

ACTIVITY **3** REGIONAL FOCUS (THE NORTH AFRICAN REGION)

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## TEACHER RESOURCE SHEET

North Africa includes six countries (listed below):

Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, and Western Sahara

**History:**

The distinction between Northern Africa and the rest of Africa is historically and ecologically significant because of the effective barrier created by the Sahara. Throughout history this barrier has culturally separated the North from the rest of Africa and, as the seafaring civilizations of the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans and others facilitated communication and migration across the Mediterranean, the cultures of North Africa became much more closely tied to Southwestern Asia and Europe than Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Language:**

The Islamic influence in the area is significant, and North Africa, along with the Middle East, is a major part of the Arab World. The official language or one of the official languages in all of the countries in North Africa is Arabic.

**Religion:**

The largest ethnic groups in North Africa are the Arabs and Berbers. All countries in North Africa are predominantly Muslim, with Christian and Jewish minorities.