

YEAR 8 KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: What are the challenges and opportunities of living in Kenya?

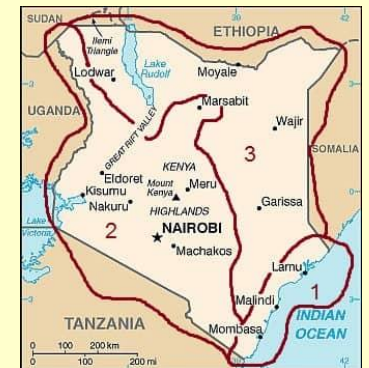


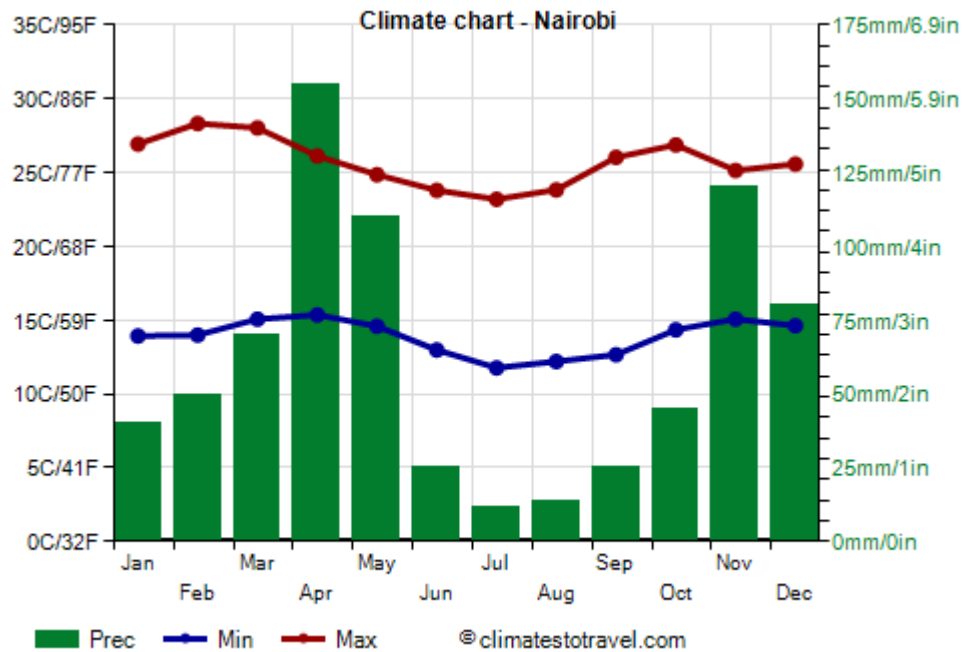
Kenya is located in East Africa. It has borders with Uganda, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia and Tanzania. It also has a border with the Indian Ocean. The Equator runs through Kenya.

The capital city is Nairobi. At 1,795 metres above sea level, it is the highest capital in Africa. Kenya has a population of over 46 million people. It is a very diverse population with over 40 ethnic groups including the Kikuyu, Luo and Masai.

Kenya lies on the Equator so it has a tropical climate. But it is so big that it has **three types of climate**: hot and humid along the coast (zone 1 on the map), temperate in the west and south-west, where there are mountains and plateaus (zone 2 on the map), and finally, hot and dry in the north and east (zone 3 on the map).

Kenya is very mountainous and it has many rivers. Mount Kenya is the second highest mountain in Africa. The longest river is the Tana River which is 440 miles long. Kenya uses this big river in lots of ways including the Kindaruma Dam.





Kenya's climate: In general, the warmest period in Kenya is from February to March, while the coolest is from July to August, but the differences are small. Kenya has two rainy seasons: the 'long rains' last from March to May and the 'short rains' last from October to December. The area with the most rainfall is along the coast.

In 2013 the UK paid out £19.9m in costs and compensation to more than 5,228 Kenyans who suffered torture and abuse during the Mau Mau uprising in the 1950s.

Kenya is a Low Income Country (LIC).

Some of the challenges that make it hard for Kenya to develop include:

- In the 1800s the British began colonising Kenya. It only became independent in 1963.
- It has an economy that is mainly based on primary industry. Kenya has the perfect climate for growing some crops like roses, tea and coffee but they are low value and the farms are often owned by foreigners.
- Poor infrastructure: only primary school education is free; health care is not free; roads and public transport are poor, particularly in rural areas.
- Terrorist attacks are frequent.
- Political leaders have been corrupt.

Subsistence farming – This is when the farmer grows just enough food to feed the family.

Commercial farming – This is when the crops and animals are sold for profit.

Plantation – A large farm that specialises in growing one cash crop e.g. tea, coffee, roses. In Kenya, these crops are usually exported to richer countries like the U.K.

Cash crop – Something that is grown and sold e.g. tea, roses, coffee

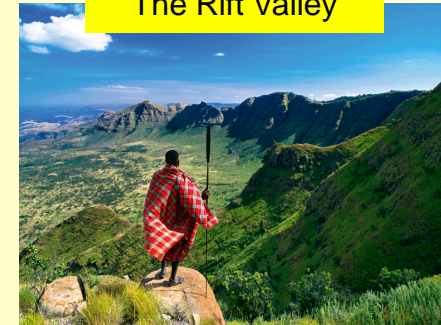
The 5 regions of Kenya:

- The Highlands – This is where the capital city, Nairobi, is located. It is high up and so it is cooler and there are less mosquitoes. The volcanic soils are fertile and so very good for farming.
- The Rift Valley – This is a lowland area that was made when two tectonic plates moved apart. It is famous for its wildlife and beauty.
- The Coast – The coast is hotter and wetter than the rest of Kenya. The Indian Ocean and beautiful sandy beaches are popular with tourists. Mombasa is located here.
- The Lake Region – Lake Turkana is the world's largest permanent desert lake and the world's largest alkaline lake. Lake Victoria is Africa's largest lake. It is divided amongst 3 countries: Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.
- The Arid North – A dry, desert area.

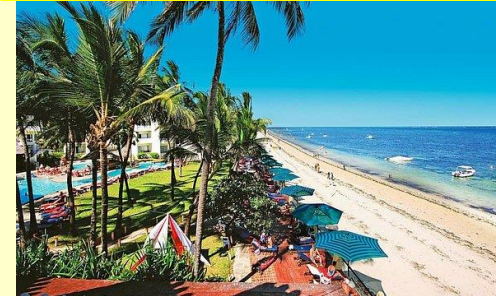
Mount Kenya and the Lewis glacier



The Rift Valley



Mombasa and the Indian Ocean



An extinct volcano at Lake Turkana



The desert in northern Kenya



Life is very challenging in rural Kenya. Many people migrate to go and live in towns and cities. This is called rural-urban migration. But when the migrants arrive they do not have anywhere to live. This leads to them building their own homes on bits of rough ground like next to a railway line. These areas of housing are called shanty towns. A famous shanty town is Kibera in Nairobi.

Push factors – The bad things that make people leave the rural areas.	Pull factors – The good things that attract people to urban areas.
Poverty	Chance of getting a better job.
Drought	Better housing.
Farming is hard work.	Better health care and education.
Homes do not have running water or electricity.	Friends have told them it is a really good place to live and work.
Few schools	Entertainment.
No hospitals.	Better infrastructure – water pipes, electricity, sanitation, roads, schools.



Nairobi was built by the British and only European people could live in Nairobi. The local people had to live in areas outside the city. This is how Kibera shanty town began.

Challenges of living in Kibera.	Opportunities in Kibera.
Poor sanitation.	Good sense of community.
Diseases like cholera and malaria.	Some people work their way out of poverty.
Short life expectancy	Families help each other.
Poor quality, crowded housing.	There are crafts people, actors, dancers and other talented people.



Positive effects of tourism in Kenya	Negative effects of tourism in Kenya
Improvement in living standards.	Jobs are low paid and temporary.
Better infrastructure (roads, airports).	80% of the hotels and travel companies are owned by foreign people so the profits leave Kenya.
National Parks protect animals from poachers and can stop extinctions.	Nomadic people were forced off their land and have had to change their way of life.
Local people can sell handicrafts to tourists.	Hotels use a lot of water which is a very scarce resource in Kenya.
Kenya earns more taxes which can be spent on improving things in Kenya.	Safari buses cause soil erosion and scare animals.

Tourism in Kenya has already reached a point of decline. Controversial presidential elections in 2007 followed by terrorist attacks in 2013 and 2014 caused a massive decline in visitors. Political instability, violent crime, harassment of tourists, over-commercialism of safari parks and environmental degradation have all discouraged many tourists from visiting the country.

The Kenyan government is now acting to try to halt the decline by:

- limiting the number of visitors to marine and game parks
- promoting sustainable tourism where visitors are in small groups
- using local people as guides
- limiting the height of coastal developments
- educating tourists to observe local customs

This is called **sustainable tourism**.

