

Water Safari: A Journey of Life

A WebQuest to the Water in Africa Web Site



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Introduction

Congratulations! You have been chosen by the United States Peace Corps to conduct an investigation about how water affects the lives of Peace Corps volunteers living in Africa. Using the resources on the Water in Africa Web site, you will visit at least four countries and seek answers to the following essential questions:

How do human systems develop in response to water conditions in the physical environment?

How do human actions with water modify the environment?

Your findings will assist the Peace Corps to create a training video that volunteers to Africa will view as part of their initial training. Your deliverables to Peace Corps will include several lists of recommendations and the reasons for each of your recommendations.

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Tasks

You will work on a team of [three students](#) to:

1. Visit the Water in Africa Web site, to read the stories and review the images
2. Collect data about how people have created systems to deal with their water resources and how the systems they have created have impacted the environment.
3. Record your own impressions and reflections about the images and stories you read in a personal journal.
4. Create a document and/or media presentation for the Peace Corps that includes:
 - A [list of countries](#) that you feel should be used to depict the relationship between physical systems, human systems, and the environment.
 - A [list of no more than 10 photos](#) from your chosen countries that illustrate the physical/human systems and the environmental question.
 - The [names of no more than five Volunteers](#) that you believe should be interviewed further based on quotes that you present to Peace Corps from their stories on the Water in Africa Web site.
 - A [two-page report](#) that describes the procedures your group used, and gives the rationale behind your recommendations of countries, photos, and Volunteers.

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Process

Day One

1. Each group will have three participants each with a different job function. The jobs will rotate daily, so each person will eventually have completed each function. The job functions are Navigator—the person who is in charge of the computer keyboard and mouse; Data Transcriber—the person that takes notes on the data collection sheet; and Tracker—the person that makes lists the names of the Volunteers whose stories are read, and the identifying numbers of the photos that have been reviewed.
2. Using the home page for the [Water in Africa](#) Web site, choose five countries from the map showing where Peace Corps Volunteers serve. These will be the countries where you collect your data. You must visit at least four of these five countries. You should try to choose the countries carefully so you don't have to make changes mid-way through your project. You may want to consider a regional view of Africa by choosing countries that are all in the same region, or you may want to show contrast between regions by choosing countries that are in different regions on the continent. For more help in understanding the regions of Africa, consult your geography textbook, an encyclopedia, or an online encyclopedia.
3. As a group, complete the first page of your data sheet and be ready to report to the class on the plans you developed to complete your web quest.

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Days Two and Three

1. Discuss the essential questions that you must investigate. Try to reach a consensus about what they mean and the criteria for choosing photos and stories.

How do human systems develop in response to water conditions in the physical environment?

How do human actions with water modify the environment?

Note: You might have to discuss and decide upon a definition of physical systems and human systems before you can reach an understanding. You may use your geography textbook, the [National Geographic](#)

[\[http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/main.html?STST=hall\]](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/main.html?STST=hall) web site, or a print or online encyclopedia to assist you.

2. List your criteria for photos on page two of your data document. Then begin your search of the photos from the countries you have chosen to investigate.

3. Your deliverable to Peace Corps is a list of no more than 10 photos from the countries you investigate. Will you find all the photos related to your topics and then choose the 10 best or will you make a final decision on each photo as you look at it? Start at

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/www/water/africa/resources/index.html>

4. The Tracker should list all the photos that your group considered so you don't duplicate your work.

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5. On page two of your data document, the Data Transcriber should list which 10 photos your group will recommend and the notes about why your group chose each photo.
6. Before you end your work for the day, write your thoughts and feelings about what you have seen in the photos in your personal journal.

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Days Four and Five

1. Now that you have chosen the photos that you will recommend to Peace Corps, you are responsible for listing no more than five Volunteers that your group believes should be interviewed further. Your decision should be based on something they have written in the stories included in the Water in Africa Web site. To get a direct link to the stories from all the countries, use this link

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/www/water/africa/resources/index.html>

2. All the members of your group are responsible for reading the stories. The Tracker should be keeping a list of all the URLs that you visit today so you don't waste time by revisiting sections that you've already read. The Data Transcriber should be copying quotes that you think will prove that this Volunteer should be interviewed. (You could also print the page and the Data Transcriber could highlight the sections of the stories that your group believes should be used.)

3. Keep track of your decisions on page three of your data document.

4. Before you end your work for the day, write your thoughts and feelings the Volunteers' stories in your personal journal.

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Days Six and Seven

1. You now have collected all your data and recorded all your personal impressions of it. Now it is time to plan the report that you will submit to Peace Corps. The deliverable requires a two-page summary of your procedures and the reasons for your recommendations. The lists--countries, photos and volunteers--should be on a separate page. Additionally, in order to make a good impression on your clients, you will want to create a cover for the document that reflects the importance of the topic.
2. Complete the outline on page four and five of your data document to help you write your report. The Data Transcriber is the person who will be doing the writing, but the group will decide what is to be written.
3. After your outline is complete, you should begin to write the first draft of your document. Follow your outline, but be sure to include some of your own impressions from your personal journal. Your document will be evaluated using the rubric found on the last page of this document. Therefore, it would be prudent to pay close attention to the elements listed on the rubric.
4. You may use a word processor, or if that is not possible, you may submit your report in clear, neat handwriting. If you are using a word processor, your document should be double-spaced, and you should Times New Roman font size 12. If you are handwriting

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your document, you may not skip lines on the final product. There may not be any spelling or grammar errors, since this is going to an important federal agency.

5. Your group should decide how to create the cover of the document. You may download photos and print them, (see <http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws/water/africa/help/>) you may draw a design, or you may use an artistic idea of your own. One person may create the cover, or it can be a group effort.

6. All the members of your group should have proofread your final draft before submitting it to your teacher.

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Resources

Main Resources

Water in Africa homepage <http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws/water/africa>

Water in Africa Resources

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws/water/africa/resources/index.html>

Additional Links

Letters from Mali <http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws/letters/mali/index.html>

National Geographic Xpeditions

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/main.html> (Pay close attention to

Physical Systems and Human Systems in this hall

World Wise Schools Videos and Teacher Guides

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws/videos.html>

“Destination Cameroon”

“Destination Lesotho”

“Destination Senegal”

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Evaluation of Your Recommendations to Peace Corps

Group Name _____

Group Members _____

Area	Points	Descriptors
Content Accuracy	/20	The students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showed by their completion of the data document that they have an understanding of the physical and human characteristics of places
Content Depth	/40	The students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showed by their choice of photos and quotations that they had an understanding of how human systems develop in response to water conditions in the physical environment • Showed by their choice of photos and quotations that they had an understanding of how human actions with water modify the environment.
Process	/30	The students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in all job functions cooperatively • Used the general skills and strategies of the writing process to complete the report (pre-writing, drafting and revising, editing and publishing) • Used complete sentences, parts of speech, spelling, punctuation and capitalization appropriately
Presentation and Neatness	/5	The students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used word processing software or neat handwriting to produce an attractive and clean document
Creativity	/5	The students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produced an attractive and unique cover for the report
Total	/100	Comments: