

# Congo: Geography

*Global History, Unit I, Social Studies Essentials*



## Learning Target

Explain how the physical geography of a place such as the Congo impacts humans, animals and the environment.

## Location of Congo (left side notes)



## **Location of Congo** (left side notes)

(right side of notes)

- located in Central Africa
- second largest country in Africa
  - slightly less than one-fourth the size of the US
  - similar in size to Western Europe

# Physical Geography (left side notes)

(right side of notes)

- Equator runs through it: tropical rainforest; hot / humid
  - 2nd largest rainforest in the world
- Mountains (Mts) in the East, active volcanoes
- less than 3% of land is good for farming (arable)
- Congo River

## **Natural Resources** (left side of notes)

(right side of notes)

- rich in diamonds, gold, copper, cobalt and zinc.
- coltan, used in mobile phones and other electronic items
- Natural riches have attracted outside corporations, vicious warlords and corrupt governments who have divided the population between competing ethnic groups
- people do not benefit from resources

# **Animal Life** (left side of notes) (right side of notes)

- **Endangered Animals:**

- Mountain Gorilla
- Chimpanzee
- Bonobo
- White Rhino
- African Elephant

- **Threats:**

- illegal hunting
- victims of war
- meat
- mining
- deforestation





# **Human Geography** (left side of notes)

(right side of notes)

- **Demographics**(study of population):
  - over 200 ethnic groups : majority are Bantu
  - **languages: French, Lingala, Kingwana and several others depending on tribal group**
  - **life expectancy: 56 years (76 in the United States)**

## **Human Geography** (left side of notes)

(right side of notes)

- Threat To Humans- War
  - civil war since independence in 1960's
  - conflicts in neighboring Rwanda & Uganda spilled into Eastern Congo
  - Estimated 5.4 million people died in war-related conflict, world's deadliest conflict since WWII

## **Human Geography** (left side of notes)

(right side of notes)

- Threats To Humans - Poverty and Disease
  - poor access to clean drinking water
  - malaria
  - malnutrition
  - AIDs
  - Ebola



**Complete Summary: Answer the question / learning target using the information you have in your notes.**