



# Africa – a continent of contrasts

## Lesson 1: Africa – scale and diversity

### Key Ideas:

- a) Africa is one of the seven continents
- b) Africa is a large continent containing many countries with a huge diversity of human, physical and environmental conditions.

### Starter activity:

Suggestion 1 – using the *Naming continents worksheet* students name the seven continents and one fact about each continent or about a named country within that continent. Students then share the facts that they have used about **Africa** with at least four other students.

Suggestion 2 – using the *Ranking continents worksheet* a group of seven students are selected to stand in front of the class. Each is given a card in an envelope (or a folded piece of paper) with the name of one continent on the front and a method by which the seven continents can be rank ordered. The students arrange themselves in the order they think is correct e.g. largest size (area) to smallest size (area). The remainder of the class have to judge whether or not they have got the order correct. This exercise can be repeated with different groups of students.

### Main activity:

In order to emphasise the diversity which exists within the continent of Africa, it will take more than a single lesson to appreciate the differences. It is suggested that some introductory work is done, along with some homework time and that this is a theme which is reinforced throughout the work on the Africa Unit. A variety of resources have been produced and incorporated into a slideshow (*Africa – a diverse continent* PowerPoint) for convenience. These resources can be adapted and added to for whatever method is chosen to teach this introduction. The PowerPoint itself can be used as the basis for the lesson.

Much of this early work on Africa involves the use of a range of geographical terminology and some quite complicated concepts and processes. Key words have been highlighted wherever possible in the text. The level of teacher explanation needed to accompany some of the work will depend on the timing of this unit from Y7 through to Y9.

### Plenary:

True/false exercise (using *True or false exercise* download). Students use a show of hands or coloured true/false cards to give their answers to a range of questions about the continent of Africa. Students can be chosen randomly to justify their true/false answer. The true/false questions can be easily changed or adapted to reflect the actual work done with the class.