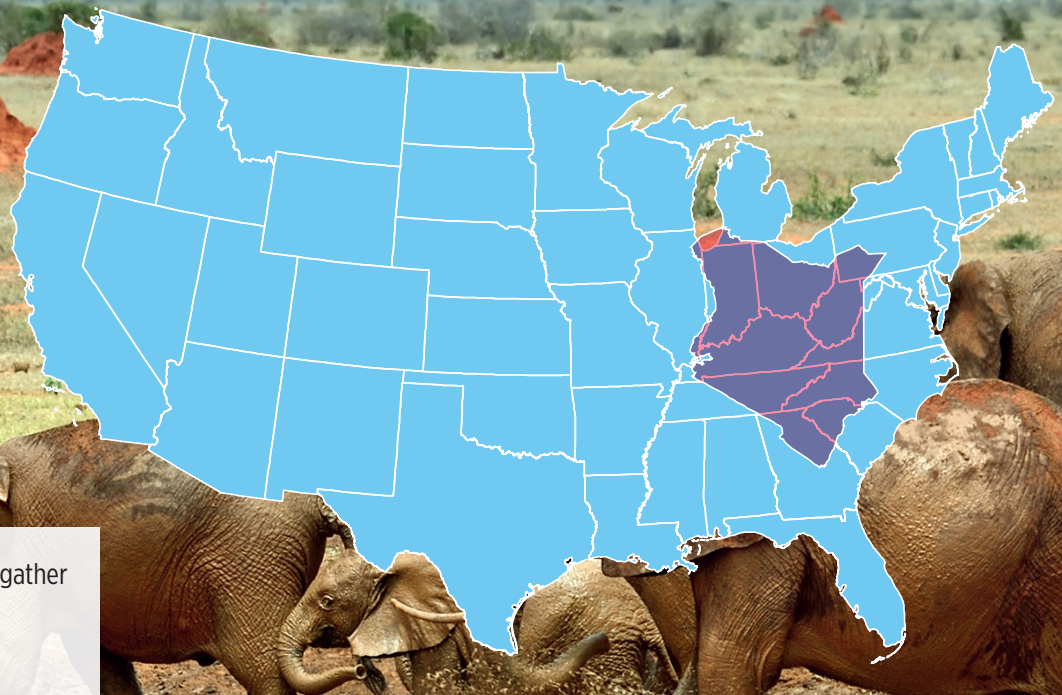

 Setting a Purpose

As you read, look for

- ▶ how Kenya's geographic location impacts trade;
- ▶ population density along the shore of Lake Victoria;
- ▶ the region of Kenya most suitable for agriculture;
- ▶ the origin of the Great Rift Valley;
- ▶ Kenya's most valuable natural resource;
- ▶ causes and effects of water pollution in Kenya;
- ▶ terms: **tectonic plate, savanna, poaching, desertification, urbanization.**

Location and Size of Kenya

Located on the east coast of Africa, Kenya is the 23rd-largest country in Africa, covering about 225,000 square miles. To put that into perspective, Kenya's land area is about four times the size of the state of Georgia. Kenya is bordered by five countries and the Indian Ocean. To the west of Kenya are South Sudan, Uganda, and the shores of Lake Victoria. To the south is Tanzania. To the north is Ethiopia. To the east are Somalia and the Indian Ocean. Kenya is crossed by the Equator.



Background: African elephants gather at a watering hole in Tsavo East National Park.

Physical Features of Kenya

The terrain in Kenya ranges from mountains to desert to fertile farmland to sandy beaches. Look at the map of Kenya at the beginning of this chapter and locate the areas described in this section. In the northwestern part of Kenya are dry and barren lands. Deserts make up 20 percent of Kenya's total land area, and most of the deserts can be found in this northwestern region. Moving south from the desert region are the Great Rift Valley and the highlands. The land in the highlands is excellent for farming because of good-quality soil and adequate rainfall. Continuing to the coast are semiarid lands reaching toward the Indian Ocean. This region has insufficient rainfall for crops but can support livestock. A narrow band of the region along the coast is good for farming because of coastal rains. A surprising part of the terrain is an isolated tropical rain forest (a woodland area with high annual rainfall and very tall evergreen trees) located on the western border of Kenya. This rain forest was once a part of the Congo Rain Forest.

Kenya shares access to Lake Victoria with Uganda and Tanzania. It is the largest lake in Africa and provides the source for the Nile River. Lake Victoria is the second-largest freshwater lake by surface area in the world behind Lake Superior in North America. The lake was named for Britain's Queen Victoria during the colonial era. Because it is a major source of fresh water for the people of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, the areas around the lake are densely populated. As a result of this high population density, the lake has struggled with pollution as well as overfishing.

Coral reefs are another feature of Kenya. These reefs are so impressive that they are the third most popular coral reefs in the world for tourists after the Great Barrier Reef in Australia and the reefs in the Red Sea. Kenya's coastline stretches for nearly 300 miles along the Indian Ocean. The climate of this area is hot and humid because of the ocean currents and location near the Equator.



DID YOU KNOW ?

Kenya only has two wet seasons and two dry seasons. The average high temperatures remain relatively constant all year.



Top: Kenyan farms use draft animals for plowing because tractors are too expensive.



DID YOU KNOW?

Africa is slowly splitting along the Great Rift. The two plates that contain Africa are moving away from each other.

Kenya is named after Mount Kenya, the second-tallest mountain in Africa. Its altitude is 17,058 feet above sea level. Mount Kenya is so tall that, even though it is located on the Equator, its peak is always capped with snow. Surrounding Mount Kenya are highlands that rise 4,500 feet above the low coastal plain along the Indian Ocean. The highlands' arable land, favorable climate, and plentiful rainfall are good for agriculture. In fact, this area is one of the most successful agricultural regions in all of Africa. About 75 percent of all Kenyans work in agriculture, and most of the country's exports are based on agriculture—like herbs, flowers, and tea.

One of the most important physical features in Kenya is the Great Rift Valley, which runs 3,728 miles from Mozambique all the way to Jordan in Southwest Asia. The rift valley formed when two of Earth's **tectonic plates** (separate areas of Earth's crust) moved away from each other, which created the low-lying valley about 20 million years ago. In Kenya, the Great Rift Valley divides the country almost in half. Within the Great Rift Valley in Kenya are seven lakes as well as volcanoes, some of which are active. Archaeologists have discovered some of the oldest evidence of early humans there.

Kenya is famous for its wild animals. Lions, buffaloes, leopards, elephants, and rhinoceroses are just some of the wildlife that can be found there. In the southern part of Kenya are **savannas** (grassy plains that have few trees). The most famous of Kenya's savannas is the Serengeti Plain. Today, Kenya has sixteen national parks, national reserves, and game reserves. One of the national parks, Tsavo, encompasses nearly 8,500 square miles, which is slightly larger than the size of metropolitan Atlanta. The Maasai Mara Game Reserve is one example of a place that is perfect for viewing Kenya's wildlife. It includes part of the Serengeti Plain, where visitors can see millions of wildebeest migrate from the south to Kenya.

Top: Mount Kenya is Africa's second-highest peak at about 17,000 feet.

Background: The Great Rift Valley from the Kamandura-Mai Mahiu-Narok Road.

Climate of Kenya

A traveler moving across Kenya from west to east would notice different climates. In the northwestern part of Kenya, the climate is very dry and hot. Moving further east, there is a temperate area in the highlands that is good for growing crops. Along the coast is a tropical climate that is influenced by the currents of the Indian Ocean.

Dry weather conditions are normal from December to March. From March to May is Kenya’s rainy season. The amount of rainfall varies by location with the region around Lake Victoria averaging around forty inches of rain, which is good for agriculture. From June to September, the weather becomes drier with another period of rain from September to December.

Natural Resources of Kenya

Kenya’s most valuable natural resource is fertile farmland, located in the highlands. Unlike the nearby countries of Nigeria and South Africa that rely on petroleum and diamonds, Kenya’s economy relies on agriculture. In fact, Kenya’s main exports are agricultural products like tea, coffee, and cut flowers. Another important natural resource in Kenya is water used for hydroelectricity, which decreases Kenya’s need for oil and gas. Some of Kenya’s other natural resources include limestone, soda ash, salt, gemstones, zinc, and gypsum.

Natural Resource	Some Uses
limestone	building material, glass production, cement, iron manufacturing, agriculture, litter boxes
soda ash	glass production, detergent, dyeing cloth, paper products
salt	table salt
gemstones	industrial uses, apparel
zinc	brass production, medicines, metals production to reduce corrosion, electrical components, household fixtures
gypsum	wallboard, cement, plaster of Paris, toothpaste, food additive, soil additive



Figure 10.2
Natural Resources of Kenya



Top: A rural homestead with stick-and-mud structures on a hot day during the dry season. **Middle:** A farm landscape with banana trees and acreage in the highland valleys of Kiambu County, north of Nairobi. **Above:** Turtle Beach, Watamu. **Left:** Workers picking tea on a plantation.

Environmental Issues of Kenya

Kenya, like other countries in the world, faces several environmental problems. One of the most important of these problems is water pollution. The main causes of water pollution are urban and industrial waste, along with pesticides and fertilizers used in farming. Droughts also threaten the people of Kenya. Even though Kenyans have worked to protect wildlife by creating national parks and game reserves, **poaching** (taking wildlife by illegal methods) is still a problem. Finally, Kenya faces some of the common environmental problems shared by many African countries—deforestation. This encourages soil erosion and can lead to **desertification** (the expanding of deserts, often from land mismanagement or climate change).

Deforestation was the result of a demand for more agricultural space but also due to timber and charcoal production. Kenya's forests were reduced from 10 percent of the country's land to less than 2 percent in the late 20th century. In the early 2000s, an area of forest double the size of Georgia's Okefenokee Swamp was cleared. In 2016, Kenya's government began a reforestation project aiming to plant more than 20 million trees to replace some of those cut during the previous fifty years.

Distribution of People in Kenya

Most Kenyans live scattered across the country in rural areas. In these areas, people tend to make choices about where they live based on climate and soil conditions because their work is based on agriculture. In the last fifty years, the number of people moving to urban areas has increased. This process of **urbanization** has occurred mainly because people believe there are higher wages and greater opportunities for jobs in cities. Still, only about one-fourth of Kenya's population lives in urban areas, but that number is growing by about 4 percent each year.

The areas with the highest population densities in Kenya are around Lake Victoria, the capital of Nairobi, and the port city of Mombasa on the Indian Ocean. Lake Victoria provides a source of drinking water as well as fishing and the opportunity to use the lake for trade. Opportunities for good schools and hospital care are greater in the urban areas of the country. Desert areas in the north have the least dense population.



Top: The illegal sale of elephant ivory continues in Kenya. In 2012-2013, the government seized and destroyed 100 tons of illegal ivory. **Above:** Killing an elephant for its ivory tusks carries a life prison sentence in Kenya. **Right:** About 10 percent of Kenya's black rhinos live in the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, which covers 62,000 acres.



special Feature

Professor Wangari Maathai

Wangari Maathai is one of the most famous Kenyans in history. Maathai devoted her life to working for democracy, human rights, and wildlife in Kenya. Born in 1940, Maathai became the first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a doctorate degree. She was a member of many organizations, including the influential National Council of Women in Kenya.

In 1976, Maathai introduced to the National Council the idea of planting trees, and the Green Belt Movement was created. The Green Belt Movement has assisted women in planting over 20 million trees on farms, school property, and church compounds. The movement focuses on conserving the environment and improving women's lives by reducing poverty. By 1986, the Green Belt Movement had gained recognition in other parts of Africa, and the Pan-African Green Belt Network was created. People from countries like Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Lesotho, Ethiopia, and Zimbabwe have learned about the purpose of the Green Belt Movement and put it into effect in their countries.

In 2004, Wangari Maathai was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her work in environmental conservation. Additionally, Maathai has won many other awards and honors. In 2002, she was elected to the Parliament of Kenya with a vote of 98 percent. In parliament, she was nominated to be the assistant minister for Environment, Natural Resources, and Wildlife in Kenya. She served in parliament until 2007. Maathai also spoke several times at the United Nations General Assembly, and in 2009 was named a United Nations Messenger of Peace. After a battle with cancer, Maathai died in 2011. What do you think was Maathai's biggest accomplishment?



Top: Wangari Maathai won the Nobel Peace Prize for her work on human and women's rights and on conservation in Africa. **Background:** Wangari Maathai worked to reforest her country and help women at the same time with her project to plant 20 million trees.



People of Kenya

Kenya's population is over 46 million people. The culture of Kenya today shows a blending of traditions from the different ethnic groups that are native to Kenya as well as the lingering influence of the British from their colonial era. The largest ethnic groups in Kenya are the Kikuyu, Luhya, Luo, Kalenjin, Kamba, Kisii, and Meru. There are two official languages, English and Kiswahili (also known as Swahili), as well as many other indigenous languages. Over 80 percent of Kenyans practice Christianity, with the remaining part of the population practicing Islam and traditional religions.

Today in Kenya it is possible to spend time in both modern cities and traditional villages. Nairobi is a thriving urban center and the center of business in Kenya. Just a few hours away, however, one may find a traditional village with people herding animals in the same way as their ancestors.

Reviewing the Section

1. How does Kenya's location affect trade?
2. Why are the shores of Lake Victoria densely populated?
3. Which region of Kenya is the most suitable for agriculture? Why?
4. What is the Great Rift Valley? How did it form?
5. What is Kenya's most valuable natural resource?
6. What are the causes and effects of water pollution in Kenya?
7. Deeper Thinking: How does geography affect the people of Kenya? Where do most people live? Why? Which region is less populated? Why?

Top: Kenya's population has become more urban as people look for better education and jobs in cities such as Nairobi. **Background:** Kenya's capital and largest city, Nairobi, has a thriving business district.



special Feature

Maasai People

One of the best-known ethnic groups in Kenya and Tanzania is the Maasai. The Maasai are seminomadic people who live along the Great Rift Valley in Kenya and Tanzania. They mainly herd cattle, goats, and sheep. There are about half a million Maasai in Kenya and Tanzania, and they are divided into sixteen different groups. The Maasai traditionally live in a kraal, which is a housing compound that is circled by a thornbush fence to keep the lions out. Inside the fence are houses made out of mud and cattle dung that hold four to eight families. The herd also lives inside the fence.

The Maasai perform different jobs based on their gender. Young boys help herd the cattle. Between the ages of fourteen and thirty, men live in isolation to learn tribal customs and develop the skills of a Maasai warrior: strength, courage, and endurance. Warriors are responsible for the safety of the herd and people, and they help herd the animals during a drought. Women are responsible for building the homes, as well as collecting firewood, supplying water, milking cattle, and cooking for the family. The Maasai way of life is threatened by the governments of Kenya and Tanzania, who want to stop their nomadic life.

The Maasai people gained worldwide attention after the terror attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. The Maasai gave the United States fourteen cows, an animal that is considered sacred. The US Embassy deputy head, William Brancick, said, "I know that for the Maasai people the cow is valued above all possessions and that the gift of a cow is the highest expression of regard and sympathy." The United States accepted the gift, but was unsure what to do with the cattle. Cows that are given in sympathy are considered sacred by the Maasai and cannot be slaughtered. In the end, the Maasai people kept the "American cows," as they are known now, and take care of them. In return, the United States has funded projects to help the Maasai people, as well as created fourteen scholarships for Maasai students.



Top: The jumping dance is part of a ceremony in which Maasai junior warriors graduate to the ranks of manhood. **Background:** Maasai men in traditional clothing rest under a tree in Maasai Mara National Reserve.



Section 2

A Brief History of Kenya

Setting a purpose

As you read, look for

- ▶ why Europeans were first interested in Kenya;
- ▶ the purpose of the Berlin Conference;
- ▶ the goal of the Mau Mau movement;
- ▶ the importance of Jomo Kenyatta to Kenyan history;
- ▶ the significance of the Pan-African movement;
- ▶ terms: **Berlin Conference, nationalism, Mau Mau movement, Pan-African movement.**

Kenya in Ancient Times

It is known that villages and towns existed in the area now known as Kenya for at least 4,000 years. These settlements were along the coast of Africa and grew because of trade on the Indian Ocean with traders from the Arabian Peninsula. The Bantu also arrived in Kenya around the same time. The Swahili language eventually developed as a result of the mixing of Bantu and Arabic. For the purposes of this book, the focus of Kenya's history will be on more recent times.

Colonial History of Kenya

Europeans were first interested in Kenya as a place to resupply trading ships on their way from Europe, around the southern tip of Africa, and on to India in the late 15th century. The Portuguese came to Kenya in 1498 and established the port of Mombasa as their resupply stop. Eventually, Kenya came under control of the Imam of Oman in the 1600s and remained under Islamic control until the British arrived almost 200 years later.



Top: Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama visited Mombasa on his voyage to India in 1497-1498. **Right:** The port of Mombasa (Mombaza) as it was depicted in 1572 by German cartographers.

In 1885, the leading European powers met in Berlin to discuss the colonization of Africa. At the **Berlin Conference**, European leaders divided Africa among them in hopes of avoiding war with one another. There were no African leaders present, or even invited, to this conference. The future of Africa was decided by Europeans, and those decisions had a significant impact on the continent of Africa. Their effects are felt to this day.

During the conference, the area that would become Kenya was given to the British government. The British called the area the East African Protectorate and began allowing British settlers to claim land in the fertile highlands. At first, a trading company controlled the region, but when the company realized they could not control the indigenous people's uprisings, control was turned over to the British government. Kenya became an official colony in 1895. British colonists were allowed to participate in government but Africans and Asians were not. During this period, the British also had colonial control of India in South Asia. In order to improve transportation in Kenya, the British brought in thousands of Indians as railroad construction workers, which added to the diversity of the country's people.

The indigenous people of Kenya were unhappy with British colonial rule. The seventy-year colonial period was marked by racial discrimination. **Nationalism**, the love for one's country, was on the rise. The people of Kenya wanted the opportunity for self-rule. In 1952, the **Mau Mau movement** began, which united members of the Kikuyu, Meru, and Kamba tribes in their efforts to fight British rule and become independent. Over the course of the next decade, rebellions by the Mau Mau became so severe that the British put Kenya under a state of emergency from October 1952 until December 1959. During this time, thousands of Kenyans were arrested and sent to detention camps. One of these men was Jomo Kenyatta, the future president of Kenya, who served seven years in prison for his involvement with the Mau Mau uprising. One positive event during this time was that, in 1954, Africans and Asians were allowed to be part of the government of Kenya.



DID YOU KNOW?

In 1952, Princess Elizabeth of Great Britain visited the British colony of Kenya with her husband, Prince Philip. While they were staying at a safari lodge, she received word that her father, King George VI, had died and she was to become the new monarch, Queen Elizabeth II.

Top: At the Berlin Conference, Great Britain was assigned control of Kenya with Queen Victoria as monarch.

Left: This statue at Kenya's Supreme Court honors Jomo Kenyatta, the man who led the country's independence movement and became its first president.



Top: Daniel arap Moi was Kenya's second president. He served 24 years from 1978-2002. **Above:** Mwai Kibaki was Kenya's third president. In 2007, he made an official visit to the United States.

Pan-African Movement

Another major factor influencing Kenya's desire to become independent was the rise of the **Pan-African movement**. This movement began as a result of the terrible experiences of colonial rule and the desire for people of African descent—no matter where they lived in the world—to work together and think of Africa as a homeland. The movement began with Africans who were living in other parts of the world. They felt that all Africans, across the world, shared a bond with one another. The goal of the Pan-African movement was for Africans to work together for the betterment of all and to end European control. Jomo Kenyatta was one of the leaders of the Pan-African movement and supported its mission until his death.

Kenya's Independence

Kenya gained its independence on December 12, 1963. Soon afterwards, Jomo Kenyatta was elected as the first president of the Republic of Kenya. Even though Kenya was now free of British rule, it was not completely free. Kenyatta's political party, the Kenyan African National Union (KANU), was the only political party in Kenya until the 1990s. That is almost thirty years of rule by the same political party. In 1982, the constitution of Kenya was amended to show that it was a one-party country! Eventually, countries around the world pressured Kenya into allowing more political parties with threats of ending economic assistance programs. Even today, though Kenya has several political parties, the KANU is still the most powerful one in the country.

One of the new political parties was the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC), which was created when different groups that opposed the KANU agreed to work together. In 2002, the NARC candidate, Mwai Kibaki, was elected as Kenya's third president. During Kibaki's time in office, more political parties emerged as democracy spread throughout Kenya. Kenya continues to play an important role in East Africa as one of the most stable countries in a region that has experienced a lot of violence and instability since independence in the 1960s.

Reviewing the Section

1. Why were Europeans first interested in Kenya?
2. What was the purpose of the Berlin Conference? Who gained control of Kenya?
3. Why were Kenyans unhappy being a colony?
4. What was the goal of the Mau Mau movement? Was it successful?
5. Why was Jomo Kenyatta important in Kenyan history?
6. What was the Pan-African movement? How did it contribute to Kenya's independence?
7. **Make a Prediction:** What do you think the future holds for Kenya?

Section 3

The Government of Kenya

As you read, look for



- ▶ the type of government in Kenya;
- ▶ citizens' participation in the government;
- ▶ freedoms enjoyed by Kenyan citizens;
- ▶ the head of government in Kenya;
- ▶ the biggest challenges facing Kenya's government;
- ▶ terms: **presidential democracy, Parliament of Kenya, Supreme Court.**

Type of Government

The Republic of Kenya is a **presidential democracy**. All citizens age eighteen and older can vote in elections for the president and legislature. Freedoms are written into the constitution. Kenya is divided into 47 counties, although the national government makes most of the decisions. Kenya's government is based on a constitution that was written after independence in 1963 and has been amended several times. The constitution divides power in the government into three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial.

A major change in the executive branch in 2013 was that the office of prime minister, who was the head of state, was abolished. The president now serves as both the head of government and head of state. The president and deputy president are directly elected by citizens. In order to be elected, a presidential candidate must win a majority of the popular vote and win at least 25 percent of the votes cast in half of the 47 counties. If the presidential candidate does not meet both these requirements, there will be a runoff election. In addition to the president and deputy president, the executive branch includes the cabinet. Members of the cabinet are appointed by the president and confirmed by the National Assembly.

The legislative branch of Kenya's government includes the bicameral **Parliament of Kenya**, containing the Senate and the National Assembly. The Senate has 67 seats. There is one senator from each of the 47 counties, as well as 20 senators who are elected by proportional vote. The 20 senators must include 16 women, 2 representatives of youth, and 2 representatives of the disabled.



Top: Seal of the government of Kenya.
Bottom: The State House is the official residence of Kenya's president.



Senators serve five-year terms. The other house in the Parliament of Kenya is the 349-seat National Assembly. Citizens directly vote for 290 of the members. In addition, 47 of the members are women who are also directly elected. Another 6 members represent the youth and 6 represent the disabled. Like the Senate, members serve five-year terms.

The judicial branch of Kenya's government consists of the **Supreme Court**. The Supreme Court has a chief justice, deputy chief justice, and five judges. Justices and judges are nominated by the Judicial Service Commission and then appointed by the president. The National Assembly must approve the judges and justices. The chief justice serves a ten-year term that cannot be extended. A chief justice who reaches the age of seventy before his or her term ends must retire. Other judges serve until the age of seventy.

Challenges Facing the Government

Like many world governments, the government of Kenya faces many challenges. One of the biggest challenges is the rise of terrorism. A Somalia-based group called al-Shabaab has launched several recent terror attacks in Kenya. One of the largest was in 2013 at the Westgate Mall in Nairobi where at least 67 people were killed. Another major attack happened in 2015 on the campus of Garissa University College in northwest Kenya. In that attack, 148 were killed. Terrorist attacks hurt the tourism industry in Kenya, which plays an important role in the economy.

Another important challenge for the Kenyan government is the effort to improve the infrastructure in Kenya. The lack of good infrastructure hurts Kenya's economic growth. Clean, reliable water and improved highways, railroads, airports, and seaports are necessary for the country's economy to grow.

Finally, Kenya's government must deal with corruption in the government, as well as high levels of poverty and unemployment throughout the country. Drought can also threaten the majority of the people in Kenya because so many Kenyans are farmers. In 2009, a severe drought hit Kenya and at least 10 million people (about a third of the population) required government assistance with food, water, and medicine.

Reviewing the Section

1. What type of government does Kenya have?
2. How do citizens participate in the government?
3. Who is the head of government in Kenya? How does this person gain power?
4. What are three of the biggest challenges facing Kenya's government?
5. Make a Prediction: How do you think the US government would be different if it had senators specifically representing the youth of America?

Top: Entrance to Kenya's Parliament Buildings in Nairobi. **Above:** The Supreme Court of Kenya is in Nairobi.

Section 4

The Economy of Kenya

As you read, look for

- ▶ the type of economic system in Kenya;
- ▶ causes of economic growth in Kenya;
- ▶ the goal of Kenya's trade policies;
- ▶ Kenya's top exports and imports;
- ▶ a gender gap in education;
- ▶ terms: **shilling**, **East African Community (EAC)**.



DID YOU KNOW ?

Half of Kenya's population lives in poverty. There is virtually no middle class. Kenyans tend to be either wealthy or living in poverty.

A Growing Economy

Even though Kenya is a developing country, it has one of the most developed economies in Africa as well as the largest economy in East Africa. Kenya has a mixed economy. On the economic continuum Kenya is close to the center, meaning there is a strong mix of government and private control in the economy. In the last few years, Kenya's economy has grown about 5 percent each year. Modernized roads, railways, airports, and seaports have all helped to pave the way for continued economic growth. Kenya's government is committed to encouraging economic growth and implementing business reforms; however, corruption in the government makes continued economic growth more challenging.

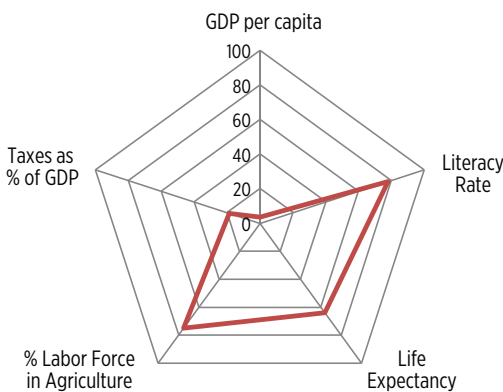


Bottom: Modern skyscrapers shape the skyline of Nairobi, Kenya's capital and economic center.



Figure 10.3

Kenya Spider Graph



Agriculture forms the largest part of the Kenyan economy, contributing to 25 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). About 80 percent of Kenyans work at least part-time in agriculture, which includes farming and herding animals. More than 75 percent of the agricultural output in Kenya is from small-scale farms and livestock production, which means there are very few large agriculture businesses. Even though Kenya's economy is based in agriculture, it is still one of the fastest-growing economies in the world.

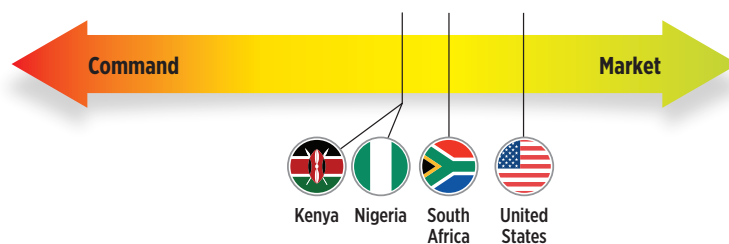
Trade in Kenya

Voluntary trade is very important to Kenya's economy. Kenya's sea-ports serve as an entryway for goods that are traveling to other parts of East Africa, as well as parts of Central Africa. On average, Kenya exports about \$5 billion worth of goods each year. Its top exports are tea, fresh cut flowers and buds, coffee, petroleum products, fish, and cement. The top export partners of Kenya are Uganda, Tanzania, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Pakistan. On the other hand, Kenya imports about \$16 billion, which means it has a trade deficit. (The country imports more than it exports.) Kenya's top imports include machinery and transportation equipment, petroleum products, motor vehicles, iron and steel, and resins and plastics. China, India, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, and Japan are Kenya's main sources of imports. Kenya's currency is the Kenyan **shilling**. In order to trade fairly in Kenya, countries must use an exchange rate to change their currency to Kenyan shillings. Kenyans trade their shillings for other currencies when trading with other countries.

Kenya's current trade policy focuses on growing their economy through increased exports. Additionally, Kenya allows most imports into the country without restrictions such as tariffs or quotas. Imports from other countries increase competition within Kenya so consumers have benefited from lower prices for better-quality goods. Kenya does place trade restrictions on agricultural products. The government has imposed tariffs and other measures that make many imported foods more expensive. This action encourages Kenyans to purchase Kenyan agricultural products that cost less. The tariffs are designed to protect Kenyan farmers.

Figure 10.4

Economic Systems in Africa



Top: Kenya's 100-shilling banknote.
Bottom: One of Kenya's top exports is coffee.

Kenya is a member of the **East African Community (EAC)**, which includes a free-trade zone for Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania. EAC member countries cannot place trade barriers on goods traded with each other. However, there is a tariff put on goods that are imported from countries that are not part of the EAC.

Natural Resources and the Economy of Kenya

Investment in natural resources is one way Kenyans can help their economy continue to grow. Kenya's most valuable natural resource is the fertile soil in the highlands, which is reflected in the land use. Almost half of Kenya's land is used for agricultural activities, which can include farming and herding animals. A major threat to the valuable fertile land is soil erosion and poverty. People who do not have access to the fertile soil must find ways to support their families. Many turn to other ways to make a living, like cutting down trees, which leads to deforestation, soil erosion, and possible desertification. The Kenyan government is working on ways to help preserve the fertile soil in the highlands as well as to combat poverty. Kenya is able to produce a large amount of electricity from hydropower, which is very valuable. Additional natural resources in Kenya include limestone, soda ash, salt, gemstones, fluor spar, zinc, diatomite, and gypsum. These minerals are exported to countries around the world, which brings much-needed cash to the country.

Human Capital in Kenya

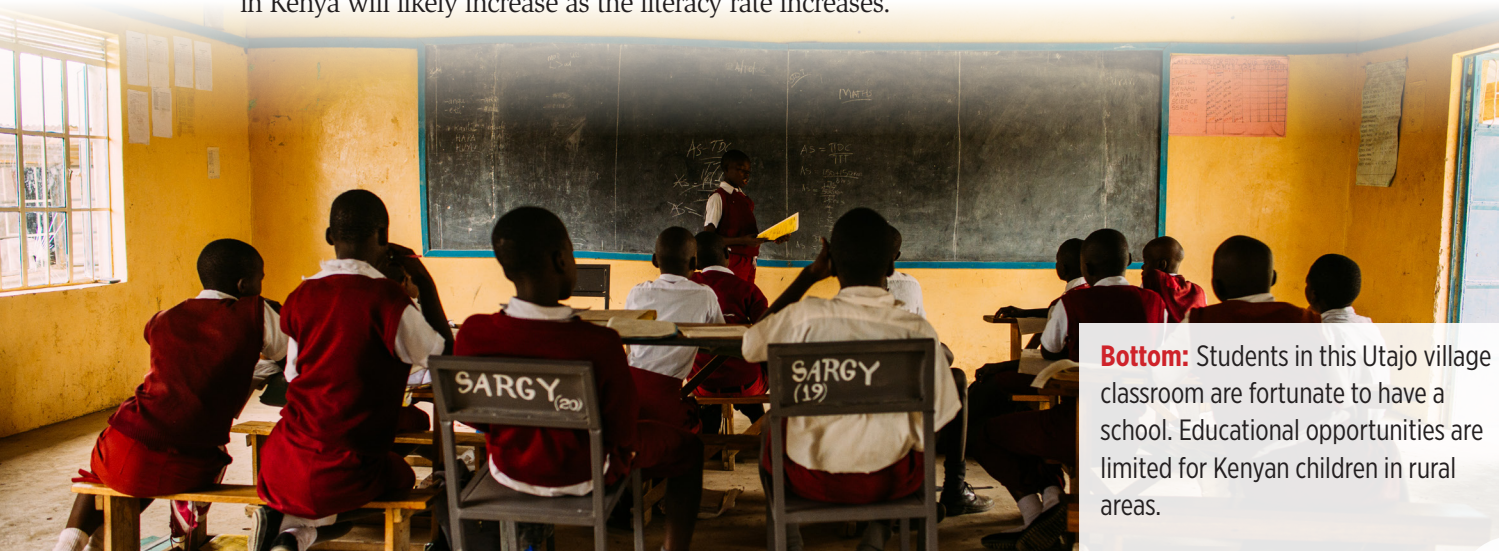
The literacy rate in Kenya is about 78 percent, which, when broken down by gender, shows a difference between male and female literacy rates. About 81 percent of males in Kenya are literate, compared to 75 percent of females. This gap reflects the traditional view, especially in rural areas, that girls only need to be prepared for marriage. In rural areas, teachers are challenged to persuade rural families to see the value of education for girls. However, literacy rates for both boys and girls are higher in cities. Most students attend school for eleven years in Kenya, compared to seventeen years in the United States. The standard of living in Kenya will likely increase as the literacy rate increases.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Kenya contributes more than 40 percent of East Africa's total Gross Domestic Product.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Hydroelectricity is the largest contributor to Kenya's electricity supply.



Bottom: Students in this Utajo village classroom are fortunate to have a school. Educational opportunities are limited for Kenyan children in rural areas.



The government of Kenya is committed to increasing the literacy rate and quality of education in Kenya. In fact, the motto of Kenya's Ministry of Education is "Quality Education for Development." The Kenyan government knows that investment in human capital will benefit both the people and the economy of Kenya. Currently, Kenya spends about 5.5 percent of its GDP on education, which ranks 28th in the world for education expenditure. In addition, the government spends about 6 percent of the GDP on health expenditures, which ranks 148th in the world. Increased spending on health care would likely reduce the high levels of diseases like malaria, dengue fever, and typhoid. A healthy workforce is not only good for people, it is good for the economy of the country overall.

Capital Goods in Kenya

Because Kenya's economy is based on small-scale agriculture, there is not a heavy investment in capital goods. One of Kenya's top imports is machinery and transportation equipment. As the Kenyan government continues to diversify the economy, it will invest more in creating industries that can produce capital goods within Kenya. Producing their own capital goods, like machinery, will be cheaper than importing them.

Entrepreneurship in Kenya

Entrepreneurs help economies grow by creating jobs for people and increasing trade. Kenya has a growing number of entrepreneurs, which has started the growth of a middle class. The rising level of entrepreneurship is helping Kenya's economy grow. While there is no minimum amount of money someone has to have to start a business, it is not a short or inexpensive process in Kenya. For instance, the cost of getting a business license is about twice the average annual income of the average Kenyan.



Reviewing the Section

1. What type of economy does Kenya have?
2. What has helped Kenya's economy grow in the last few years?
3. What is the basis of Kenya's economy?
4. What is the goal of Kenya's trade policy?
5. What are Kenya's top exports and imports?
6. Why is there a gender gap in education? What is the Kenyan government doing to try and solve it?
7. Copy the chart below and complete it with information from the reading.

Factor of Growth	How Does Kenya Invest in It?	Examples in Kenya
Natural Resources		
Human Capital		
Capital Goods		
Entrepreneurship		

Top: Children from a small village attend an open-air primary school in Malindi. **Above:** Workers gather at iHub Nairobi, a working space for technology entrepreneurs in the capital city.

Section 5

US-Kenya Relations

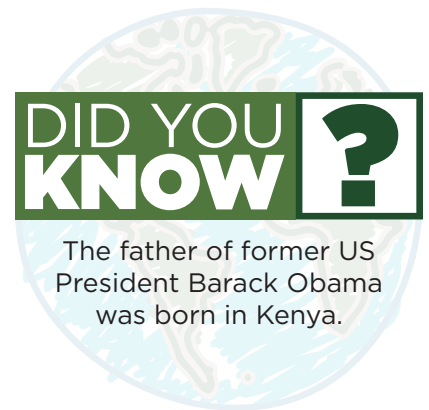


As you read, look for

- ▶ the relationship between the United States and Kenya;
- ▶ why Kenya receives large amounts of US assistance;
- ▶ the goals of US assistance in Kenya;
- ▶ how the United States helps with education and health in Kenya;
- ▶ Kenya's top exports to the United States and the United States' top exports to Kenya;
- ▶ how being a member of international organizations helps the people of Kenya;
- ▶ term: **African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).**

A Diplomatic Relationship

Kenya's independence in 1963 marked the beginning of a diplomatic relationship between Kenya and the United States. The two countries have always had a stable and friendly relationship. In July 2015, President Barack Obama became the first US president to visit Kenya. This visit showed the importance of the relationship between Kenya and the United States.



The father of former US President Barack Obama was born in Kenya.



Left: US President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama welcomed Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta to the White House in 2014.

Kenya is facing many challenges in the areas of economy, health, and environment. Droughts are becoming more frequent as climate change occurs, which threatens the entire economy and population of Kenya. Corruption in the government hurts economic growth. The United States wants Kenya's government to be more active in removing corruption from the government. Kenya is threatened by instability and violence in the neighboring country of Somalia that often spreads across the border. Since the 2015 terrorist attack at Garissa University College, the United States has helped boost Kenyan security by providing equipment and training to civilian and military security forces.

United States Assistance to Kenya

Because Kenya is one of the leading countries in East Africa, it has received a large amount of financial assistance from the United States. The United States has four main goals with its assistance to Kenya: strengthening democracy, encouraging economic growth and trade, advancing peace and security, and promoting development and opportunity for the people of Kenya. The United States is committed to helping Kenya with its environmental issues. In 2013, the United States agreed to help Kenya increase its manufacturing of cookstoves to help lower air pollution. Many people in Kenya cook over open fires, which increases air pollution. Using cookstoves reduces air pollution, which improves air quality.

Access to education has increased in Kenya as a result of US assistance. The United States has helped improve the quality of health care for the people of Kenya. This includes health care for HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and maternal and child health. Currently, about 6 percent of the adult population in Kenya has HIV/AIDS. Over 1.5 million people are living with HIV/AIDS in Kenya, ranking 8th in the world.



Above: Kenya's neighbor, Somalia, has conflicts that spill into Kenya. These Somalis were waiting for water in a refugee camp in 2011. **Bottom:** Cooking over an open fire with wood fuel depletes forests and increases air pollution in Kenya. The United States is working to help Kenyans manufacture and purchase efficient cookstoves.

Bilateral Economic Relations between the United States and Kenya

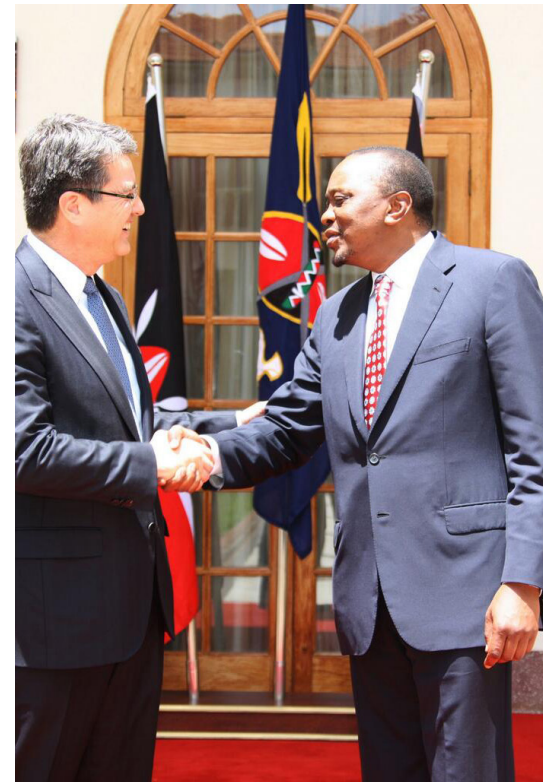
In 2000, the United States enacted the **African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)**, which increased market access to the United States for qualifying countries in sub-Saharan Africa such as Kenya. As a result of this act, Kenya is able to have preferential (special) trade benefits. Kenya imports agricultural products, aircraft, and machinery from the United States. Kenya exports clothes, coffee, and tea to the United States. The United States invests in commerce, light manufacturing, and tourism within Kenya. Additionally, the United States has a trade agreement with the East African Community and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. Kenya is a member of both of these organizations. This also increases trade opportunities and benefits.



Kenya's Membership in International Organizations

Kenya is a member of several international organizations in addition to the regional ones. These organizations are the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization. Kenya is also part of the British Commonwealth of Nations, as well as the Organization of African Unity.

One of the main reasons Kenya is a part of these organizations is to create agreements and circumstances to help improve the lives of Kenyans. For example, Kenya received aid in the form of water and food during severe drought due to its connections with other countries. Kenya has also received assistance with improving clean water and hygiene. Furthermore, being a member of different trade groups benefits Kenya through increased opportunities for trade. The more free trade Kenya can have, the more its economy will grow.



Reviewing the Section

1. When did the friendship between the United States and Kenya begin?
2. Why has Kenya received large amounts of US assistance?
3. What are the four goals of US assistance in Kenya?
4. How has the United States helped with education and health in Kenya?
5. What are Kenya's top exports to the United States? What are the United States' top exports to Kenya?
6. How does being a member of international organizations help the people of Kenya?

Top: The US Embassy in Nairobi assists US citizens in the country and represents the US government there. In 1998, over 200 people were killed in a terrorist attack at the embassy led by al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden. **Bottom:** Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta met with World Trade Organization Director-General Roberto Azevêdo of Brazil in 2014.

Chapter Review

Chapter Summary

Section 1: The Geography of Kenya

- Kenya has many terrains including desert, rain forest, and fertile highlands near the Great Rift Valley.
- Kenya contains some of the continent's most impressive physical features including Mount Kenya, the Great Rift Valley, and Lake Victoria.
- Unlike its neighbors, Kenya has a large agricultural sector on its fertile lands, but most Kenyans live in urban areas and around Lake Victoria.

Section 2: A Brief History of Kenya

- People were in Kenya over 4,000 years ago. Later, Arabian traders and the Bantu arrived.
- Kenya had a long history of Arabic and Muslim rule, but in 1885, the Berlin Conference gave the country to the United Kingdom.
- The Mau Mau movement brought together various tribes as part of the Pan-African movement for independence.
- After Kenya gained independence, it has struggled to establish a multiparty democracy but continues to improve.

Section 3: The Government of Kenya

- The executive branch is composed of the president (who is both head of government and head of state), the deputy president, and the cabinet.
- The legislative branch is made up of the bicameral Parliament of Kenya (Senate and National Assembly). Both houses must include women and representatives of youth and the disabled.
- The judicial branch has the Supreme Court with a chief justice, deputy chief justice, and five judges.
- The government faces various obstacles including terrorism, drought, and corruption.

Section 4: The Economy of Kenya

- Kenya's economy is dependent on agriculture and trade because the country serves as a port for other African countries.
- Work is being done to modernize the country's transportation system and invest in better education.
- Kenya is part of the free trade zone called the East African Community (EAC).

Section 5: US-Kenya Relations

- The United States helps Kenyans by providing health care and education assistance.
- The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) makes trade between the two countries easier.

Activities for Learning

Reviewing People, Places, and Things



Write a sentence using each vocabulary word and name below without repeating a sentence from the chapter. Be sure to underline the vocabulary word.

Great Rift Valley
Nairobi
Berlin Conference
Pan-African movement
hydroelectricity
shilling
ports
Parliament of Kenya

Understanding the Facts



1. Why is Lake Victoria important?
2. What is urbanization?
3. Who is Jomo Kenyatta?
4. Why did other countries pressure the Kenyan African National Union (KANU)?
5. How do Somalia and al-Shabaab affect Kenya?
6. How are citizens represented in the Parliament of Kenya?
7. What sector is the largest provider of jobs and largest contributor to the GDP?
8. How does Kenya profit from trade between other African countries?
9. How does Kenya invest in its human capital?
10. Kenya is a member of which international organizations?

Developing Critical Thinking



1. After Kenya gained independence in 1963, the KANU party gained control of the government. Based on your knowledge, why do you think this party gained so much power after independence and stayed in power for decades?
2. The Kenyan president must win the majority of the popular vote and at least 25 percent of the votes in half of the 47 counties. Do think this is a good way to ensure everyone in the country is happy with the president? Why or why not?

3. Many Kenyans move from rural areas to the large cities of Nairobi and Mombasa for better-paying jobs and more opportunity. Why do you think these jobs and opportunities are only available in cities?

Writing across the Curriculum



1. Write a short report describing how Kenya's location on the Indian Ocean benefits its economy.
2. Professor Wangari Maathai believed that, by improving the environment, the lives of women are also improved. Write a short report on her reasoning and give specific examples. Can you think of any other examples to add?

Applying Your Skills



1. Make a chart of Kenya's exports and imports as well as the country it is exporting to or importing from. Do you notice any trends that are easier to see now that the information is in a chart?
2. Write an essay that describes at least three ways droughts hurt Kenya's economy and standard of living. Provide specific examples and ways you think this could be avoided in the future.

Exploring Technology



1. The African Development Bank Group helps spur economic growth in member countries. Review their website's page on the economy of Kenya (<http://tiny.cc/afdb>) for recent updates on the economic outlook of the country.
2. Visit the Kenyan president's official website (<http://tiny.cc/preskenya>) and review some of the current projects in the country. Pick one project that interests you and write a short report on the project, how it works, and what the president hopes it will accomplish.