

**Africa** is the world's second-largest and second most-populous [continent](#), after [Asia](#). At about 30.2 million km<sup>2</sup> (11.7 million [sq mi](#)) including adjacent islands, it covers 6% of the [earth's](#) total surface area and 20.4% of the total land area. With a billion people (as of 2009) in 61 territories, it accounts for about 14.72% of the [world's human population](#).

The continent is surrounded by the [Mediterranean Sea](#) to the north, both the [Suez Canal](#) and the [Red Sea](#) along the [Sinai Peninsula](#) to the northeast, the [Indian Ocean](#) to the southeast, and the [Atlantic Ocean](#) to the west. The continent has 54 [sovereign states](#), including [Madagascar](#), various island groups, and the [Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic](#), a member state of the [African Union](#) whose statehood is disputed by [Morocco](#).

Africa, particularly central [eastern Africa](#), is widely regarded within the [scientific community](#) to be the origin of [humans](#) and the [Hominidae clade](#) ([great apes](#)), as [evidenced](#) by the discovery of the earliest [hominids](#) and their ancestors, as well as later ones that have been dated to around seven million years ago with the earliest *[Homo sapiens](#)* (modern human) found in [Ethiopia](#) being dated to circa 200,000 years ago.

Africa straddles the [equator](#) and encompasses numerous climate areas; it is the only continent to stretch from the northern [temperate](#) to southern temperate zones.

afrika iz tla wurlas sekind lajist and sekind most popyulis kontanint , Aftla aethla . at aboot 30.2 milyin kilametiz skwel (11 . 7 milyin skwel mililz) inkludeg ljasesint ilinas , it kaviz 6% ov tla urtis totol surfis erel and 20.4% ov tla totol land erel . witl ae bilyin pepol (az ov 2009) in 61 teritarrez , it akasonas fa aboot 14.72% ov tla wurlas hyumin popyulaeshin . tla kontanint iz saraondid bi tla medatiranein se tu tla nartl , botl tla suiz

kānal and tīa red sē āloḡ tīa senle pāninsyuila tu tīa nāṭest, tīa indein ōshin tu tīa saṭest, and tīa atlantik ōshin tu tīa west. tīa kontānint haz 54 sovrin stāes, inkludeḡ madāgasga, vereis ilind grups, and tīa slhrawe arib demākratik rēpablik, aē membla stāet ov tīa afrākin yunyin huz stāethōd iz dispyuted bī mārokō. afrikla, pātikyule senchrōl estin afrikla, iz wīdle rigādīd wīṭin tīa sīntifik kāmynāte tu bē tīa orājin ov hyuminz and tīa grāet aeps, az evādist bī tīa diskāvare ov tīa urleist homāniās and tīel ansestiz, az wal az laetla wānz tīat hav bēn dāetid tu āraond sevin milyin yeiz āgō wīṭ tīa urleist hōmō sāepēinz (modin hyumin) faond in ēṭeōrēl bēḡ dāetid tu surkla 200,000 yeiz āgō. afrikla sjradōlz tīa eqāetla and inkāpāsisiz nyumāris klīmit ereiz; it iz tīa ōnle kontānint tu sjrech from tīa nāṭin tempārit tu sātīn tempārit zōnz.