

Year 2 Geography: Home and away (Kenya)

Key Vocabulary

endangered	A species of animal or plant that is at risk of becoming extinct (no longer existing).
game reserve	A protected area of land where humans are allowed to live and carry out some different activities.
habitat	The natural home of a plant or animal.
migration	When animals move from one area to another, often to find food, water or shelter.
national park	A protected area of land where only tourism and research is allowed. No humans live there.
rural	Areas away from towns or cities, also known as the countryside.
savannah	Tropical grasslands with shrubs and trees but not much rainfall.
tourists	People who travel for fun.

Weather and Climate

Kenya lies on the equator.	Climate is hot, sunny and dry for most of the year.
Hot, dry deserts in the north.	Hot and humid in the west.
The highlands are cool.	Mount Kenya is high enough to be covered in snow all year round.

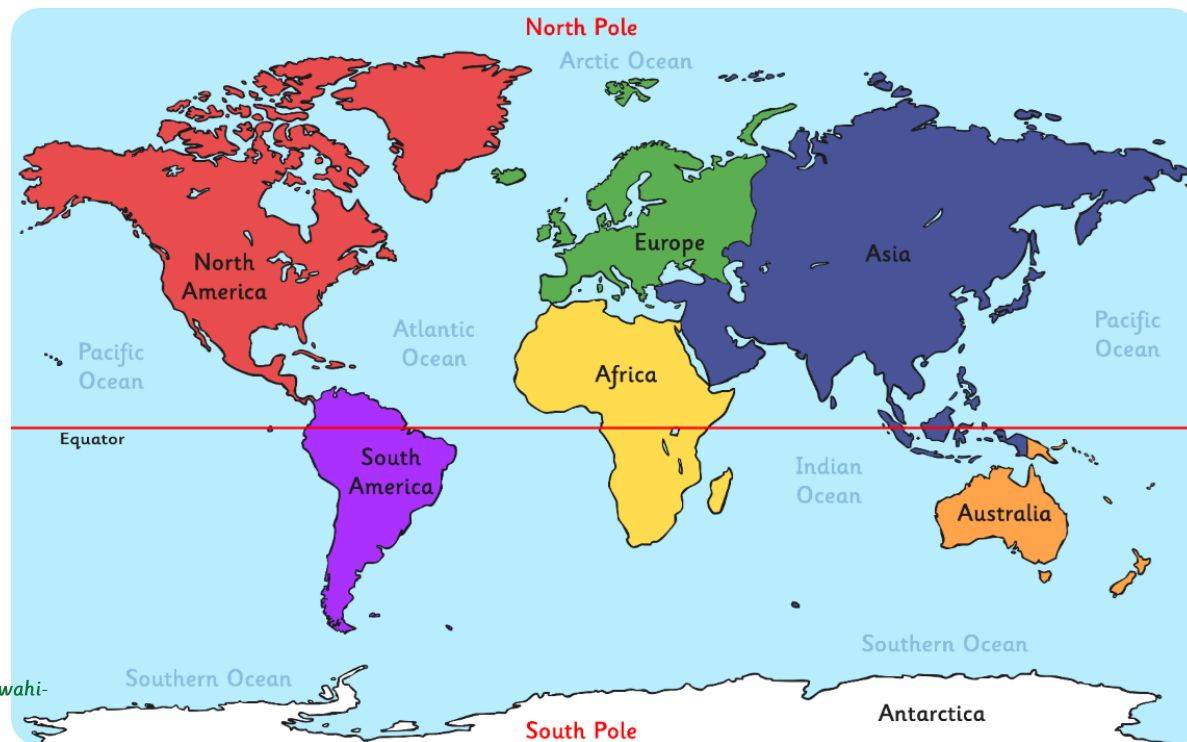
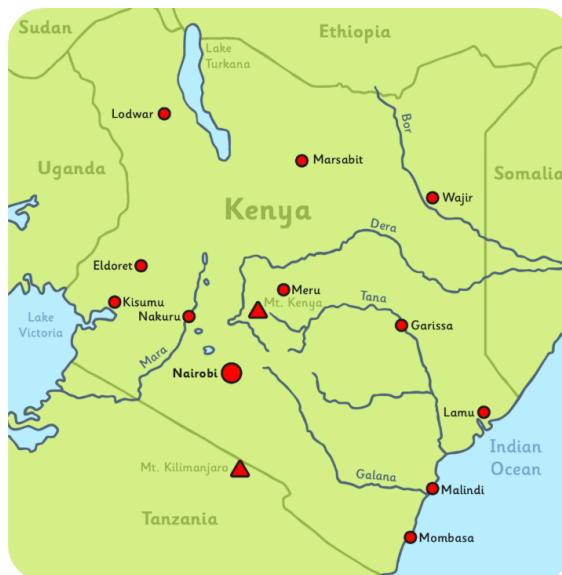
In the north it is hot and dry with arid deserts. In the west it is hot and humid and the rainfall can be highest here. If there is no rainfall for a long time, droughts can occur.

This is Kenya's national flag:



Official Languages: English and Kiswahili

Currency: Kenyan Shilling



Year 2 Geography: Home and away (Kenya)

Although Kenya is located on the equator, due to its diverse topography, the climate varies greatly across the country.

Along the coast, the climate is tropical. Rainfall and temperatures are higher throughout the year.

Coastline: Indian Ocean (536km)

Rivers: the Tana (1000km – longest river in Kenya), the Galana, the Nzoia

Mountains: Mount Kenya (highest mountain at 5197 metres) and Mount Elgon (on the border with Uganda)

Natural Hazards: Droughts and floods (worsened by climate change), landslides, minor earthquake tremors

Kenya has a diverse range of traditional foods. Each region has its own specialities. Maize and other cereals are the staple grain of Kenya, depending on the region.

Ugali (cooked maize meal) is often served as a porridge with stew.

Nyama choma is grilled meat – usually goat or sheep. It is usually cooked over an open fire and served with ugali.

Cassava and sweet potatoes are also very popular.

National Parks and Reserves

- There are over 50 **national parks** and **game reserves**.
- They include different types of wildlife and **habitats**, including wetlands, grasslands, forest and **savannah**.
- The Maasai Mara National Reserve is one of the most popular reserves for **tourists** to visit.
- Millions of **tourists** visit the famous reserve to go on safari, explore the landscape and to see the amazing wildlife, including the 'Big Five'.
- Each year visitors come to watch the huge **migration** of wildebeest.
- Some animals in Kenya are **endangered** and are protected within the parks and reserves.

The Maasai Tribe

- Maasai people traditionally live in mud huts made from mud, sticks, grass and cow dung.
- Many Maasai are farmers and own large herds of cows, goats and sheep.
- The Maasai people love music and dance. They often sing and the men perform a special jumping dance.

School Life in Kenya

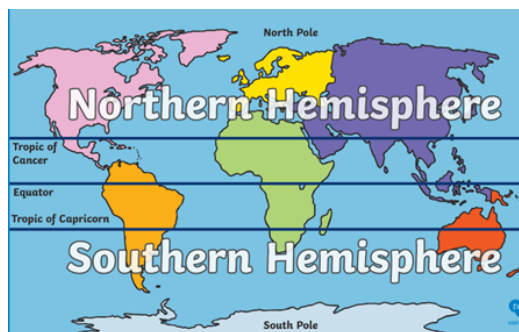
- Most children in Kenya go to school, but not all of them.
- Some children, especially in **rural** areas, are too busy helping their families by working on the farm, cooking or fetching water.
- At school, some children may be different ages but in the same year group.



Traditional mud hut.



Maasai Tribe.



School is free for all children in Kenya. Kenyans place great importance on education so many parents pay for their children to attend university.

Children in Kenya usually start school at six years old and finish their primary education at 14.

Topography: Low plains near the Indian Ocean coast rise into central and western Kenya. This area is mountainous, with the famous Great Rift Valley and Mount Kenya; the highest mountain and an active volcano (5197 metres)

The Tana river is the longest river in Kenya.



Mount Kenya is the highest mountain in Kenya, and the country itself was named after the mountain!



The Great Rift Valley is an enormous valley of mountains which runs from the north to south of Kenya. The valley has a chain of volcanoes which are still 'active' (alive).



Lake Victoria, the second largest lake in the world, is part of the Great Rift Valley.

