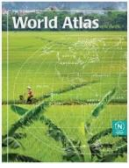


Atlas Analysis

Nystrom World Atlas, 5th edition



An atlas, a collection of maps, contains a wealth of geographic information. In this exercise you will explore the variety of information contained in the Nystrom Atlas. Be sure to record the page number that you used to obtain the answer. In some of the questions you will be asked to make a hypothesis. Be creative.

Part I: This and That

1. What is an atlas? Why do geographers use atlases and maps?
2. Where is the world's largest lake located?
3. Do all continents have mountain peaks over 20,000 feet? How can you prove it?
4. What is the population of Antarctica? Why?
5. Which continent does not have many large lakes?

Part II: The Southern Ocean and Antarctica

Did you know? in 2000 the International Hydrographic Organization designated the boundaries of the Southern Ocean.

Use a world map and locate the Southern Ocean.

1. What continent does it border?
2. What latitude line designates the northernmost boundary of the Southern Ocean?



Examine the map of Antarctica on p. 105.

3. Why do you think that line was chosen?
4. What is unusual about the map's legend?

Part III: All About Maps

Find and examine the Index of Places.

1. How are the Index of Places and the Glossary alike and different?
2. What types of geographic features does the index include? How did you know?

Look up Armenia in the Index of Places.

3. In which two hemispheres is Armenia located? How did you tell?
4. Of the two pages referenced in the entry which provides a better view of Armenia?
5. How do the scales on both maps differ?
6. What is the capital of Armenia? How do you know?
7. Which countries border Armenia?
8. According to the map, is Armenia in Asia or Europe? How do you know?

Did you know? Different styles of type (size, bold, italics, capital letters etc.) indicate differences among features.

Use the Political Relief Map of the Middle East, p. 92.

9. How does the map show the following features
 - a. country names
 - b. large and small cities
 - c. bodies of water
 - d. names of continents
 - e. deserts
 - f. mountain ranges

Part IV: Interpreting Thematic Maps

Use the maps of Africa, pp. 62 -67.

1. In which hemispheres is Africa located?
2. How does the atlas show the countries that do not belong to the continent of Africa?
3. What is the name of the dotted line that runs through Algeria, Libya, and Egypt?
4. What other African countries does the dotted line run through?
5. According to the atlas, is Western Sahara a country? How does the map indicate this information? What additional information does the map on p. 66 provide?
6. Which elevation zone is the most prevalent in Africa?
7. State the relationship between the length of the growing season and precipitation.
8. What is the predominant land use in Africa?
9. Which other thematic maps could account for the types of land use you observed?
10. What does the land cover map show?
11. Compare the land cover map and the elevation map. How are they alike and different?
12. Which areas of Africa are the most sparsely populated? Which areas are the most densely populated?
13. How are the land use and population maps related?
14. Which countries are the most urbanized?
15. Why don't thematic maps have country names on them?

Part V: Prove or Disprove

Which map/s would you use to test the statement's accuracy?

- The Congo Basin has the highest elevation on the continent of Africa.
- The Congo Basin is a grassland.
- Th Botswana is a landlocked (does not touch an ocean) country.
- The Sahara covers a larger land area than the United States (excluding Alaska and Hawaii).
- The highest yearly precipitation occurs near the equator.
- Areas with the longest growing seasons have subsistence farming.
- Ranching or herding is a predominant land use in Africa.
- Africa's major urban areas are located in the interior of the continent.
- The average percent urban is around 50% throughout the continent.
- All of the countries in Africa received their independence from colonial powers in 1945.

How is land use in land uses of Africa and Australia alike and different?