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Level 1 – 21st August 2025

Africa calls for map to show continent's true size

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250821-map-of-africa-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250821-map-of-africa-1.html>

The African Union (AU) wants people to stop using a map that shows Africa as being small. The map was created in 1569. In the 18th century, it became the international map for sailors. It is now the world's most widely used map. However, countries far from the Equator look larger than they are, while countries closer to the Equator look smaller. The AU wants a map that shows the correct size of Africa, and of other continents and countries.

The AU spoke to Reuters about the map. It said Africa is the world's second-largest continent, but the map did not show this. The non-profit organization Africa No Filter agreed. It said the Mercator map was "misinformation...and it just simply has to stop". The group Speak Up Africa wants people to use the 2018 Equal Earth map. On this map "Africa appears 14 times larger than Greenland, as it actually is". This shows the correct size of countries.

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/aug/15/african-union-true-size-world-map-replace-mercator-version>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2025/08/15/africa/africa-real-size-world-map-campaign-intl>
<https://correctthemap.org/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercator_projection
<https://equal-earth.com/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250821-map-of-africa-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. The African Union (AU) wants | a. in 1569 |
| 2. a map that shows Africa | b. sailors |
| 3. The map was created | c. countries |
| 4. In the 18th | d. as being small |
| 5. it became the international map for | e. widely used map |
| 6. the world's most | f. of Africa |
| 7. the correct size | g. people to stop |
| 8. other continents and | h. century |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The AU spoke to Reuters | a. size of countries |
| 2. Africa is the world's second- | b. than Greenland |
| 3. the map did | c. organization |
| 4. non-profit | d. stop |
| 5. it just simply has to | e. about the map |
| 6. use the 2018 Equal | f. not show this |
| 7. Africa appears 14 times larger | g. largest continent |
| 8. This shows the correct | h. Earth map |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250821-map-of-africa-1.html>

The African Union (AU) wants people
(1) _____ a map that shows Africa as being
small. The map (2) _____ 1569. In the 18th
century, it became the international
(3) _____. It is now the world's most widely
used map. However, countries (4) _____
Equator look larger than they are, while
(5) _____ the Equator look smaller. The AU
wants a map that shows the correct size of Africa, and
(6) _____ and countries.

The AU spoke to Reuters (7) _____. It said
Africa is the world's (8) _____, but the map
did (9) _____. The non-profit organization
Africa No Filter agreed. It said the Mercator map was
"misinformation...and it (10) _____ to stop".
The group Speak Up Africa wants people to use the 2018 Equal
Earth map. On this map "Africa (11) _____
larger than Greenland, as (12) _____". This
shows the correct size of countries.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250821-map-of-africa-1.html>

The African Union (AU) wants people to stop using a map that shows Africa as being small. The map was created in 1569. In the 18th century, it became the international map for sailors. It is now the world's most widely used map. However, countries far from the Equator look larger than they are, while countries close to the Equator look smaller. The AU wants a map that shows the correct size of Africa, and of other continents and countries. The AU spoke to Reuters about the map. It said Africa is the world's second-largest continent, but the map did not show this. The non-profit organization Africa No Filter agreed. It said the Mercator map was "misinformation... and it just simply has to stop". The group Speak Up Africa wants people to use the 2018 Equal Earth map. On this map "Africa appears 14 times larger than Greenland, as it actually is". This shows the correct size of countries.

AFRICA SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250821-map-of-africa-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Africa in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250821-map-of-africa-1.html>

Write about **Africa** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

[illegible]