

africa in 1914 map worksheet answers

africa in 1914 map worksheet answers are crucial for understanding the geopolitical landscape of the African continent just before the outbreak of World War I. This period marked a significant era of European colonization, with vast swathes of Africa divided and governed by foreign powers. A detailed map of Africa in 1914, coupled with a well-designed worksheet, allows students and researchers to grasp the extent of colonial rule, identify the major colonial powers, and understand the boundaries of the territories they controlled. This article will delve into the common elements found in such worksheets, the typical questions asked, and provide insights into how to accurately answer them, leveraging historical knowledge of the Scramble for Africa. Understanding the political divisions of Africa in 1914 is fundamental to comprehending subsequent historical developments, including the eventual decolonization movements and the formation of modern African states.

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Understanding the Africa in 1914 Map

A map of Africa in 1914 is a visual representation of the continent's political divisions under European colonial rule. By this time, virtually the entire African continent, with the exception of Ethiopia and Liberia, had been claimed and largely partitioned by European powers. These divisions were the result of intense competition among European nations, often referred to as the "Scramble for Africa," which intensified in the late 19th century. The map would clearly delineate the borders of various colonies, protectorates, and spheres of influence, showcasing the arbitrary nature of many of these boundaries, which often disregarded existing ethnic, linguistic, and cultural groupings. Understanding these divisions is paramount for anyone seeking to answer questions related to Africa's colonial past.

The creation of these colonial territories was often driven by economic interests, strategic considerations, and nationalist ambitions of European states. Resources like rubber, diamonds, gold, and agricultural products were highly sought after, providing raw materials for European industries and new markets for manufactured goods. The political maps of 1914 therefore reflect a complex

interplay of economic exploitation and imperialistic rivalry.

Key Colonial Powers in Africa in 1914

Several European nations held significant colonial possessions in Africa by 1914. Identifying these major colonial powers is a fundamental aspect of working with an Africa in 1914 map worksheet. The primary imperial powers were Great Britain and France, who controlled the largest portions of the continent. Following closely were Germany, Belgium, Portugal, Italy, and Spain. Each of these nations had established extensive territorial claims, shaping the political geography of Africa in distinct ways.

The distribution of power and territory varied greatly. For instance, British colonies often stretched from north to south, aiming for a Cape to Cairo railway, while French territories were more concentrated in West Africa and parts of North and Equatorial Africa. Understanding the general geographical concentration of each power helps in accurately identifying territories on the map.

Major Colonial Territories and Their Rulers

Answering questions about specific colonial territories and their administering powers requires a detailed understanding of the map. For example, British territories included Egypt, Sudan, British East Africa (Kenya), Uganda, Northern Rhodesia (Zambia), Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), Bechuanaland (Botswana), Nigeria, Gold Coast (Ghana), Sierra Leone, and the Union of South Africa. French territories were vast, encompassing French West Africa (including Senegal, Mali, Ivory Coast, etc.), French Equatorial Africa (including Chad, Gabon, Congo, etc.), Madagascar, and parts of North Africa like Algeria and Tunisia.

German colonies, though fewer in number, were substantial and included German East Africa (Tanganyika, later part of Tanzania), German South-West Africa (Namibia), Togoland (partially present-day Togo and Ghana), and Kamerun (Cameroon and parts of Nigeria). Belgian Congo (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) was a particularly large and resource-rich territory, controlled directly by King Leopold II before being annexed by Belgium.

Portuguese holdings were primarily in Angola and Mozambique, along with Portuguese Guinea (Guinea-Bissau) and the islands of Cape Verde and São Tomé and Príncipe. Italy controlled Libya, Italian East Africa (Eritrea, Italian Somaliland, and later Ethiopia after a brief invasion in 1935), and a small concession in China.

Spanish colonies were less extensive, mainly comprising Spanish Morocco, Spanish Sahara (Western Sahara), and Equatorial Guinea.

Identifying European Borders on the 1914 Map

The borders depicted on an Africa in 1914 map are often straight lines, a testament to the way European powers carved up the continent with little regard for existing geographical or human landscapes. These straight-line borders were typically drawn based on longitude and latitude, or as extensions from the coast inland. Worksheet questions often require students to trace these lines and identify the nations they separate.

Learning to recognize the characteristic shapes and locations of major colonial territories is key. For instance, the large block of French West Africa, the elongated shape of British East Africa, or the vastness of the Belgian Congo are distinctive. Familiarity with these patterns allows for quicker and more accurate identification.

Common Questions in Africa in 1914 Map Worksheets

Africa in 1914 map worksheets typically pose a range of questions designed to test comprehension of the colonial partitioning. These can include:

- Identifying specific colonies by name or by the colonial power that administered them.
- Naming the colonial power that controlled a particular geographical region (e.g., "Which European power controlled present-day Nigeria in 1914?").
- Color-coding different colonial territories according to their administering power.
- Answering fill-in-the-blank questions about colonial possessions.
- Identifying major geographical features and their relationship to colonial boundaries.
- Questions might also probe the extent of a particular power's influence, such as asking to count the number of colonies controlled by France or Britain.
- Some questions may ask about the location of specific cities or ports within their colonial context.

Accuracy in these answers relies on careful observation of the map and prior knowledge of the historical context. Double-checking names and locations is always advisable.

Navigating Ambiguities and Specific Regions

While most colonial boundaries are clearly marked, some regions might present minor ambiguities or have complex administrative histories. For instance, the status of Egypt was complex, being under

de facto British influence and protectorate status from 1914, though nominally under Ottoman suzerainty until earlier. Similarly, the precise delineation of some inland borders could be subject to interpretation, especially in less explored or contested areas.

Ethiopia and Liberia are important exceptions to the colonial partition and are usually marked as independent nations on such maps. Identifying these independent states is often a key learning objective. Liberia, founded as a settlement for freed American slaves, and Ethiopia, with a long history of statehood and a victory over Italian invasion at Adwa in 1896, stood out against the backdrop of widespread colonization.

Resources for Verifying Africa in 1914 Map Answers

To ensure accuracy when completing an Africa in 1914 map worksheet, it is beneficial to consult reliable historical resources. These can include:

- Academic textbooks on African history or the history of European colonialism.
- Reputable historical atlases that specifically detail colonial Africa.
- Online historical map archives and educational websites that provide verified information on colonial territories.
- Primary source documents, such as colonial treaties or official maps from the era, can offer detailed insights, though they may require interpretation.

Cross-referencing information from multiple sources can help in confirming the accuracy of the answers derived from the provided worksheet map.

Frequently Asked Questions

What was the primary colonial power in North Africa in 1914, according to a typical map?

France was the dominant colonial power in much of North Africa in 1914, controlling territories like Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco (with Spain and Britain also having influence in Morocco).

Which major European power held significant colonies in East Africa in 1914?

Britain held extensive territories in East Africa in 1914, including British East Africa (Kenya), Uganda, and parts of Somaliland and Tanganyika (which was German East Africa at the time).

Identify a key river that often appears on maps of colonial Africa in 1914, often forming colonial borders.

The Congo River was a significant geographical feature, often demarcating borders between Belgian Congo, French Congo, and other colonial territories.

What was the status of South Africa in terms of colonial control in 1914?

South Africa, by 1914, was a self-governing dominion within the British Empire, having achieved Union in 1910, but still under significant British influence.

Which European nation controlled a vast territory in West Africa, stretching across several modern-day countries in 1914?

France controlled a massive swathe of West Africa, encompassing territories like French West Africa, which included modern-day Senegal, Mali, Niger, and Ivory Coast, among others.

What was the name of the German colony in East Africa in 1914, which was a significant part of the continent's colonial landscape?

German East Africa was the name of the German colony in East Africa in 1914, which encompassed much of modern-day Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi.

Which European power was a major colonial player in Southern Africa, controlling areas like Angola and Mozambique in 1914?

Portugal was the colonial power with significant holdings in Southern Africa in 1914, controlling Angola and Mozambique.

Were there any independent African nations remaining in 1914, and if so, where were they typically located on a map?

Yes, Ethiopia (Abyssinia) and Liberia were the only two fully independent African nations in 1914. Ethiopia was located in the Horn of Africa, and Liberia was on the West African coast.

What major resource was often associated with the Belgian Congo on maps depicting Africa in 1914?

Rubber was a primary resource exploited from the Belgian Congo in 1914, notorious for the brutal conditions under which it was extracted.

How did the colonial borders in Africa in 1914 reflect the interests of European powers rather than existing African political or ethnic divisions?

Colonial borders were largely determined by the Berlin Conference of 1884-85 and subsequent agreements among European powers, often drawing arbitrary lines across existing African societies and territories, disregarding ethnic groups and traditional states.

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles related to Africa in 1914, keeping in mind the concept of a "map worksheet answers" implies a focus on geographical and political realities of the time:

1. *The Scramble for Africa: The European Imperative*

This book delves into the motivations behind European colonization in Africa leading up to 1914. It explores the economic, political, and social pressures that drove nations to carve up the continent. Readers can expect a detailed analysis of the treaties, conferences, and rivalries that defined the territorial divisions visible on a 1914 map.

2. *Imperial Borders: Africa's Colonial Cartography*

Focusing on the creation and implementation of colonial boundaries, this title examines how Africa's political map was drawn. It discusses the often arbitrary lines imposed by European powers, disregarding existing ethnic and geographical realities. The book would likely offer insights into the long-term consequences of these imposed borders, crucial for understanding a 1914 map.

3. *Africa on the Brink: Pre-War Colonial Landscapes*

This work provides a snapshot of the continent's geopolitical situation just before the outbreak of World War I. It would detail the various colonial administrations, protectorates, and spheres of influence that characterized Africa in 1914. The book aims to highlight the complex web of European control and the nascent stirrings of resistance across the continent.

4. *Mapping the Continent: European Visions of Africa, 1914*

This title explores the cartographic practices and underlying ideologies of European powers as they represented Africa on maps. It would analyze how these maps reflected colonial ambitions and classifications, revealing the constructed nature of the continent's political geography. The book offers a critical look at the visual language of colonialism.

5. *Colonial Administrations: Governance in African Territories, 1914*

This book offers a comparative study of how different European colonial powers governed their territories in Africa in 1914. It would examine the administrative structures, economic policies, and social control mechanisms employed by Britain, France, Belgium, Germany, Portugal, and Spain. Understanding these systems is key to interpreting the functioning of the polities on a 1914 map.

6. *The Great Powers and Africa: A Geopolitical Atlas, 1914*

This title presents a broad overview of the major European powers' involvement and interests in Africa just prior to World War I. It would likely include maps illustrating the territorial holdings and strategic importance of various regions. The book aims to contextualize Africa's place within the global geopolitical landscape of the era.

7. *African Resistance: Early Challenges to Colonial Rule, 1914*

While focusing on the colonial map, this book acknowledges the agency of African peoples. It would document early forms of resistance, organized or otherwise, against European encroachment and rule as of 1914. This provides a crucial counter-narrative to the purely European-drawn lines of control, essential for a nuanced understanding.

8. *Economic Exploitation: Africa's Resources in 1914*

This work investigates the economic drivers of colonization, focusing on the exploitation of Africa's natural resources by European powers. It would detail the industries established, trade routes developed, and the flow of wealth from the continent. Understanding these economic relationships is vital for grasping the significance of the territorial divisions on a 1914 map.

9. *Dividing Lines: Treaty-Making and Border Creation in Colonial Africa*

This title provides a detailed examination of the diplomatic processes and agreements that led to the establishment of colonial borders. It would analyze key treaties and negotiations that formally demarcated territories across the continent by 1914. The book aims to illuminate the legal and political mechanisms behind the map's creation.

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