

East Africa Today

If YOU lived there...

You are a safari guide in one of Kenya's amazing national parks. Your safari van, filled with tourists, is parked at the edge of the vast savanna. It is early evening, and you are waiting for animals to come to a water hole for a drink. As it grows darker, a huge lion appears then stalks away on huge paws.

What benefits do tourists bring to your country?

Main Ideas

1. National parks are a major source of income for Tanzania and Kenya.
2. Rwanda and Burundi are densely populated rural countries with a history of ethnic conflict.
3. Both Sudan and Uganda have economies based on agriculture, but Sudan has suffered from years of war.
4. The countries of the Horn of Africa are among the poorest in the world.

The Big Idea

East Africa has abundant national parks, but most of the region's countries are poor and recovering from conflicts.

Key Terms and Places

safari, p. 403

geothermal energy, p. 403

genocide, p. 405

Darfur, p. 405

Mogadishu, p. 407

TAKING NOTES

As you read, take notes on East Africa's people and economies. Use a chart like the one below to organize your notes.

	People	Economy
Tanzania and Kenya		
Rwanda and Burundi		
Sudan and Uganda		
Horn of Africa		

BUILDING BACKGROUND Many of the countries of East Africa are rich in natural resources—including wildlife—but people disagree about the best way to use them. Droughts can make life here difficult. In addition, political and ethnic conflicts have led to unrest and violence in some areas of the region.

Close-up

Serengeti National Park

The Serengeti Plain is home to one of the world's greatest concentrations of wildlife. In Tanzania, part of the plain is a national park. About 100,000 tourists visit the Serengeti each year to view its diverse wildlife.

Huge herds of wildebeest migrate across the Serengeti each year.

ANALYSIS SKILL ANALYZING VISUALS

How would you describe the Serengeti landscape?

Tanzania and Kenya Today

The economies of both Tanzania and Kenya rely heavily on tourism and agriculture. However, both countries are among the poorest in the world.

Economy and Resources

Tanzania and Kenya are popular tourist destinations. With more than 2 million tourists visiting each year, tourism is a major source of income for both countries. Today many tourists visit Tanzania and Kenya to go on a safari in the countries' numerous national parks. **A safari is an overland journey to view African wildlife.**

In addition to tourism, Tanzania is particularly rich in gold and diamonds. However, it is still a poor country of mainly subsistence farmers. Poor soils and limited technology have restricted productivity.

In Kenya, much of the land has been set aside as national parkland. Many people would like to farm these lands, but farming would endanger African wildlife. Kenya's economy and tourism industry would likely be affected as well.

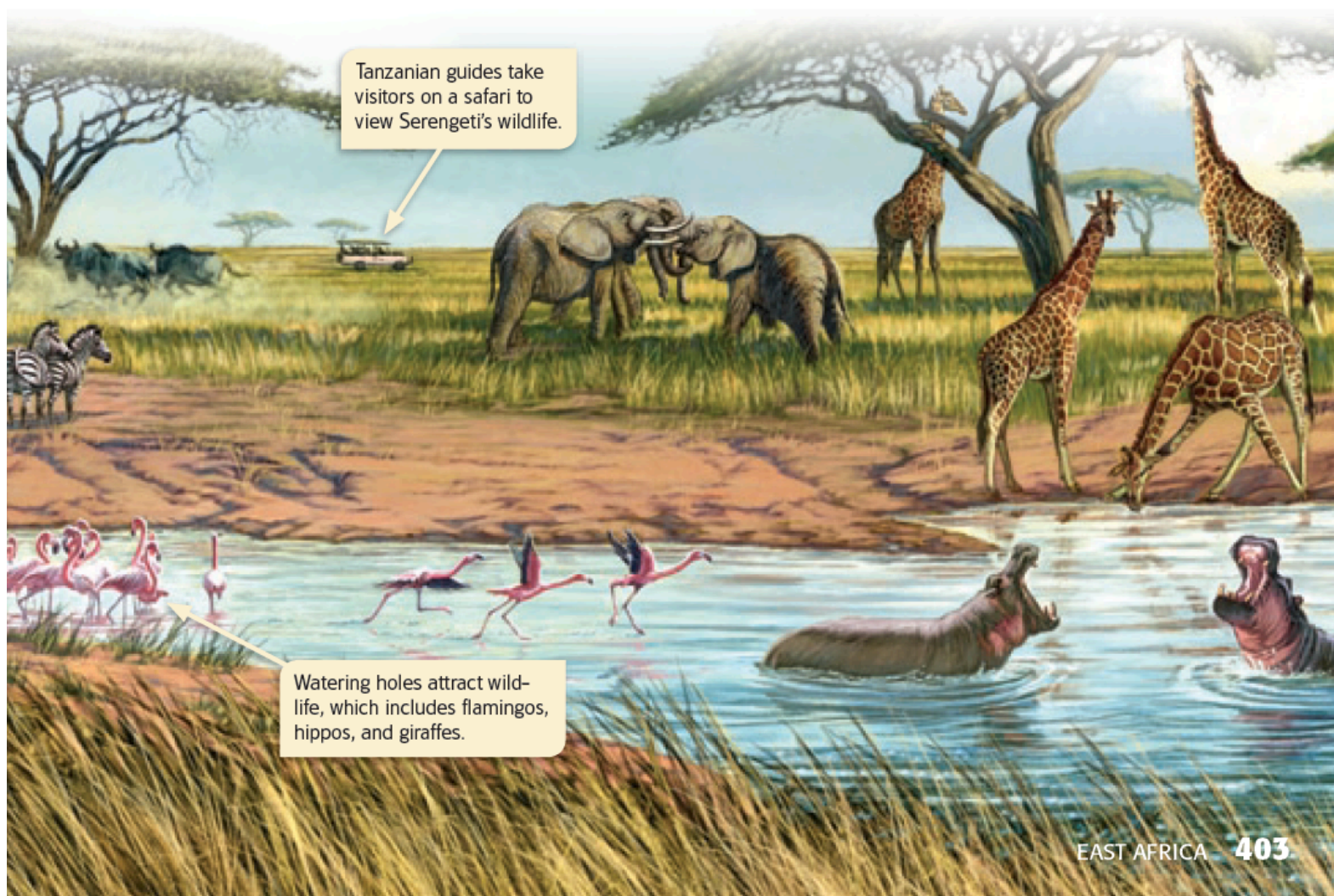
Kenya's economy relies mostly on agriculture. Mount Kilimanjaro's southern slopes are a rich agricultural region. The rich soils here provide crops of coffee and tea for exports.

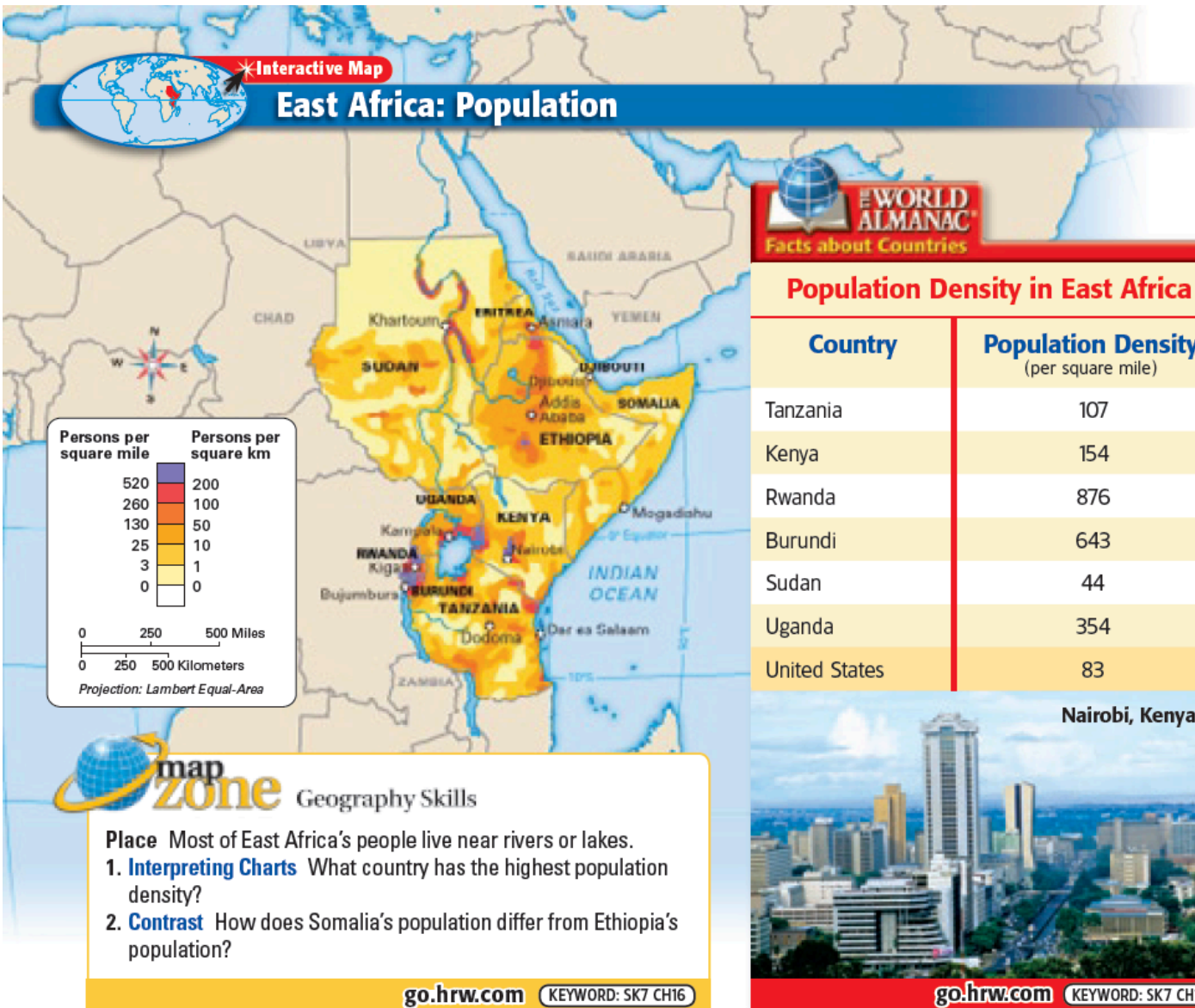
Kenya's economy also benefits from another natural resource—geothermal energy. **Geothermal energy is energy produced from the heat of Earth's interior.** This heat—in the form of extremely hot steam—comes up to the surface through cracks in the rift valleys.

READING CHECK Finding Main Ideas What activity supports the economies of both Tanzania and Kenya?

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

affect to change or influence





Cities

Imagine a large city with businesspeople hurrying to work, colorful outdoor markets, soaring skyscrapers, and beautiful parks. The capitals of Tanzania and Kenya both fit this description of a vibrant, modern African city.

Tanzania's official capital is Dodoma. The Tanzanian government began moving its capital from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma in the mid-1970s. Dar es Salaam, a port city with about 2.3 million people, is located on the Indian Ocean and is Tanzania's business center.

Kenya's capital, Nairobi, also serves as the country's industrial center. In addition,

Nairobi is well connected with the rest of East Africa by a network of railways. By rail, Kenya transports tea and other major crops to the major port of Mombasa.

Even though Kenya and Tanzania are peaceful countries, Dar es Salaam and Nairobi have both endured terrorist attacks. In 1998 members of the al Qaeda terrorist group bombed the U.S. embassies in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi. Most of the more than 250 people killed and the thousands injured were Africans.

READING CHECK

Draw Conclusions Why do you think it would be important for the railroad to link Kenya's cities?

Rwanda and Burundi Today

Rwanda and Burundi are mostly populated by two ethnic groups—the Tutsi and the Hutu. Since gaining independence from Germany, differences between the Tutsi and Hutu ethnic groups have led to conflict in Rwanda and Burundi. These conflicts have roots in the region's history. The colonial borders of Rwanda and Burundi drawn by Europeans often lumped different ethnic groups into one country.

In Rwanda in the 1990s, hatred between the Hutu and the Tutsi led to genocide. A **genocide is the intentional destruction of a people**. The Hutu tried to completely wipe out the Tutsi. Armed bands of Hutu killed hundreds of thousands of Tutsi.

Rwanda and Burundi are two of the most densely populated countries in all of Africa. These two countries are located in fertile highlands and share a history as German colonies. Both countries lack resources and rely on coffee and tea exports for economic earnings.

READING CHECK Analyzing What contributed to the region's ethnic conflict?

Sudan and Uganda Today

Sudan is Africa's largest country. It is a mainly agricultural country with few mineral resources. Arab Muslims make up about 40 percent of Sudan's population and have political power. They dominate northern Sudan and the capital, Khartoum.

For decades, Sudan has suffered from religious and ethnic conflict. Muslims and Christians fought a civil war for many years. More recently, a genocide occurred in a region of Sudan called **Darfur**. Ethnic conflict there resulted in tens of thousands of black Sudanese being killed by an Arab militia group. Millions more have fled Darfur and are scattered throughout the region as refugees.

Today Uganda is still recovering from several decades of a military dictatorship. Since 1986 Uganda has become more democratic, but economic progress has been slow. About 80 percent of Uganda's workforce is employed in agriculture, with coffee as the country's major export.

READING CHECK Summarizing What ethnic group dominates northern Sudan?

FOCUS ON READING

In the paragraphs under Rwanda and Burundi, what details support the main idea that these countries have a history of ethnic conflict?

Refugees in Sudan

People from Sudan who fled the country's Darfur region receive food and aid at a refugee camp.



People of the Horn of Africa



More than half of Eritrea's population are Christian and belong to the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.



In Ethiopia, boys help their families herd sheep.



A teacher in Somalia shows a student how to use the school's new computer.

The Horn of Africa

Four East African countries located on the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean are called the Horn of Africa. This area is called the Horn because it resembles the horn of a rhinoceros. The Horn's people, economies, and resources vary by country.

Ethiopia

Unlike the other countries of the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia has never been under foreign rule. The country's mountains have protected the country from invasion.

In addition to providing a natural defense barrier, Ethiopia's rugged mountain slopes and highlands have rich volcanic soil. As a result, agriculture is Ethiopia's chief economic activity. Ethiopia's economy benefits from exports of coffee, livestock, and oilseeds. Many people also herd sheep and cattle.

During the last 30 years Ethiopia has experienced serious droughts. In the 1980s, drought caused the loss of crops and the starvation of several million people. In contrast, Ethiopia has experienced plenty of rainfall in recent years. Farmers are now able to grow their crops.

Most Ethiopians living in the highlands are Christian, while most of the lowland people are Muslim. Many Ethiopians speak Amharic, the country's official language.

Eritrea

In the late 1800s the Italians made present-day Eritrea a colony. In the 1960s it became an Ethiopian province.

After years of war with Ethiopia, Eritrea broke away from Ethiopia in 1993. Since then the economy has slowly improved. The country's Red Sea coastline is lined with spectacular coral reefs, which attracts tourists to the country. Most Eritreans are farmers or herders. The country's economy relies largely on cotton exports.

Somalia

Somalia is a country of deserts and dry savannas. Because Somalia is so dry, much of the land is not suitable for farming. As a result, Somalis are nomadic herders. Live-stock is the country's main export.

Somalia is less diverse than most other African countries. Most people in the country are members of a single ethnic group, the Somali. In addition, most Somalis are Muslims and speak the same African language, also called Somali.

Somalia has been troubled by violence in the past. In addition, the country has often had no central government of any kind. Different clans have fought over grazing rights and control over port cities such as **Mogadishu**.

In the 1990s Somalis experienced widespread starvation caused by a civil war and a severe drought. The United Nations sent aid and troops to the country. U.S. troops also assisted with this operation.

Djibouti

Djibouti (ji-BOO-tee) is a small, desert country. It lies on the Bab al-Mandab, which is the narrow strait that connects the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. The strait lies along a major shipping route.

In the 1860s the French took control of Djibouti. It did not gain independence from France until 1977. The French government still contributes economic and military support to the country. As a result, French is one of Djibouti's two official languages. The other is Arabic.

The country's capital and major port is also called Djibouti. The capital serves as a port for landlocked Ethiopia. Since Djibouti has very few resources, the port is a major source of the country's income.

The people of Djibouti include two major ethnic groups—the Issa and the Afar. The Issa are closely related to the people

of Somalia. The Afar are related to the people of Ethiopia. Members of both groups are Muslim. In the early 1990s, a civil war between the Afar and Issa broke out. In 2001 the two groups signed a peace treaty, which ended the fighting.

READING CHECK **Generalizing** What do the people of Djibouti have in common with people from other countries in East Africa?

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW The countries of East Africa are poor, but rich in wild-life and resources. Next, you will learn about the region of Central Africa.

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Online Quiz

KEYWORD: SK7 HP16

Section 3 Assessment

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places

- Define** What is **geothermal energy**?
 - Make Generalizations** Why are Kenyans not allowed to farm in national parks?
- Define** What is **genocide**?
 - Explain** What are the two ethnic groups that make up the population of Rwanda and Burundi?
- Identify** What is the largest country in Africa?
 - Analyze** Why are millions of Sudanese refugees?
- Recall** What two major world religions are practiced in Ethiopia?
 - Analyze** How do you think Djibouti's location has helped its economy?

Critical Thinking

5. **Summarize** Draw a chart like this one. Using your notes, summarize in at least two sentences what you learned about each country.

Ethiopia	→	
Eritrea	→	
Somalia	→	
Djibouti	→	

FOCUS ON WRITING

6. **Writing about East Africa Today** Think about what it would be like to travel through the East African countries. What would you want to tell your friend about their people, their governments, their economies? Make a list of the details you would share.