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Level 2 – 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-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250821-map-of-africa-2.html>

The African Union (AU) wants an end to the use of a map that shrinks the African continent. The map is called the Mercator projection. It 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, it does not show the true size of nations. Countries farther from the Equator look larger than they are, while countries closer to the Equator look smaller. The AU supports a campaign called Correct the Map. It wants a map that shows the correct size of Africa, and of other continents and countries.

The AU spoke to Reuters about the Mercator map. It said: "It might seem to be just a map, but in reality, it is not." It said the map showed Africa as being less important. It said Africa is the world's second-largest continent and has more than one billion people. The non-profit organization Africa No Filter agreed. It said the Mercator map was "the world's longest misinformation...campaign and it just simply has to stop". The group Speak Up Africa wants people to use the 2018 Equal Earth map, on which "Africa appears 14 times larger than Greenland, as it actually is".

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-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. a map that shrinks the African | a. the Equator |
| 2. In the 18th | b. size of Africa |
| 3. It is now the world's most widely | c. century |
| 4. it does not show the true | d. used map |
| 5. Countries farther from | e. countries |
| 6. countries closer to the Equator | f. size of nations |
| 7. a map that shows the correct | g. look smaller |
| 8. other continents and | h. continent |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. but in reality, | a. billion people |
| 2. Africa is the world's second- | b. Earth map |
| 3. more than one | c. campaign |
| 4. non-profit | d. larger than Greenland |
| 5. the world's longest misinformation | e. it is not |
| 6. it just simply has | f. organization |
| 7. use the 2018 Equal | g. to stop |
| 8. Africa appears 14 times | h. largest continent |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250821-map-of-africa-2.html>

The African Union (AU) (1) _____ to the use of a map (2) _____ African continent. The map is called the Mercator projection. It was created in 1569. In the 18th century, it became the international (3) _____. It is now the world's most widely used map. However, it does not show (4) _____ of nations. Countries farther from the Equator look larger than they are, (5) _____ to the Equator look smaller. The AU supports a campaign called Correct the Map. It wants a map that shows the correct size of Africa, and of other (6) _____.

The AU spoke to Reuters about the Mercator map. It said: "It might seem to be (7) _____, but in reality, it is not." It said the map showed Africa as (8) _____. It said Africa is the world's second- (9) _____ has more than one billion people. The non-profit organization Africa No Filter agreed. It said the Mercator (10) _____ world's longest misinformation...campaign and it (11) _____ to stop". The group Speak Up Africa wants people to use the 2018 Equal Earth map, on which "Africa appears 14 times larger than Greenland, (12) _____ is".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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AFRICA SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2508/250821-map-of-africa-2.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-2.html>

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

[illegible]