

GEOGRAPHY: IMPERIALISM IN AFRICA

Purpose

Analyze maps to identify how European imperialism in Africa changed during the long nineteenth century. Engaging with maps will offer you an opportunity to develop your own inquiry questions.

Process

1. Examine the full-detail maps of [Africa in 1880](#) and [Africa in 1914](#) by clicking on their associated links on the following page. Respond to the questions to determine what the two maps reveal about the impacts of industrial imperialism on Africa. At the end, you will develop your own questions about the maps and complete additional research to gather evidence.

Guiding question: How did European imperialism in Africa change during the long nineteenth century?

2. As a full class or in small groups, quickly scan the maps and complete the comparison chart below. What are the major differences you notice between these two maps? Provide three.

1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

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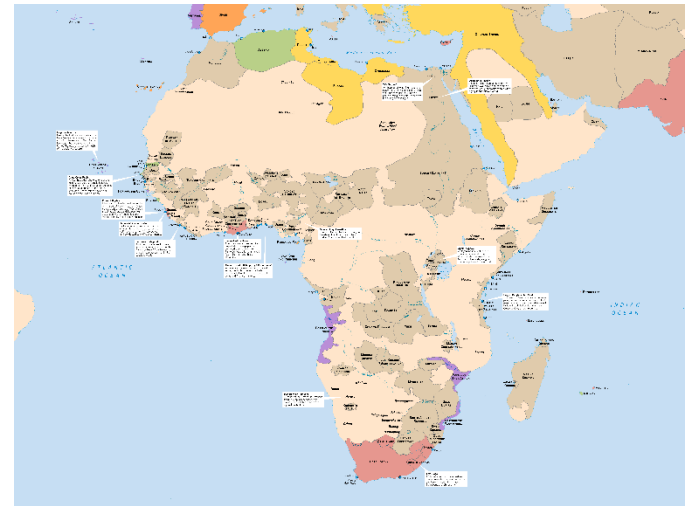
3. Open the map of African communities, c. 1800 and respond to the questions below.

- List three African states, kingdoms, empires, or groups shown on the map.

- Where are most European colonies located?

- What does this map tell you about Africa before the major wave of European colonization that happened after 1885 (sometimes called the “Scramble for Africa” or “Partition of Africa”)?

[Map 1: African communities, c. 1880 \(click for full zoom\)](#)



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4. Open the map of European colonization of Africa, 1914 and respond to the questions below.

- What happened to the three states you identified on Map 1?

- Which states claimed the most territory in Africa by 1914?

- Which African countries remained independent?

- Where are the railroads? What might their purpose have been?

- What do you think happened between 1880 and 1914 that resulted in such a big difference between these two maps?

[European colonization of Africa, 1914 \(click for full zoom\)](#)



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5. Using the two maps above, respond to the following prompts.

- What are two questions you have about European imperialism in Africa based on these maps?

1.

2.

- Choose one of your questions above. Using materials from this lesson or material you've found through independent research, write an answer to your question. Be sure to provide evidence to support your claim: