LPSCE Social Studies Review

Grade 6

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Background**

***This is Liberia!***

 **Introduction**

 If the name ‘Liberia’ seems related to the word ‘liberty’ or ‘liberation,’ this is no accident. Liberia was founded by liberated African-American slaves in 1822 and became the first independent African republic in 1847. Since 1989, Liberia has suffered the bloodshed and chaos of civil war. However, the early history of this country is different from any other African state. The chapters that follow will view Liberia through the lenses of culture, history, social customs, politics, and economy.

**Liberia in Facts and Figures**

 **Population:** 5, 073, 396 (2015 est.)

 **Age structure:**

 0-14 years: 43.4% (male 724,960; female 716,831)

 15-64 years: 53% (male 858,191; female 898,851)

 65 years and over: 3.6% (male 59,539; female 58,804) (2003 est.)

 **Population growth rate:** 1.67% (2003 est.)

**Birth rate:** 45.28 births/1,000 population (2003 est.)

 **Death rate:** 17.84 deaths/1,000 population (2003 est.)

 **Net migration rate:** -10.7 migrant(s)/1,000 population Note: 200,000 Liberian refugees are in surrounding countries, though slowly returning (2003 est.)

**Sex ratio:** At birth: 1.03 male(s)/female Under 15 years: 1.01 male(s)/female 15-64 years: 0.95 male(s)/female 65 years and over: 1.01 male(s)/female Total population: 0.98 male(s)/female (2003 est.)

**Infant mortality rate**: Total: 132.18 deaths/1,000 live births Female: 125.11 deaths/1,000 live births (2003 est.) Male: 139.03 deaths/1,000 live births

**Life expectancy at birth:** Total population: 48.15 years Male: 47.03 years Female: 49.3 years (2003 est.)

**Total fertility rate:** 6.23 children born/woman (2003 est.)

 **Nationality:** Noun: Liberian(s) Adjective: Liberian

 **Liberian Ethnic groups:** Native African tribes 95% (including Kpelle, Bassa, Gio, Kru, Grebo, Mano, Krahn, Gola, Gbandi, Loma, Kissi, Vai, Dey, Sapo, Mandingo, and Belle), Americo-Liberians 2.5% (descendants of immigrants from the US who had been slaves), Congo People 2.5% (descendants of immigrants from the Caribbean who had been slaves)

 **Religions**: Christian 83.1%, Muslim 14.7%, Others 2.1% (2015 est.)

**Literacy:** Definition: age 15 and over can read and write

**Total population:** 57.5% Male: 73.3% Female: 41.6% Note: (2015 est.)

 **Country Name:** Conventional long form: Republic of Liberia Conventional short form: Liberia

**Government type:** Republic Capital: Monrovia Administrative divisions: 15 counties; Bomi, Bong, Gbarpolu, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Lofa, Margibi, Maryland, Montserrado, Nimba, Rivercess, River Gee, Sinoe

**Independence**: 26 July 1847 National holiday:

**Independence Day,** 26 July (1847)

**Constitution:** 6 January 1986

 **Legal system:** Dual system of statutory law based on Anglo-American common law for the modern sector and customary law based on unwritten tribal practices for the native sector.

**Suffrage:** 18 years of age; universal

 **Executive branch:** Following the 2017 general election, former professional football striker George Weah was sworn in as President on 22 January 2018.

**Cabinet**: The Cabinet is appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

 **Elections**: The president is elected by popular vote for a six-year term, which is renewable.

 **Legislative branch:** The bicameral National Assembly consists of 30-seat Senate, whose members are elected by popular vote to serve nine-year terms, and a 74-seat House of Representatives, whose members are elected by popular vote to serve six-year terms.

**Judicial branch**: The Supreme Court is the highest judicial body in the country. The court consists of the Chief, and four associate justices. Judge term length: 70 years.

**Political parties and leaders**: All Liberia Coalition Party (ALCOP); Liberian Action Party (LAP); Liberian National Union (LINU); Liberian People's Party (LPP); National Democratic Party of Liberia (NDPL); National Patriotic Party (NPP); People's Progressive Party (PPP); Reformation Alliance Party (RAP); True Whig Party (TWP); United People's Party (UPP); Unity Party (UP)

**International organization participation includes:** ACP, AfDB, CCC, ECA, ECOWAS, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, ILO, IMF, IMO, Inmarsat, Intelsat (non-signatory user), Interpol, IOC, IOM, ITU, NAM, OAU, OPCW, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO

 **Illicit drugs:** Liberia is increasingly being used as a trans-shipment point for Southeast and Southwest Asian heroin as well as South American cocaine for the European and US markets.

**Geography**

 For a small country of 43,000 square miles (just slightly larger than the state of Tennessee), Liberia has a surprising variety of geographical features. To start, the Atlantic coast line of Liberia stretches for 350 miles. A number of rivers, streams, creeks, and lagoons drain into the Atlantic. The Mano River forms the border with Sierra Leone in the northwest; in the southeast, the Ivory Coast lies just across the Cavally River. In addition to these two principal waterways, the Lofa flows in the north while the St. John, St. Paul, and Cestos Rivers flow in parallel directions, forming a right angle with the Atlantic Coast. A dam has been built on the Farmington River, providing hydro-electric power. With all these rivers and their tributaries interlacing the land, Liberia seldom faces a shortage of water. On the other hand, low-lying areas are subject to flooding during the rainy season. Moving inland from the shore, the topography is characterized by a rolling coastal plain extending some 25 to 50 miles. Towards the edge of this plain, the land rises to form plateaus approximately 800 feet above sea level, covered with grass and rainforest and broken with hills and mountains. These mountains belong to two ranges, the Bong and the Putu. At 4,528 feet, Mount Wuteve, situated in the north near the borders with Guinea and Sierra Leone, stands as Liberia’s highest point. With such proximity to the equator, Liberia enjoys a warm, tropical climate year round, with average temperatures of 80°F (highs in the 90s) on the coast and coastal plain and 65 degrees in the mountainous area of the north. The rainy season lasts from May to October, and then the dry season takes over until April. Rainfall, however, is not uniform across the country. Certain parts of the coast, such as Cape Mount, may receive as much as 205 inches per year, while only 70 inches of rain falls on the central plateau annually. In December and January, a hot, dry wind known as the Harmattan originating in the southern Sahara Desert blows dust across Liberia. Liberia’s crops include: bananas, cacao, cassava, coffee Liberia’s crops include: bananas, cacao, cassava, coffee, kola, mango, okra, palm oil, papaya, and rubber. Iron ore tops the list of Liberia’s mineral wealth, making this country one of the top iron exporters in the world. Liberia also mines barite, cyanite, diamonds, gold, graphite, lead, and manganese.

**History**

 **Portuguese Exploration**

Like most other African countries, Liberia is a parcel of real estate carved out of the continent by non-Africans and confined within artificial frontiers that neither reflect tribal territories nor respect the traditional borders based on ethno-linguistic divisions. The first foreigners to set foot on the soil of what is now known as Liberia were the Portuguese in the 15th century. They gave the names “Cape Mesurado” and “Cape Palmas” to two of the prominent coastal areas. Their initial interest lay in the acquisition of African pepper to trade in Europe. In subsequent centuries, the Portuguese plying the shores of western Africa shifted their attention to the slave trade, which soon turned into a flourishing business.

 **American Colonization and the Founding of Liberia**

 In 19th century America, sentiment for the abolition of slavery began to grow. Furthermore, the idea of repatriating freed African-American slaves to the continent of their heritage gathered support. In pursuit of this objective, the American Colonization Society (ACS) was formed in 1817 with the support of churches, abolitionist groups, and border state legislatures. ACS representatives accompanied US government officials in finding land in Africa and negotiating with King Peter Zolu Duma to purchase the land. This land was located in the vicinity of Cape Mesurado and in 1821 the transaction was completed. The first repatriated African-Americans arrived at the mouth of the Mesurado River in 1822. For the next forty years, the ACS assisted in the repatriation and settlement of some 6,000 freed slaves, but the native Africans were not necessarily thrilled with the arrival of these settlers. On November 11, 1822, members of two native tribes attacked the colony in a skirmish that came to be called the “Battle of Crown Hill.” This was not an isolated incident. Antagonism between the ACS descendants and the natives continues to be a major factor in the Liberian Civil War. The first leader of Liberia was neither a freed slave nor a native African, but rather a white Methodist minister named Jehudi Ashmun, who arrived in Liberia in late 1822. For the next eight years, he helped the colonists establish a government, write laws, and set up a rudimentary economy. New towns and villages were founded and named after famous American people and places, most notably Monrovia, the capital, named after President James Monroe. In 1836 Thomas Buchanan was appointed as the first governor. The ACS drew up the of the Commonwealth of Liberia in 1839, modeling it after the US Constitution. In 1842, Joseph Jenkins Roberts, the first African-American to lead Liberia, was appointed to take Buchanan’s place as governor. Roberts, who had been born a free man in Virginia, was democratically elected president in 1847. He remained in power until 1856. During his term of office, he expanded the boundaries of Liberia, encouraged economic growth, and led his fellow Liberians in declaring Liberia an independent republic – the first in Africa – in 1847.

**Growing Pains**

 As the map of the west (Atlantic) coast of Africa shows, Liberia has neighbors to the northwest (Sierra Leone), the north (Guinea), and east (Côte d'Ivoire). During the early decades of existence, Liberia was plagued by border disputes with the British in Sierra Leone and the French in Côte d'Ivoire. The conflicts ostensibly came to an end due to treaties in 1885 with the British and in 1892 with the French; however in reality, French encroachments continued until 1919, when Liberia finally ceded 2000 square miles of interior territory to Côte d'Ivoire. These territorial losses were balanced by gains along the coast line. By 1860, Liberia had significantly expanded its borders to cover 600 miles of seacoast, as a result of land purchases, wars with native tribes, and treaty agreements.

In the 19th century, the world could not have predicted the coming of an economy based on automobiles, burning petroleum and rolling on rubber tires. If the chiefs of the native peoples of western Africa had had a crystal ball, they might not have sold their land – replete with rubber trees – to the ACS. That notwithstanding, Europeans would eventually regard western Africa with ambitions. Germany became one of the first European powers to carry on a trade relationship with Liberia, so much so, that when the First World War broke out in 1914, Liberia declared neutrality rather than antagonize its trade partner. By 1917, however, the US had entered the war and, along with Britain, pressured Liberia to side with the allies against Germany. By 1926, with the rise of the automobile, the need for a vast source of rubber became obvious. When Liberia needed capital to pay off its loans, the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company loaned Liberia $5 million in return for a 1 million acre concession to tap the rubber trees. This concession would pay Firestone handsomely, especially during the Second World War, the first major international conflict to make extensive use of automobiles. (Cars were in existence during World War I, but had still not dominated the roads; armies in Europe depended largely on horses for transportation.) But before World War II broke out, Liberia found itself in trouble with the League of Nations in 1930 when it was discovered that a labor system “hardly distinguishable from slavery” was being practiced within its borders. According to historical account, President King & Vice President Allen Yancy were involved in recruiting and shipping their fellow Liberians to sugar cane, cocoa, and coffee plantations in Fernando Po (located today in Equatorial Guinea and parts of Gabon). The scandal shook the small nation and President Charles D. B. King and his Vice President were forced to resign.

**War and Peace**

 Liberia itself entered World War II in 1944 on the side of the allies. Also in 1944, the democratically elected William Tubman was inaugurated president. He pledged to eliminate laws and practices that treated the native tribes as second-class citizens, as compared with the descendants of the original ACS colonists. Tubman encouraged foreign investment with the goal of supporting economic development. It was during his administration that Liberia became a charter member of the Organization of African Unity and joined the United Nations. Tubman stayed in power until his death in 1971, but gradually turning from democrat to dictator: He gagged the press, changed the constitution to allow himself to stay in office, and recruited government agents to spy on civilian political activities. American involvement in Liberia rose to a higher level in the 1950s and 1960s. In 1951, the US and Liberia signed the Mutual Defense Assistance agreement, perpetuating a political alliance which would continue for another two decades. Six years later, America established the first of several Voice of America relay facilities on Liberian soil. Liberia was one of the first nations in the world to welcome volunteers from the Peace Corps in 1962. The Peace Corps would remain in Liberia for almost 30 years until the Liberian Civil war broke out in 1989.

The 1970s could be considered the last decade of relative tranquility in Liberia before the thunder of the civil war began to rumble. When President Tubman died in 1971, Vice President William Tolbert took over the reins of power. The major events in Tolbert’s presidency pertained to diplomacy and Liberia’s relations with its neighbors. To start, Tolbert decided to adopt a more nonaligned stance with regard to the Cold War. Liberia thus established diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and several other countries from the Eastern Bloc. In 1975, Liberia became a founding member of ECOWAS: the Economic Community of West African States. The original intention of the ECOWAS, in emulation of the European Union, was to promote economic cooperation and eventual monetary unity in western Africa. The following year, President Tolbert addressed a joint session of the US Congress, a rare privilege extended only to the most favored world leaders.

**Times of Turmoil**

Troubles boiled over in the 1980s. “In 1980, the tension between indigenous Africans and the descendants of American slaves finally erupted into a revolution.” Samuel K. Doe, a master sergeant in the Liberian Army and a member of the native Krahn tribe, engineered a coup to overthrow the government. Tolbert was assassinated, along with his cabinet ministers. Doe’s regime unleashed the pent-up resentment among the natives against the loathed elite, but his tribe also terrorized other rival native ethnic groups. In 1989, Charles Taylor, an ACS descendant born in Liberia and college educated in the US, invaded Liberia from across the border in Sierra Leone. He and his militia, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (the NPFL), committed countless atrocities and stirred up a “war of the all against the all ” between and among Liberia’s various tribes. Nevertheless, the Liberian people elected Taylor president in 1997, perhaps thinking that as the most powerful figure, he would be the only one who could put an end to the violence. That did not happen. Instead, Taylor’s NPFL troops fought against rebels and at the same time got involved in the support of a revolutionary movement in Sierra Leone which won control of that country’s diamond mines. Taylor enriched himself with his share of the mineral wealth and used some of the money to start revolutions in Guinea and Côte d’ Ivoire.

**Recent Developments**

 On June 4, 2003, the Liberian government entered into serious peace negotiations with two rebel groups. In the same month, the United Nations indicted Taylor on 17 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes. The rebels stipulated that Charles Taylor must step down as president. This he did on 11 August 2003. Exactly one week later, the government and rebels signed a peace agreement intended to end almost a decade and a half of bloodshed. ECOWAS has already deployed 1000 peace keeping troops, and that number will eventually reach 3250. The United States is expected to play a supporting role, and the Bush administration will soon determine how the US can best impact the situation. Meanwhile, Moses Blah occupies the post of provisional president until October 2003, at which time Gyude Bryant, a successful businessman and administrator, will rule until 2006. General Abdulsalami Abubakar, treaty conference mediator and former Nigerian head of state, said: “Liberia does not need liberators anymore but nation builders and developers. Those responsible for signing this document must take their responsibilities seriously. The International community is getting impatient with this Liberian crisis.” In 2013- 2016, the International community did help Liberia and the West African region with a pandemic. It responded in a variety of ways: from sending teams, to building treatment centers, to providing training, etc. The Ebola virus outbreak in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone took about 11,310 lives because of their weak health care system.

**Economy**

The deteriorating security situation in Liberia has worsened the economic conditions in the country. The absence of rehabilitation of the infrastructure and a weak financial system are causing an already frail economy to deteriorate even more. Moreover, the amount of external debt is obstructing any assistance from World Bank and other organizations.

 **Natural Resources**

 The land of Liberia is rich in iron ore. Until 1990, the country’s resources were exploited by foreign companies. In 1944, President William Tubman opened the Liberian economy to foreign investors. American (Liberia Mining Company, National Iron Ore Company) and German (DELIMCO) companies invested in mining iron ore. Tubman’s initiative increased foreign investment in Liberia and the mining industry was the main recipient. However, since 1990 all economic facets of the country have been dismantled, including the mining industry, and the production of iron ore has been halted. Forests in Liberia cover almost fifty percent of the land. Logging activities are concentrated in the northwest and southeast of the country. According to reports from the Government of Liberia Forestry Development Authority, production for the years 1997 to 2002 amounted to 3,865,930 m³. However, organizations in charge of monitoring the timber industry claim that the production exceeds these official figures. The Oriental Timber Corporation, a Malaysian business entity, is the largest and most modern operator. Foreign investment in Liberia has targeted the timber industry, even though logging activities have been reduced due to the war.

 Rubber is another key product of the Liberian forest. In 1926, Firestone Plantations Company consummated a 99-year lease agreement and a one-million-acre plantation was established in Harbel. This agreement clearly disadvantaged Liberia, especially in that any gold, diamond, or other mineral deposits discovered on the land would belong to Firestone. Iron ore, timber and rubber constitute 90% of Liberia’s exports and their exploitation is mainly in the hands of multinational corporations.

Presently, the Canadian company Mano River Resources Inc. is exploring gold and diamond reserves in Liberia for more intensive production. The diamond and gold mining is carried out on a small scale using crude equipment. Information on diamond production is not considered to be reliable because substantial quantities from Sierra Leone are suspected to be smuggled into Liberia. However, in 1979, diamond exports reached a peak of 39.6 million USD and represented 7.4 percent of total exports. Sadly, factions implicated in the civil war found even more reasons to fight each other in their attempts to control the diamond and gold mines.

**Agriculture**

 Agriculture in Liberia is underdeveloped. The local production is not sufficient to feed the country and Liberia has to rely on imports to cover the provisional needs of the population. However, some three quarters of the population remains in the agricultural sector with more women than men working the fields, which produce coffee, rice, cassava, palm oil, sugar cane, yams and okra. While the main staple of Liberians is rice, considerable efforts to develop intensive production have been aborted because of the security situation of the country.

**Foreign Investment**

 Liberia has relied on foreign assistance, but because of the corruption in the Liberian Government, direct foreign assistance has declined. Western countries use international aid agencies and non-governmental organizations to finance assistance to the Liberian population. Liberia imports fuels, chemicals, machinery, transportation equipment, manufactured goods, rice, and other food items for $170 million per year(FOB9 , 2000 est.). Timber, rubber, cocoa beans and coffee are Liberia’s main export items. However, on May 6, 2003, the United Nations imposed sanctions for a period of ten months on all round logs and timber products originating in Liberia. The UN hopes this measure will force Monrovia to immediately cease the support of revolutionary forces in Sierra Leone and other armed groups in the region.

Liberia is considered to be an incorporation haven with no infrastructure of local attorneys or accountants. Corporations seeking a simple flexible system found their sanctuary in Liberia, especially in that the registration of their companies does not require a trip to the country and is carried out by representative offices in New York, Zurich, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Rotterdam, and Piraeus. The merchant shipping fleet of Liberia is one of the largest in the world and provides a sizeable income for the country. Fifty-four countries use Liberia for a flag of convenience registry. Among these countries are ships from Germany 186, US 161, Greece 144, Norway 142, Japan 124, and Monaco 38.

Liberia is a member of two regional economic unions—the Mano River Union, which includes Sierra Leone and Guinea, as well as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The latter was established in May 1975 to promote trade, cooperation, and self-reliance in West Africa. It has the following members: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Summary In this land endowed with so many natural resources, the continuation of economic activities heavily depends on the deployment of a strong stabilizing presence that will enforce the ceasefire and protect the conditions for sustained and safe movements of persons and goods. Meanwhile, the current situation represents an ongoing decline in living conditions. Sadly, while there is insufficient data to establish precise trends in recent years, all indicators—such as the UNDP Human Development Index, which measures achievements in human development---place Liberia among the poorest and least developed countries in the world.

**Liberian Society**

 **Ethnic Groups and Languages:**

There are 16 major ethnic groups, 27 languages and 13 counties in the Republic of Liberia. The national language of Liberia is English. The ethnic groups within Liberia include: Bassa, Bella, Dei, Gbandi, Gio, Gola, Grebo, Kissi, Kpelle, Krahn, Kru, Lorma, Mandingo, Mano, Mende and Vai. In addition, there are AmericoLiberians, American slave descendants, and Caribbean slave descendants, who are now often referred to as “Congos” or “Congo people.” A number of Lebanese, Indians, and other West African nationals comprise a large part of the business community. The main language families include: 15 Kru languages – Kuwaa, Dewoin, Bassa, Gbii, Western Krahn, Klau, Tajuasohn, Sapo, Eastern Krahn, Northern Grebo, Glaro-Twabo, Glio-Oubi, Baclayville Grebo, Central Grebo and Southern Grebo; 8 Mande languages – Liberia Kpelle, Mende, Bandi, Manya, Loma, Vai, Mano and Dan; 2 Atlantic languages – Gola and Southern Kisi; and 2 Indo-European languages – English and Liberian English. It is important to note that the majority of Liberian ethnic groups and languages carry various alternate names. The largest ethnic group is the Kpelle. Over 487,400 Kpellas reside in Liberia. They represent 20 % of the entire population. The Liberia Kpelle language belongs to the Mande language family. They mainly live in central and western Liberia in Lofa, Bong, Bomi, Margibi, Montserrado, and Bassa counties. Roughly 16% belong to the Bassa ethnic group. The Bassa language is part of the Kru language family. It is spoken in Grand Bassa, Margibi, and Rivercess counties. The Dan (Gio) ethnic group represents 8% of the Liberian population. They speak the Mande language Dan (Gio) in Nimba County. The Kru (Klau) ethnic group represents 7% of the population. They speak Klau (Kru), part of the Kru language family, in Kru County. There are over 184,000 Klau speakers in Liberia. Klau is also spoken in Ghana, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone. The Kru tribe resides on the coast between the river Cestos on the west and Grand Cess on the east. There are 12 other ethnic groups comprising the remaining 49% of Liberia’s population. Among these ethnic groups are the Kisi, who share the border with Sierra Leone in the north. There are over 115,000 speakers of the Southern Kisi language. They live at the extreme northwest corner of Liberia in Lofa County. Another 120,000 live in Sierra Leone. The Gola speak Gola, a language that belongs to the Atlantic language family, in northwest Liberia in Grand Cape Mount and Lofa Counties. The Mano tribe speaks Mano, a Mande language. They share their northern border with Guinea. The Grebo reside in southeastern Liberia in the Sinoe, Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru and Maryland counties. They speak Northern Grebo, Southern Grebo, Central Grebo, and Barclayville Grebo. The Grebo languages belong to the Kru language family. The Lorma tribe is located within Lofa County in the northern part of Liberia. The language that is spoken is a Mande language called Loma (Lorma). The Krahn live mainly in eastern Liberia in the Grand Gedeh County, which shares the border with the Ivory Coast. They speak the Kru language Eastern Krahn. The Mandingo speak Manya (also called Mandingo), part of the Mande language family, and live in northwest Liberia in Lofa County, bordering with Guinea. The Mandingos came to Liberia from Western Sudan in the 17th century. The Mende speak Mende, part of the Mande language family, and reside in northwest Liberia in Lofa County, bordering with Sierra Leone. The Vai tribe speaks Vai, a Mande language. The tribe is located in western Liberia in Grand Cape Mount County. The Gbandi (Bandi) speak Bandi, a Mande language, in northwestern Liberia in Lofa County. The Bella (also Belle and Kwaa) speak Kuwaa, a Kru language, in Lofa County. The Dei (Dewoin, De) tribe speaks Dewoin, another Kru language, in northwestern Liberia in Bomi County.

 **Social Customs**

 Due to the multitude of peoples native to Liberia as well as the influx of immigrants, social customs in Liberia are widely varied and rich in tradition, even though there are common threads. This shines through in one of the widely used Liberian greetings: “What is your tribe?” The question is supplemented by an unusual handshake. When shaking hands the middle finger of the other person is grasped in the right hand between thumb and third finger, then brought up quickly with an audible snap. The custom originated when freed slaves considered this greeting a sign of their liberation, as it was not uncommon for slave owners to indicate bondage by breaking slaves’ fingers.

**Secret Societies**

 Traditionally, Liberian tribes have long subsisted on agriculture, even though hunting Secret Societies. Life revolves mainly around the village and tribal community, and village elders or chiefs have the last say in important decisions or in quelling disputes. As a largely agrarian society, animist beliefs continue to hold strong in Liberia, and secret societies such as the Poro (for men) and Sande (for women) are prevalent. Current estimates contend that up to half of Liberia’s population is a member of one secret society or another, including past presidents such as William Tolbert. The groups, which date back at least to the 18th century, are credited with retaining some semblance of order in times of social upheaval, wielding more power than even the tribal chief. These societies are so secretive that they may well be one of the reasons Liberia was able to resist colonization attempts. The punishment for revealing society secrets to any outsider reportedly ranges from banishment to death.

When the youngsters in a tribe reach adolescence, they are indoctrinated into bush schools. These are run by the secret societies in order to initiate the teens into adulthood and to teach tribal values and traditions, as well as other skills they will need as adults. Depending upon the ethnic group, this indoctrination may take anywhere from a few months to three years. Upon graduation, the young adults often enter the outside world covered in white body paint that is thought to make them invisible to evil spirits.

 **Family Life and the Role of Women**

 Family life plays a very important role in Liberian culture. Naturally, Liberians love their children as much as other people do. Tragically, the recent civil strife and warfare has destroyed many family ties, and the number of orphaned and abandoned children is on the rise in urban centers. Many children are also drawn to join the military or other armed groups at a very early age for lack of family support. In some cases, so-called child soldiers may not even remember a life without toting a gun instead of toys. Women play an important role in traditional Liberian society, as they are the ones who— dressed in colorful garb— tend fields, raise children, and take care of household chores. Female secret societies raise the status of women even more as they give females a voice that even the tribal chiefs dare not ignore. Additionally, the female-only competition dances and tribal masking rituals are unique to Liberian tribes, while in other West African societies these activities are limited to men. However, female circumcision is still practiced in Liberia and is very often perpetuated by the secret societies. Women who do not join the societies often find that they encounter limited opportunities economically, so the pressure to conform is very high.

**Hospitality and Cooking**

Liberian cooking is a social custom unto itself and can truly be considered a labor of love. In the absence of electricity, modern kitchen utensils, and running water, preparations for a single meal may take up to three hours. Rice is one of the staple foods and is eaten twice a day in most households. Other ingredients that are often included are cassava, plantains, palm butter, peppers, onions, okra, coconut, ginger, and goat meat. In fact, goat soup is considered Liberia’s “national soup” and will often be served at official functions. Often the soup is complimented by Foo-Foo, a special type of Liberian bread. Other foods offered, whether in the home or at the ubiquitous roadside food stands called cook shops, are Bug-a-Bug (a kind of snack mix consisting of dried, fried, and seasoned —you guessed it!—bugs and termites), Jollof Rice, Beef Internal Soup, and a meaty dish called Country Chop.

Liberians are very gracious hosts, and much of the hospitality centers around cooking. In fact, being able to slaughter a goat when entertaining guests continues to be connected with a sense of pride. The resulting meal is served on a colorfully set table; however, utensils are often absent in rural areas. In that case, meals are eaten by hand. Often, such a feast is served with homemade ginger beer or palm wine, yet travelers to Liberia warn of underestimating the alcoholic potential of these home brews.

 **The Arts**

 Traditional arts still abound in Liberia; dancing, story-telling and carving are perhaps the most wide-spread and highly-developed. Carved masks, used by secret societies and tribes in traditional rituals, are also in high demand among collectors across the globe. Apart from being beautifully crafted aesthetic objects, the masks are believed to serve as a link between the human and spirit world. Both dancing and story-telling are art forms in which legends, traditions, and life lessons are passed from one generation to the next, as a large percentage of Liberians cannot read or write.

**Moving Forward**

 The next section of this review will discuss Africa: The “Mother Continent!” According to the National Geographic Society, Africa is the oldest continent on Earth, so as a Temne proverb reminds us, “Unless you know the road you’ve come down, you cannot know where you are going.” 15 major cities of Africa, physical boundaries of the continent, human geography, land forms, etc. will be presented below to tell our story.

**Helpful Links:**

Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center

Monterey, CA

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| --- |
| <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberia>Africa: South of the Sahara: Liberia:<http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/liberia.html> An extensive list of links to dozens of Liberia-related Web sites, from Stanford University Libraries and Academic Information Resources. Liberia: History:<http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/world/A0859267.html> Cartage (Central Array of Relayed Transaction for the Advance of General Education): Liberia:[http://www.cartage.org.lb/en/themes/GeogHist /histories/history/hiscountries/L/liberia.html](http://www.cartage.org.lb/en/themes/GeogHist/histories/history/hiscountries/L/liberia.html) African Studies: Liberia:[http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African\_Studies /Country\_Specific/Liberia.html](http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/Country_Specific/Liberia.html) *African-American Mosaic: Colonization:*[*http://lcweb.loc.gov/exhibits/african/afam002.html*](http://lcweb.loc.gov/exhibits/african/afam002.html) *Time Line:*[*http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/libhtml/liberia.html*](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/libhtml/liberia.html) |

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**Welcome to Africa!**

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| Rank | City | Population/Date of Est. | Country |
| 1 | **Lagos** | 21,320,000 (2019) | Nigeria |
| 2 | *Kinshasa* | 11,860,000 (2016) | Democratic Rep. of the Congo |
| 3 | *Cairo* |  9,500,000 (2018) |  Egypt |
| 4 | Giza |  8,800,000 (2018) |  Egypt |
| 5 | Johannesburg |  5,640,000 (2019) | South Africa |
| 6 | *Dar Es Salaam* |  5,550,000 (2016) | Tanzania |
| 7 | Alexandria |  5,200,000 (2018) | Egypt |
| 8 | *Abidjan* |  4,980,000 (2016) | Côte d’Ivoire |
| 9 | *Nairobi* |  4,720,000 (2016) | Kenya |
| 10 | Casablanca |  4,370,000 (2014) | Morocco |
| 11 | *Accra* |  4,200,000 (2020) |  Ghana |
| 12 | Cape Town |  3,740,000 (2011) |  South Africa |
| 13 | *Algiers* |  3,420,000 (2011)  | Algeria |
| 14 | Kumasi |  3,206,000 (2019) |  Ghana |
| 15 | *Addis Ababa* |  3,040,000 (2012) | Ethiopia |

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\_of cities\_in\_Africa\_by\_population

 Note: *Italics* represents capital city.

 **Bold** represents largest city in country.

**Here is the “Mother Continent!”**

Africa, the second-largest continent, is bounded by the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean, and the Atlantic Ocean. It is divided in half almost equally by the Equator.

Africa’s physical geography, environment and resources, and human geography can be considered separately.

Africa has eight major physical regions: the Sahara, the Sahel, the Ethiopian Highlands, the savanna, the Swahili Coast, the rain forest, the African Great Lakes, and Southern Africa. Some of these regions cover large bands of the continent, such as the Sahara and Sahel, while others are isolated areas, such as the Ethiopian Highlands and the Great Lakes. Each of these regions has unique animal and plant communities.

**Sahara**

The Sahara is the world’s largest hot desert, covering 8.5 million square kilometers (3.3 million square miles), about the size of the South American country of Brazil. Defining Africa's northern bulge, the Sahara makes up 25 percent of the continent.

The Sahara has a number of distinct physical features, including ergs, regs, hamadas, and oases. Ergs, which cover 20 percent of the Sahara, are sand dunes that stretch for hundreds of kilometers at heights of more than 300 meters (1,000 feet). Ergs cover most of Algeria and Libya and parts of Mali and Nigeria. Ergs can contain large quantities of salt, which is sold for industrial and food use.

Regs are plains of sand and gravel that make up 70 percent of the Sahara. The gravel can be black, red, or white. Regs are the remains of prehistoric seabeds and riverbeds, but are now nearly waterless.

Hamadas are elevated plateaus of rock and stone that reach heights of 3,353 meters (11,000 feet). They include the Atlas Mountains, which stretch from southwestern Morocco to northeastern Tunisia; the Tibesti Mountains of southern Libya and northern Chad; and the Ahaggar Mountains in southern Algeria.

An oasis is a hub of water in the desert, often in the form of springs, wells, or irrigation systems. About 75 percent of the Sahara’s population lives in oases, which make up only 2,071 square kilometers (800 square miles) of the deserts vast area.

The Sahara’s animal and plant communities have adapted to the regions extremely dry conditions. The kidneys of the jerboa, a type of rodent, produce highly concentrated urine that minimizes water loss. A dromedary camel conserves water by changing its body temperature so it doesn't sweat as the day gets hotter. The scorpion limits its activities to night, burrowing into the cooler sands beneath the surface during the day. The scorpion, a predator, also absorbs water from the flesh of its prey.

Saharan plants survive thanks to root systems that plunge as far as 24 meters (80 feet) underground. In parts of the Sahara, plants cannot take root at all. In the southern Libyan Desert, for instance, no greenery exists for more than 195 kilometers (120 miles).
 **Sahel**

The Sahel is a narrow band of semi-arid land that forms a transition zone between the Sahara to the north and the savannas to the south. It is made up of flat, barren plains that stretch roughly 5,400 kilometers (3,300 miles) across Africa, from Senegal to Sudan.

The Sahel contains the fertile delta of the Niger, one of Africa’s longest rivers. Unfortunately, the Sahel’s fertile land is rapidly becoming desert as a result of drought, deforestation, and intensive agriculture. This process is known as desertification.

The Sahel's animal communities are constantly scavenging for scarce water and vegetation resources. The Senegal gerbil, the most common mammal in the Sahel and measuring only a few centimeters, consumes as much as 10 percent of the Sahel's plants.

The Sahel's green vegetation only emerges during the rainy season, but is often quickly harvested by farmers or consumed by animals. Baobabs are drought- and fire-resistant trees with trunks that are often 15 meters (50 feet) wide and as tall as 26 meters (85 feet). Acacia, whose deep root systems are ideal for semi-arid climates, are among the most common trees found in the Sahel. Cram-cram, a prickly grass, is the primary fodder for Sahel herds such as zebu cattle.

**Ethiopian Highlands**

The Ethiopian Highlands began to rise 75 million years ago, as magma from Earth’s mantle uplifted a broad dome of ancient rock. This dome was later split as Africa's continental crust pulled apart, creating the Great Rift Valley system. Today, this valley cuts through the Ethiopian Highlands from the southwest to the northeast. The Ethiopian Highlands are home to 80 percent of Africa’s tallest mountains.

The highlands craggy landscape is perfect for nimble animal species. Native species such as the Walia ibex, an endangered wild goat, and the gelada baboon live in the ledges and rocky outposts of the Simien Mountains. The most emblematic highlands species is probably the Ethiopian wolf, which is now on the brink of extinction.

Important plant species native to the Ethiopian Highlands include the Ethiopian rose, Africa’s only native rose, and the ensete, a tall, thick, rubbery plant that is a close relative of the banana.

**Savanna**

Savannas, or grasslands, cover almost half of Africa, more than 13 million square kilometers (5 million square miles). These grasslands make up most of central Africa, beginning south of the Sahara and the Sahel and ending north of the continents southern tip.

Among Africa’s many savanna regions, the Serengeti (or Serengeti Plains) is the most well-known. The Serengeti is a vast, undulating plain that stretches 30,000 square kilometers (11,583 square miles) from Kenya's Maasai-Mara game reserve to Tanzania's Serengeti National Park.

The Serengeti is home to one of the continents highest concentrations of large mammal species, including lions, hyenas, zebras, giraffes, and elephants. Each year, more than 1 million wildebeest travel in a circular migration, following seasonal rains, across the Serengeti Plains. Their grazing and trampling of grass allows new grasses to grow, while their waste helps fertilize the soil.

**Swahili Coast**

The Swahili Coast stretches about 1,610 kilometers (1,000 miles) along the Indian Ocean, from Somalia to Mozambique. The nearby coral reefs and barrier islands protect the coast from severe weather.

There is not a lot of animal life on the sandy Swahili Coast. The golden-rumped elephant shrew, an insect-eating rodent with a long snout, is common. A small, primitive species of primate known as the bush baby inhabits vegetated areas of the Swahili Coast. Bush babies, which have enormous eyes for hunting at night, feed primarily on insects, fruit, and leaves.

These more vegetated areas are located on a narrow strip just inland from the coastal sands. Heavy cultivation has diminished the diversity of plant species in this interior area of the Swahili Coast. Mangrove forests are the most common vegetation. Mangroves have exposed root systems. This allows the trees to absorb oxygen directly from the air, as well as from the nutrient-poor soil.

**Rain Forest**

Most of Africa’s native rain forest has been destroyed by development, agriculture, and forestry. Today, 80 percent of Africa’s rain forest is concentrated in central Africa, along the Congo River basin.

Africa’s rain forests have a rich variety of animal life; a 6-kilometer (4-mile) patch could contain up to 400 bird species, 150 butterfly species, and 60 species of amphibians. Important mammals include African forest elephants, gorillas, the black colobus monkey, and the okapi, a donkey-like giraffe.
The driver ant is one of Africa’s most aggressive rain forest species. Driver ants move in columns of up to 20 million across the rain forest floor, and will eat anything from toxic millipedes to reptiles and small mammals.

The African rain forests plant community is even more diverse, with an estimated 8,000 plant species documented. More than 1,100 of these species are endemic, or found nowhere else on Earth. Only 10 percent of the plants in the African rain forest have been identified.

**African Great Lakes**

The Great Lakes are located in nine countries that surround the Great Rift Valley. As the African continent separated from Saudi Arabia, large, deep cracks were created in the Earth’s surface. These cracks were later filled with water. This geologic process created some of the largest and deepest lakes in the world.

There are seven major African Great Lakes: Lake Albert, Lake Edward, Lake Kivu, Lake Malawi, Lake Tanganyika, Lake Turkana, and Lake Victoria. Lake Victoria, the largest lake in Africa, is the southern source of the Nile River, the longest river in the world.

The African Great Lakes region has a diverse range of aquatic and terrestrial animal life. Fish include the 45-kilogram (100-pound) Nile perch and the 2.5-centimeter (1-inch) cichlid. Migrating savanna animals, such as wildebeest, use the lakes as watering holes. Hippos and crocodiles call the region their home.

The Great Lakes abut everything from rain forest to savanna plant communities. However, invasive species like the water hyacinth and papyrus have begun to take over entire shorelines, endangering animals and plants.

**Southern Africa**

The region of Southern Africa is dominated by the Kaapvaal craton, a shelf of bedrock that is more than 2.6 billion years old. Rocky features of Southern Africa include plateaus and mountains, such as the Drakensberg range.

Southern Africa is the epicenter of Africa’s well-known reserves, which protect animal species such as lions, elephants, baboons, white rhinos, and Burchell’s zebras. Other important animal species include the impala, a type of deer, and the springbok, a type of gazelle that can spring several feet into the air to avoid predators.

Southern Africa’s Cape Floral Region is one of the richest areas for plants in the world. While the Cape Floral Region covers less than 0.5 percent of Africa, it is home to nearly 20 percent of the continent’s flora. The giant protea, South Africa’s national flower, is found in the Cape Floral Region.

Lastly, from the National Geographic Society, Africa’s profiles can be summed up as follows:

 *Most Renewable Electricity Produced:*

* Lesotho (100%, hydropower)

*Population Density:*

* 87 People Per Square Kilometer

*Largest Watershed:*

* Congo River (4 million Square Kilometers/1.55 million Square Miles)

*Highest Elevation:*

* Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania (5,895 meters/19,341 feet)

*Largest Urban Area:*

* Lagos, Nigeria (21.3 million people)

**Helpful Links:**

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/topics/africa/?q=&page=1&per_page=25>

Back to Africa

<https://gpb.pbslearningmedia.org/subjects/social-studies>

Colorful: Has many interactive videos.

[African Voices | Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (si.edu)](https://naturalhistory.si.edu/exhibits/african-voices)

 Excellent.

[The Story of Africa| BBC World Service](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/features/storyofafrica/index.shtml)

 Features audio segments on the continent.

[Internet History Sourcebooks Project (fordham.edu)](https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/africa/africasbook.asp)

 Focuses on Human origins, Islam in Africa, West African Kingdoms, etc.

**Social Studies**

**Grade 6**

**50 Questions Test (Check Your Knowledge)**

**Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. The Liberia’s Declaration of Independence was signed on
2. July 15, 1815
3. July 4, 1822
4. July 26, 1847
5. July 25, 1960
6. How many counties are there in Liberia?
7. 15
8. 19
9. 21
10. 26
11. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was the first woman to be elected head of state of an African Country.
12. Africa is situated in the Western Hemisphere, South of Europe…
13. True
14. False
15. How many English-speaking countries are in West Africa?
16. 5
17. 7
18. 10
19. 15

1. What body of what is located on the West Coast of Africa?
2. Indian Ocean
3. Red Sea
4. Mediterranean Sea
5. Atlantic Ocean
6. The Atlantic Ocean separates Europe and Africa from the Americas
7. True
8. False
9. Africa’s northern half is more dry and hot, while its southern end is more humid and cool
10. True
11. False
12. Which three empires in Western Africa flourished because of the trans-Saharan trade of gold and salt?
13. Zimbabwe, Axum, Benin
14. Ghana, Axum, Benin
15. Timbuktu, Mali, Ghana
16. Ghana, Mali, Songhai

|  |
| --- |
| **Questions 10 - 15** |

 Which concept matches each definition below?

 Pick the right word(s) from the box to complete items 10 thru 15 below.

|  |
| --- |
| 1. American Colonization Society
2. Berlin Conference
3. Imperialism
4. Pan-Africanism
5. Nationalism
6. Scramble for Africa
 |

10. The act of extending rule over a foreign country or territory and holding colonies is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

11. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was started by the new settlements in the Congo and the new trade routes through Africa that King Leopold II of Belgium set up. After Belgium began staking its claims, other countries like France, Germany, Britain, Spain, Italy, and Portugal also divided the continent for themselves.

12. \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is the idea of uniting all people of African descent regardless of national boundaries.

13. The feeling that the people in each country are connected to each other through their common culture is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

14. After the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, African countries were divided and taken over by European nations. The pre-existing African groups, tribes, and nations were arbitrarily divided, even if the divisions didn’t make any sense according to the indigenous people’s history.

15. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was founded in 1817 by Robert Finley to encourage and support the migration of free African Americans to Africa.

16. Maryland State Colonization Society (also known as Maryland-in-Liberia) existed from 1834 to 1857 as a country in West Africa.

 a. True

 b. False

17. Mississippi & Louisiana Colonization Societies established a colony in what is present day Sinoe County, Liberia.

 a. True

 b. False

18. Which religion is based on the teaching of Mohammed?

 A. Christianity

 B. Hinduism

 C. Judaism

 D. Islam

19. Muslims pray in a holy building called what?

 A. church

 B. mosque

 C. temple

 D. none of the above

20. Liberia is one of two African countries to have never been colonized by European powers…

 a. True

 b. False

21. When did Master Samuel K. Doe carry out a military coup against President William R. Tolbert and publicly executing 13-high ranking officials?

 A. April 1979

 B. April 1980

 C. July 1985

 D. December 1989

22. The Liberian Civil War that killed up to 250,000, while thousands more were mutilated and raped, often by armies of drugged child soldiers started on Christmas Eve\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 A. 1979

 B. 1980

 C. 1985

 D. 1989

23. Which type of map shows average temperatures and amount or precipitation of a region?

 A. Climate map

 B. Topographical ma

 C. Physical map

 D. Road map

24. What is the longest river in Africa?

 A. Niger

 B. Nile

 C. Congo River

 D. Zambezi River

25. The largest city in Africa is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 A. Cairo

 B. Lagos

 C. Abuja

 D. Johannesburg

26. The Prophet Mohammed was born in\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 A. Damascus

 B. Medina

 C. Mecca

 D. Jerusalem

27. What was the Egyptian writing system?

 A. cursive

 B. Cuneiform

 C. Linear B

 D. Hieroglyphics

28. A protest in Monrovia, Liberia in April 1979 against an announced increased in the government-subsidized price of rice led to a riot that was violently suppressed.

 a. True

 b. False

29. The two deserts found in Southern Africa are the Namib and the Sahara

 a. True

 b. False

|  |
| --- |
| Questions 30-35 |

 Identify these Liberians **acronyms** in Column A with their meanings/functions in Column B. Write the letter of the correct answer from B on the line in Column A…

 **Column A** **Column B**

\_\_\_\_\_\_30. IGNU A. Prince Johnson and his mainly Gio

 and Mano soldiers.

\_\_\_\_\_\_31. ECOMOG B. Doe’s party that contested the

 Elections of 1985.

\_\_\_\_\_\_32. ULIMO C. Taylor’s forces that invaded Liberia in

 1989.

\_\_\_\_\_\_33. NPFL D. Dr. Amos Sawyer led this group.

\_\_\_\_\_\_34. INPFL E. Consisted mainly of Krahns and

 Mandingos fighters from Sierra Leone

\_\_\_\_\_\_35. NDPL F. A multinational organization mostly

 consisting of soldiers from English-

 Speaking in West Africa.

 G. Commission on crimes of the first

 civil war.

36. Archbishop Desmond Tutu was held in prison in a high security prison in South Africa for nearly 27 years.

 a. True

 b. False

37. The largest lake in Liberia is Lake Victoria…

 a. True

 b. False

38. Who is the head of the Supreme Court of Liberia?

 A. Chief minister

 B. Chief magistrate

 C. Chief Justice

 D. Chief Counsellor at Law

39. Which country is completely surrounded by South Africa?

 A. Lesotho

 B. Zambia

 C. Burkina Faso

 D. Angola

40. The first sustained American Colonization Society’s settlement in Liberia was named Christopolis…

 a. True

 b. False

41. To end the Second Liberian Civil War, thousands of Muslim and Christian women staged silent nonviolence protests that included a sex strike and the threat of a curse…

 a. True

 b. False

42. For her leadership in the Mass Action for Peace, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ won two prestigious awards: *the 2009 John F. Kennedy Profile in* *Courage Award & the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize.*

 A. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf

 B. Leymah Gbowee

 C. Asatu Beh Kenneth

 D. Comfort Freeman

43. The 2008 documentary *“Pray the Devil Back to Hell”,* focused on the 1997 general election in Liberia…

 a. True

 b. False

44. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_was the main base for the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, led by Charles G. Taylor, during the First Civil War.

 A. Ganta

 B. Gbarnga

 C. Buchanan

 D. Monrovia

45. The deadliest outbreak of Ebola began in West Africa (Guinea, Ghana, & The Gambia) in 2014 and spread rapidly, creating a global epidemic.

 a. True

 b. False

46. Match each acronym in the left-hand column with its definition on the right on the right.

 \_\_\_\_\_\_i. LURD a. Ended 133 years of Americo-Liberian rule

 by overthrowing President Tolbert.

 \_\_\_\_\_\_ii. UNMIL b. Opponents of Taylor’s regime supported by

 the Guinean government.

 \_\_\_\_\_\_iii. PRC c. A rebel group of Krahns from Côte d’Ivoire

 Opponents of Taylor’s regime.

 \_\_\_\_\_\_iv. MODEL d. Carried out humanitarian and human

 rights activities from 2003 to 2018 in

 Liberia.

47. The Revolutionary United Front (RUF) was a rebel army that used “blood diamonds” in fighting an eleven-year war in Sierra Leone.

 a. True

 b. False

48. The Supreme Court of Liberia is the highest judicial body in the country. It consists of nine associate justices; a judge’s term length: 75 years.

 a. True

 b. False

49. The largest river in Liberia is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and it flows into the Atlantic Ocean

 A. Cestos river

 B. Cavalla river

 C. Mesurado river

 D. St Paul river

50. Which country was the first to recognize Liberia’s independence?

 A. France

 B. Morocco

 C. The United Kingdom

 D. United States