THE DECOLONIZATION OF AFRICA

Reading Comprehension and Map Activity Worksheet

Name:

The Decolonization of Africa

During the late nineteenth century, European powers divided Africa and its resources into political partitions at the Berlin Conference. By 1914, Africa was almost completely controlled by European countries. The two exceptions were Liberia, which had been settled by African-American

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>COLONIAL NAME</th>
<th>COLONIAL POWER</th>
<th>INDEPENDENCE DATE</th>
<th>WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Kingdom of Abusz</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>1941</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>Sudan</td>
<td>Anglo-Egyptian Condominium</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>1956</td>
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</table>

Problems with Decolonization

1. When African nations achieved their independence, they often developed unstable nations.
2. The economies of African nations were typically based on one export, making them weak.
3. There was often a lack of educated citizens to take over the governments.

Multiple Choice: Choose the best answer.

Main Idea and Conclusion: The following questions refer to the map. Which country received their independence FIRST?

Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom

A. Belgium
B. France
C. Germany
D. Italy
E. Portugal

In which of the following was the most intense conflict during World War II?

Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom

A. Belgium
B. France
C. Germany
D. Italy
E. Portugal

Which European country controlled the most colonies in Africa?

Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom

A. Belgium
B. France
C. Germany
D. Italy
E. Portugal

The French East Africa was broken into all of the following countries except:

Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom

A. Chad
B. Central African Republic
C. Nigeria
D. Gabon

In which of the following statements is NOT an accurate statement according to the map?

Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom

A. Northern Africa was the first to get their independence.
B. Most of central Africa gained their independence during the RICs.
C. Most of southern Africa gained their independence during the RICs.
D. Most African countries gained their independence in the RICs.

Why do you think the European countries did not prepare the African nations for their independence?

Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom

A. They thought Africans were not ready for self-government.
B. They were not interested in African education.
C. They believed European education was better.
D. They wanted to keep African countries as colonies.

Why is the idea of decolonization important today?

Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom

A. It highlights the importance of national identity.
B. It emphasizes the need for economic development.
C. It draws attention to the impact of colonialism on modern Africa.
D. It serves as a reminder of the need for social justice.

Why did the African nations gain independence?

Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom

A. The end of World War II
B. The rise of nationalism
C. The influence of the United Nations
D. The pressure of the United States

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Which factor contributed most to the end of colonial rule?

Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom

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B. The rise of nationalism
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A. It highlights the importance of national identity.
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D. It serves as a reminder of the need for social justice.
During the late nineteenth century, European powers divided Africa and its resources into political partitions at the Berlin Conference. By 1905, Africa was almost completely controlled by European countries. The two exceptions were Liberia, which had been settled by African-American former slaves, and Ethiopia, which successfully resisted colonization by Italy. Britain and France had the largest amount of control in Africa, but Germany, Spain, Italy, Belgium, and Portugal also had colonies. Africa suffered from long term effects as a result of the colonialism and imperialism. One negative effect was the loss of important natural resources like gold and rubber. The countries were devastated economically. Europeans went into Africa and tried to make the natives just like they were, or what they considered "civilized," also known as the "White Man's Burden." When European leaders divided Africa, they did not take into account the natives' cultural beliefs or rivalries among tribes. This led to conflict among many nations.

Causes of Decolonization

During World II, the African colonies helped their ruling European nations fight their enemies. Despite this, there was no promise of independence for the African nations. There was a shortage of raw materials during the war because Japan conquered many areas where items had previously been found. Africa had to compensate for this shortage, which was beneficial to them. European nations used the help their African colonies gave them, but saw no reason to reward them with independence after the war. They still saw their African colonies as "children" and "immature," only introducing democratic governments on local levels.
Problems with Decolonization

Even when African nations achieved their independence, they had a difficult time developing stable nations.

**Problem #1:** When the European nations had set their boundaries, they did not take into account the ethnic groups involved. This created situations that led to conflicts.

**Problem #2:** The economies of African nations had been geared toward colonial goals, so Europeans did not create mature and stable economies. These newly independent countries had weak economies typically geared toward one industry intended to be exported.

**Problem #3:** There was a lack of educated citizens to take over running the government and economy of African nations. Colonizers did not care about educating Africans because they had little need for highly educated people. Once African nations became independent, not enough Africans had been educated or trained well enough to take over major governmental positions.

Matching: Match each term with its description.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. _____ White Man's Burden</th>
<th>A. Along with France, they held the most colonies in Africa</th>
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<tr>
<td>2. _____ Liberia</td>
<td>B. Europeans created this type of economy in Africa so they were weak and usually only focused on one industry</td>
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<td>3. _____ World War II</td>
<td>C. Meeting of European nations where African borders were established</td>
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<td>4. _____ government</td>
<td>D. Along with rubber, this natural resource was a profitable raw material in Africa</td>
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<td>5. _____ Berlin Conference</td>
<td>E. There was a lack of educated citizens to take over this once the European nations left</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. _____ ethnic groups</td>
<td>F. Country established by African-American former slaves that was not controlled by the Europeans</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. _____ colonial</td>
<td>G. The idea that Europeans must civilize Africans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. _____ Ethiopia</td>
<td>H. African colonies helped European countries fight in this conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. _____ Britain</td>
<td>I. Country that resisted colonization by Italy and remained independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. _____ gold</td>
<td>J. These were not taken into account when European nations divided African boundaries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Multiple Choice: Choose the best answer from the choices provided.

11. Which of the following was NOT a reason decolonization was a problem?
   A. African nations were excited to have control over their own nations.
   B. Boundaries set by European nations did not take into account ethnic groups.
   C. There was a lack of educated citizens to take over the government.
   D. African nations were focused on only one export, making the economies weak.

12. Which of the following is an accurate description of the "White Man's Burden?"
   A. Europeans felt it was their duty to control others.
   B. Europeans felt it was their duty to make Africans "civilized."
   C. Europeans caused conflicts between African ethnic groups.
   D. Europeans forced Africans to fight for their nations during World War II.

Short Answer: Write a sentence or two to answer each question below.

13. Why do you think some European nations were willing to give up their colonies without a fight?

14. Why do you think some European nations fought for their colonies?

15. Why were African nations unprepared to take over the leadership of their countries?

16. Why do you think the European countries did not prepare the African nations for their independence?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>COLONIAL POWER</th>
<th>INDEPENDENCE DATE</th>
<th>WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Kingdom of Aksum</td>
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<td>Remained independent</td>
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<td>American Colonization Society</td>
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<td>Italy, Britain, France</td>
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<td>Western Desert Campaign</td>
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<td>1952 Egyptian Revolution</td>
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<td>Britain</td>
<td>January 1, 1956</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>Tunisia</td>
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<td>France, Spain</td>
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<td>Rifi War, Ifni War</td>
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<td>Gold Coast</td>
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<td>March 6, 1957</td>
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<td>UPC Rebellion</td>
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<td>April 27, 1960</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>Country</td>
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<td>Portugal</td>
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<td>Spain</td>
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<td>Germany, South Africa</td>
<td>March 21, 1990</td>
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<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>Italy, Britain, Ethiopia</td>
<td>May 24, 1993</td>
<td>Eritrean War of Independence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE

DIRECTIONS:
1) Assign a color to each decade in the key.
2) Use the information from the chart to color the country in the decade they won their independence. (If there are multiple dates of independence, choose the last one for the color-coding).
3) Use the information to answer the multiple-choice questions that follow.
Use the map and chart to answer the following questions.

1. Of the following, which country received their independence FIRST?
   A. Chad    B. Madagascar    C. Lesotho    D. Egypt

2. Of the following, which country received their independence LAST?
   A. Mozambique    B. Namibia    C. Niger    D. Mali

3. Which of the following countries did NOT get their independence in 1960?
   A. Burkina Faso    B. Sudan    C. Mali    D. Madagascar

4. Which two countries were never controlled by Europeans?
   A. South Africa and Eritrea    B. Zimbabwe and Nigeria
   C. Ethiopia and Liberia    D. Mali and Algeria

5. In which decade did African nations experience the MOST independence?
   A. 1950s    B. 1960s    C. 1970s    D. 1980s

6. Which European country controlled the most colonies in Africa?
   A. Britain    B. Portugal    C. Germany    D. Italy

7. French Equatorial Africa was broken into all of the following countries EXCEPT which one?
   A. Chad    B. Central African Republic    C. Nigeria    D. Gabon

8. Which of the following was not an African national colonized by France?
   A. Djibouti    B. Mali    C. Tunisia    D. Mozambique

9. What is the most likely reason there were more wars for independence later in the timeline?
   A. Africans became angrier as time went on.
   B. The European countries were not as willing to let these areas go easily.
   C. The European countries wanted to help their colonies set up their government.
   D. The Africans developed superior weapons.

10. Which of the following statements is NOT an accurate statement according to the map?
   A. Northern Africa was the first to get their independence.
   B. Most of central Africa gained their independence during the 1960s.
   C. Most of northern Africa gained their independence during the 1970s.
   D. Most African countries gained their independence in the 1960s.
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<td>2. <em><strong>F</strong></em> Liberia</td>
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<td>3. <em><strong>H</strong></em> World War II</td>
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<td>4. <em><strong>E</strong></em> government</td>
<td>D. Along with rubber, this natural resource was a profitable raw material in Africa</td>
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<td>E. There was a lack of educated citizens to take over this once the European nations left</td>
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Multiple Choice: Choose the best answer from the choices provided.

II. Which of the following was NOT a reason decolonization was a problem?
A. African nations were excited to have control over their own nations.
B. Boundaries set by European nations did not take into account ethnic groups.
C. There was a lack of educated citizens to take over the government.
D. African nations were focused on only one export, making the economies weak.

12. Which of the following is an accurate description of the "White Man's Burden?"
A. Europeans felt it was their duty to control others.
B. Europeans felt it was their duty to make Africans "civilized."
C. Europeans caused conflicts between African ethnic groups.
D. Europeans forced Africans to fight for their nations during World War II.

Short Answer: Write a sentence or two to answer each question below.

13. Why do you think some European nations were willing to give up their colonies without a fight? Many European nations were willing to give up their colonies without a fight because they saw them as a burden to control, especially after World War II.
14. Why do you think some European nations fought for their colonies? Some European nations fought for their colonies because they were profitable.
15. Why were African nations unprepared to take over the leadership of their countries? African nations were unprepared to take over the leadership of their countries because of the type of governments Europeans nations established, giving locals very little control.
16. Why do you think the European countries did not prepare the African nations for their independence? European countries did not prepare African nations for independence because they did not want them to take over at the time, so they did not give them the tools or idea for self-government.
AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE

DIRECTIONS:
1) Assign a color to each decade in the key.
2) Use the information from the chart to color the country in the decade they won their independence. (If there are multiple dates of independence, choose the last one for the color-coding).
3) Use the information to answer the multiple-choice questions that follow.
Use the map and chart to answer the following questions.

1. Of the following, which country received their independence FIRST?
   A. Chad  B. Madagascar  C. Lesotho  D. Egypt

2. Of the following, which country received their independence LAST?
   A. Mozambique  B. Namibia  C. Niger  D. Mali

3. Which of the following countries did NOT get their independence in 1960?
   A. Burkina Faso  B. Sudan  C. Mali  D. Madagascar

4. Which two countries were never controlled by Europeans?
   A. South Africa and Eritrea  B. Zimbabwe and Nigeria  
   C. Ethiopia and Liberia  D. Mali and Algeria

5. In which decade did African nations experience the MOST independence?
   A. 1950s  B. 1960s  C. 1970s  D. 1980s

6. Which European country controlled the most colonies in Africa?
   A. Britain  B. Portugal  C. Germany  D. Italy

7. French Equatorial Africa was broken into all of the following countries EXCEPT which one?
   A. Chad  B. Central African Republic  C. Nigeria  D. Gabon

8. Which of the following was not an African national colonized by France?
   A. Djibouti  B. Mali  C. Tunisia  D. Mozambique

9. What is the most likely reason there were more wars for independence later in the timeline?
   A. Africans became angrier as time went on.  
   B. The European countries were not as willing to let these areas go easily.  
   C. The European countries wanted to help their colonies set up their government.  
   D. The Africans developed superior weapons.

10. Which of the following statements is NOT an accurate statement according to the map?
    A. Northern Africa was the first to get their independence.  
    B. Most of central Africa gained their independence during the 1960s.  
    C. Most of northern Africa gained their independence during the 1970s.  
    D. Most African countries gained their independence in the 1960s.