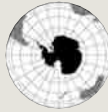
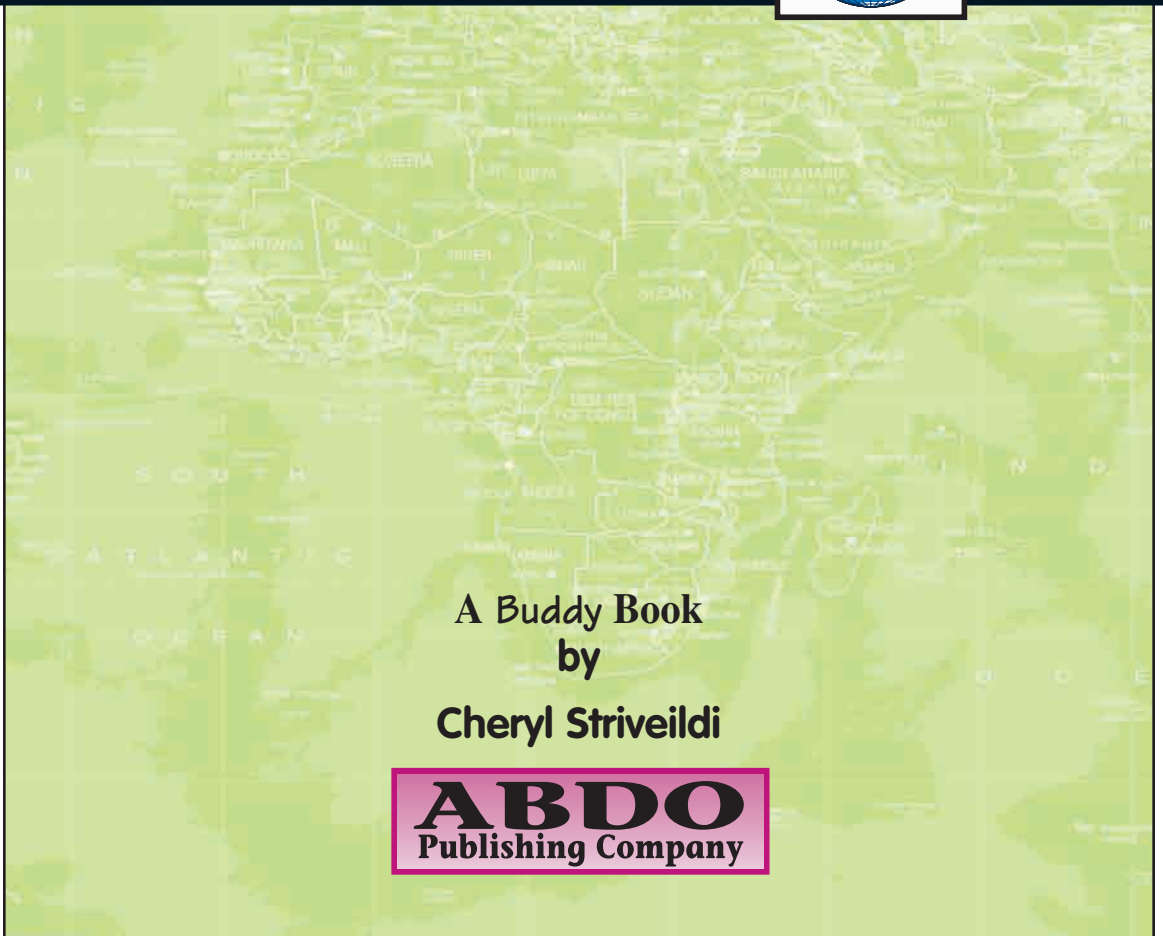
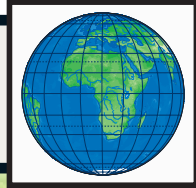


Africa



Cheryl Striveildi

Africa



A Buddy Book
by

Cheryl Striveildi

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Seven Continents

Water covers most of the earth. Land covers the rest. The earth has seven main land areas, or **continents**. The seven continents are:



North America



Africa



South America



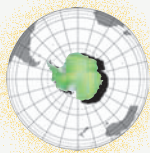
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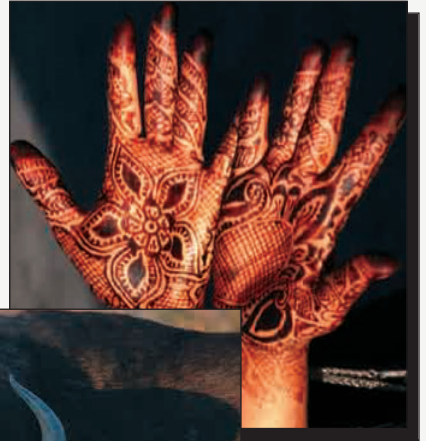
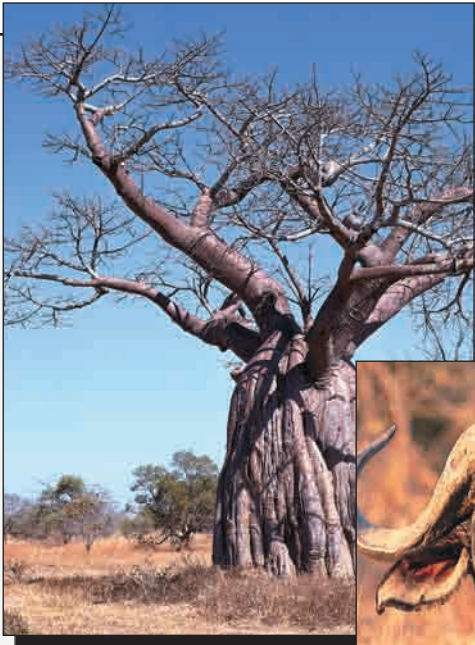
Europe



Australia



Antarctica



There is much to see
in Africa.

Africa is the second-largest **continent**.
It covers about 11,609,000 square miles
(30,065,000 sq km).

Africa's people have a rich mix of
customs and languages. This continent is
also famous for its wild animals.



Where Is Africa?

The **equator** is an imaginary line. It divides the earth into two equal halves. The Northern **Hemisphere** is the top half of the earth. The Southern Hemisphere is the bottom half. Africa lies in both hemispheres.

The Atlantic Ocean is west of Africa. The Indian Ocean is east of Africa.

Africa lies south of Europe. Between these two **continents** is the Mediterranean Sea.

Africa lies southwest of Asia. The Red Sea lies between these two continents.





Countries

There are 53 countries in Africa. Sudan is the largest African country. It is in eastern Africa. The longest river in the world flows through Sudan. It is the Nile River.

The African country with the most people is Nigeria. More than 100 million people live there. It is on the west coast of Africa. Millions of Africans live in Egypt and Ethiopia, too.



The Nile River also flows through Egypt.



Many kinds of people live in Africa. There are more than 800 **ethnic groups**. The people of each ethnic group share a common way of life. Clothes, language, and other **customs** may change from group to group.

More than 1,000 different languages are spoken in Africa. A few of them are Arabic, Swahili, and French. Some African languages have clicking sounds.



Most people in Africa live away from cities.



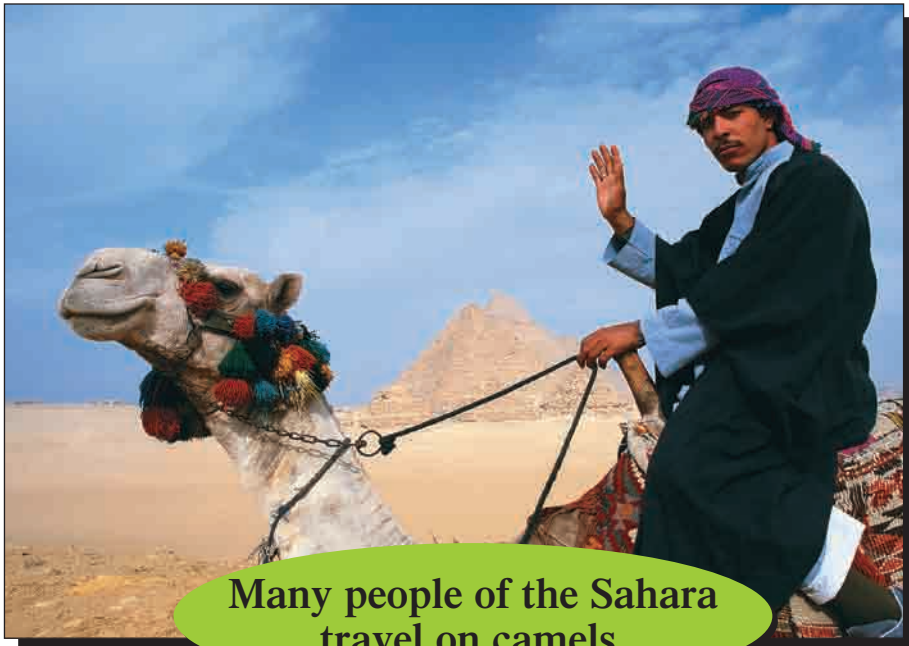
Africa has many ethnic groups.

Largest Desert

There are three big deserts in Africa. They are the Sahara, the Kalahari, and the Namib. The Kalahari and the Namib are in southwest Africa. The Sahara Desert is in northern Africa.

Deserts get less than 10 inches (25 cm) of rain each year. The Sahara is the largest desert in the world. It is almost as big as the United States. The dry Sahara Desert is hot during the day. It is cold at night.

It is not easy living in the Sahara Desert. There are not many roads or cities. But some people do live there. Many of these people are **nomads**. Nomads travel from place to place. Many Saharan nomads keep sheep or camels. Some gather and sell desert salt.

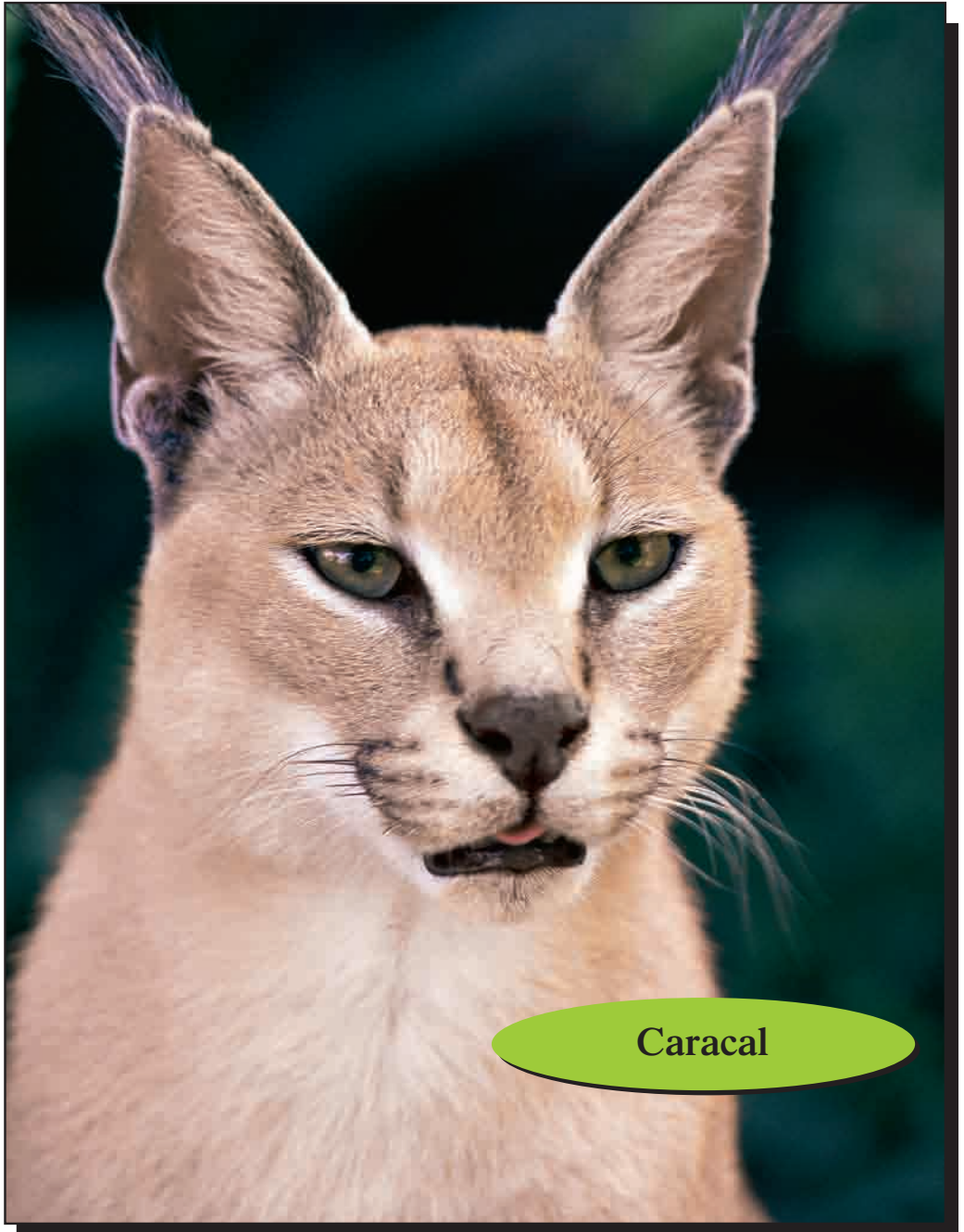


Many people of the Sahara travel on camels.

Camels can store water
for many days.



Many animals live in Africa's deserts. There are fennec foxes, caracals, and horned vipers. Fennec foxes have big ears. They stay under ground during the day. Caracals are wild, meat-eating cats. The horned viper is a snake with special horns on its head.



Caracal

Desert Oasis

Where do people and animals in the desert get water? They go to a desert oasis. An oasis has water from under the ground. The land around an oasis is green. The Sahara Desert has many oases.



Date palms and other plants
grow near oases.



Rain Forests

Most of Africa's rain forests are in central Africa. These are the Congo Basin rain forests. This is the second-biggest rain forest area in the world.

Rain forests get more than 80 inches (203 cm) of rain each year. They are **tropical** places. The Congo Basin rain forests have swamps and evergreen forests. The forests are full of mahogany trees. Thousands of different plants grow there, too.

Many kinds of animals live in Africa's rain forests. There are monkeys, gorillas, lemurs, okapi, baboons, and elephants. The biggest frog in the world lives there, too. It is the Goliath frog.



Lowland gorilla



Baboon



Okapi



Lemur

Elephants live in Africa's rain forests.



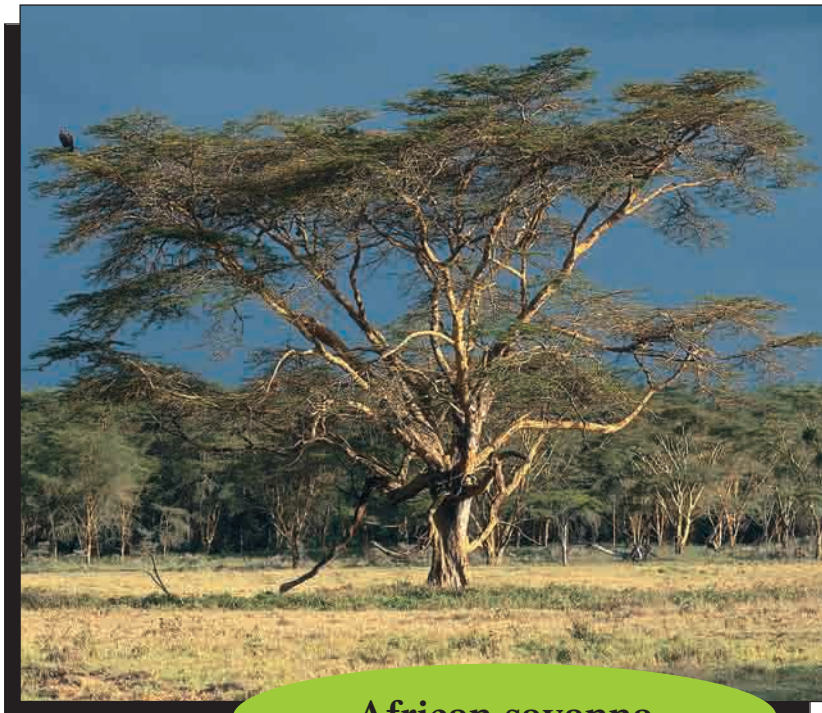
African Oil Palms

African oil palms grow in western Africa. These trees have oil palm fruit. The fruit's oils are used in soap, shampoo, and foods. The tree's sap can be made into wine.



Savannas

Africa has large areas of grasslands called **savannas**. These savannas are south of the Sahara Desert. There is savanna land in southern Africa, too.



African savanna



Lions live on the African savanna.

The African **savanna** has grasses, bushes, and few trees. Summers there are warm and dry. The winters are not very cold.



Impala

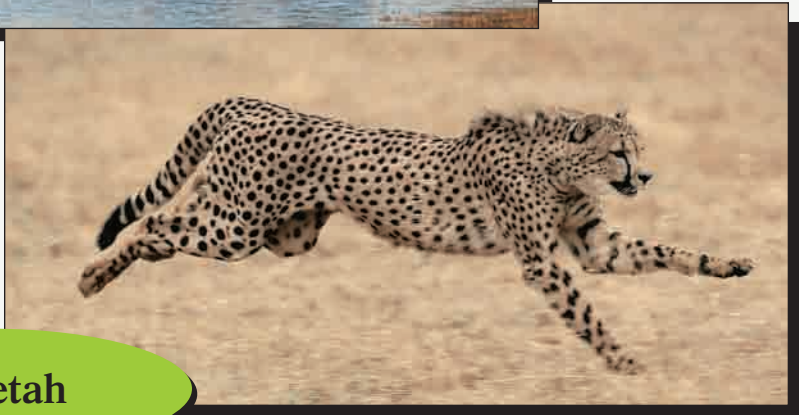


Zebras

Elephants, zebras, antelopes, lions, and cheetahs live on the African **savannas**. Cheetahs are wild cats. They can run as fast as 70 miles (113 km) per hour.



Elephant



Cheetah

Visiting Africa

“Going on safari” means taking a special trip. Many people go on safari to the Serengeti National Park. It is on the Serengeti Plain of northern Tanzania. The Serengeti National Park is 5,700 square miles (14,763 sq km).

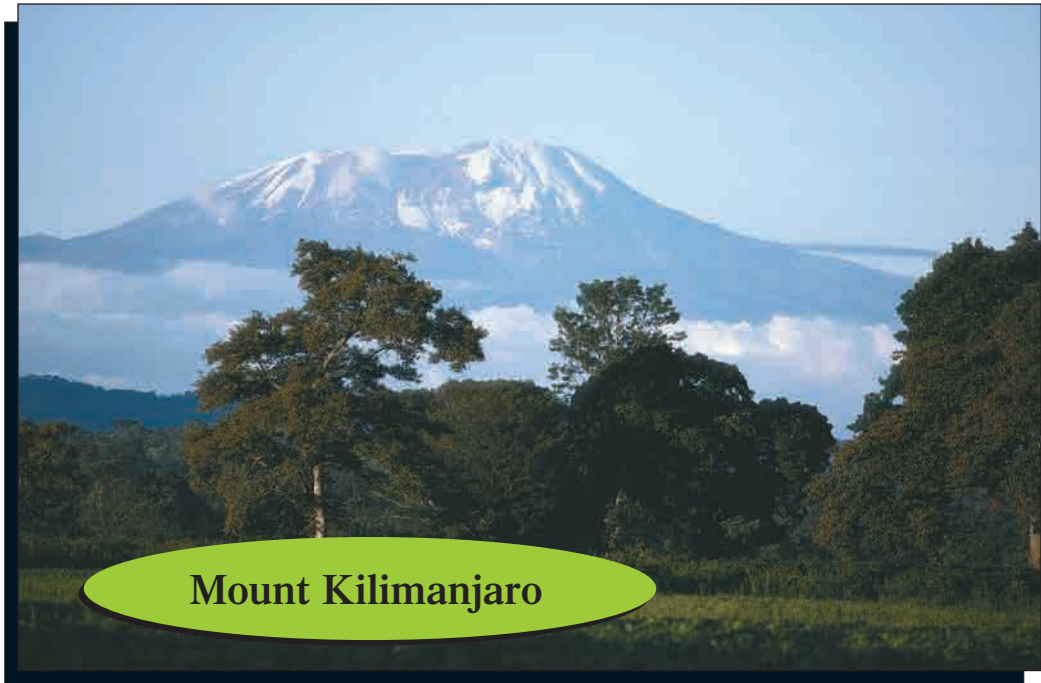


Masai warriors of Tanzania

The Serengeti National Park is famous for its wild animals. Wildebeests, zebras, cheetahs, lions, giraffes, elephants, hippos, rhinos, baboons, and gazelles live there.



Rhinos (left) and baboons (right) live at the Serengeti National Park.



Another beautiful place in Africa is Mount Kilimanjaro. It stands in northern Tanzania.

Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa. Many people enjoy climbing it.

Many people like to visit the pyramids of Egypt, too. Long ago, Egyptians built these stone pyramids for their rulers. Some Egyptian pyramids are more than 4,000 years old. The biggest one is about 450 feet (137 m) tall.



**Africa's Egyptian pyramids
are an amazing sight.**

Africa

-  Africa is the second-largest **continent**.
-  Africa's Sahara Desert is the biggest desert in the world.
-  The longest river in the world is Africa's Nile River.
-  Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa.
-  Lake Assal is the lowest point in Africa.
-  Africa's biggest country is Sudan.
-  About 800 million people live in Africa.



Important Words

continent one of the earth's seven main land areas.

customs the way of life common to a group of people. Language, food, clothes, and religion are some customs.

equator the imaginary line that divides the earth into two equal halves.

ethnic group a group of people that share customs and a common background.

hemisphere one half of the earth.

nomads people that travel from place to place.

savannas grasslands.

tropical weather that is warm and wet.

Web Sites

Would you like to learn more about Africa?
Please visit ABDON Publishing Company on the World Wide Web to find web site links about Africa. These links are routinely monitored and updated to provide the most current information available.

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