Table of Contents

Introduction to the Teacher.......................... 1

The Continents
Close-Up ..................................................... 2
Knowledge Check ........................................ 4
Map Follow-Up ........................................... 5
Explore ...................................................... 6

The Continent of Africa
Close-Up ..................................................... 8
Outline Map of Africa .................................... 9
Knowledge Check ....................................... 10
Map Follow-Up .......................................... 11
Map Follow-Up .......................................... 12
Explore ...................................................... 13

Africa’s Climate
Close-Up ..................................................... 14
Knowledge Check ....................................... 15
Map Follow-Up .......................................... 16

Africa’s Resources
Close-Up ..................................................... 17
Knowledge Check ....................................... 18
Map Follow-Up .......................................... 19

Africa’s Industries
Close-Up ..................................................... 20
Knowledge Check ....................................... 21
Map Follow-Up .......................................... 22

Africa’s Animal Life
Close-Up ..................................................... 23
Knowledge Check ....................................... 24
Explore ...................................................... 25

The People of Africa
Close-Up ..................................................... 26
Knowledge Check ....................................... 27

African Culture
Close-Up ..................................................... 28
Knowledge Check ....................................... 29
Explore ...................................................... 30

The Nations of North Africa
Close-Up ..................................................... 31
Knowledge Check ....................................... 33
Map Follow-Up .......................................... 34

The Nations of West and Central Africa
Close-Up ..................................................... 35
Knowledge Check ....................................... 37
Map Follow-Up .......................................... 38

The Nations of East and Southern Africa
Close-Up ..................................................... 39
Knowledge Check ....................................... 41
Map Follow-Up .......................................... 42

Glossary ..................................................... 43

Answer Keys .............................................. 44

Bibliography ............................................. 46

Photo Credits ............................................ C3
Introduction to the Teacher

*Exploring Africa* is one of the seven books in Mark Twain Media’s *Continents of the World Geography Series*. This series can be used to supplement the middle-school geography and social studies curriculum. The books support the goal of the National Geography Standards to prepare students for life in a global community by strengthening geographical literacy.

The intent of the *Continents of the World Geography Series* is to help students better understand the world around them through the study of geography. Each book focuses on one continent. Information and facts are presented in an easy-to-read and easy-to-understand format that does not overwhelm the learner. The text presents only the most important information in small organized bites to make it easier for students to comprehend. Vocabulary words are boldfaced in the text. For quick reference, these words are listed in a glossary at the back of the book.

The series is specifically designed to facilitate planning for the diverse learning styles and skill levels of middle-school students. Each book is divided into several units. Each unit provides the teacher with alternative methods of instruction.

**Unit Features**
- **Close-Up** introduces facts and information as a reading exercise.
- **Knowledge Check** assesses student understanding of the reading exercise using selected response and constructed response questioning strategies.
- **Map Follow-Up** provides opportunities for students to report information from a spatial perspective.
- **Explore** allows students to expand learning by participating in high-interest, hands-on activities.
- **Glossary** lists the boldfaced words with definitions.

**Online Resources**
- **Reluctant Reader Text**: A modified version of the reading exercise pages can be downloaded from the website at www.carsondellosa.com. In the Search box, enter the product code CD-404170. When you reach the *Exploring Africa* product page, click the icon for the Reluctant Reader Text download.
- The readability level of the text has been modified to facilitate struggling readers. The Flesch-Kincaid Readability formula, which is built into Microsoft® Word™, was used to determine the readability level. The formula calculates the number of words, sentences, and paragraphs in each selection to produce a reading level.

**Additional Resources**
- **Classroom Decoratives**: The *Seven Continents of the World* and *World Landmarks and Locales Topper* bulletin board sets are available through Mark Twain Media/Carson-Dellosa Publishing LLC. These classroom decoratives visually reinforce geography lessons found in the *Continents of the World Geography Series* in an interesting and attention-grabbing way.
The Continents: Close-Up

A continent is a large landmass completely or mostly surrounded by water. The continents make up just over 29 percent of the earth’s surface. They occupy about 57,100,000 square miles (148,000,000 sq. km). More than 65 percent of the land area is in the Northern Hemisphere.

Landmasses
• Continents: Geographers list North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and Antarctica as continents.
• Subcontinents: Greenland and the India-Pakistan area are sometimes referred to as “subcontinents.”
• Microcontinents: Madagascar and the Seychelles Islands are often called “microcontinents.”
• Oceania: The island groups in the Pacific Ocean are called Oceania, but they are not considered a continent.

How Were the Continents Formed?
For many years, Europeans believed the continents were formed by a catastrophe or series of catastrophes, such as floods, earthquakes, and volcanoes. In 1596, a Dutch mapmaker, Abraham Ortelius, noted that the Americas’ eastern coasts and the western coasts of Europe and Africa looked as if they fit together. He proposed that once they had been joined but later were torn apart.

Many years later, a German named Alfred Lothar Wegener published a book in which he explained his theory of the “Continental Drift.” Wegener, like Ortelius, believed that the earth originally had one supercontinent. He named it Pangaea from the Greek word meaning “all lands.” He believed that the large landmass was a lighter rock that floated on a heavier rock, like ice floats on water.

Wegener’s theory stated that the landmasses were still moving at a rate of about one yard each century. Wegener believed that Pangaea existed in the Permian Age. Then
Pangaea slowly divided into two continents, the upper part, **Laurasia**, and the lower, **Gondwanaland**, during the Triassic Age.

By the Jurassic Age, the landmasses had moved into what we could recognize as the seven continents, although they were still located near each other. Eventually, the continents “drifted” to their present locations.

Most scientists had been in agreement on the continental drift theory until researchers in the 1960s discovered several major mountain ranges on the ocean floor. These mountains suggested that the earth’s crust consists of about 20 slabs or **plates**.

These discoveries led to a new theory, “**Plate Tectonics**,” which has become more popular. This theory suggests that these plates move a few inches each year. In some places the plates are moving apart, while in others, the plates are colliding or scraping against each other.

Scientists also discovered that most volcanoes and earthquakes occur along the boundaries of the various plates. Scientists hope that further study will help them increase their understanding of Earth’s story.
Knowledge Check

Matching

1. Plate Tectonics  a. lower part of Pangaea
2. Laurasia  b. Greek word meaning “all lands”
3. continent  c. theory suggesting that plates move a few inches each year
4. Gondwanaland  d. upper part of Pangaea
5. Pangaea  e. a large landmass completely or mostly surrounded by water

Multiple Choice

6. He explained his theory of the Continental Drift.
   a. Abraham Ortelius
   b. Alfred Lothar Wegener
   c. Pangaea
   d. Laurasia

7. The earth’s crust consists of ____ plates.
   a. about 20
   b. about 10
   c. about 5
   d. about 50

Did You Know?
Earth is thought to be the only planet in our solar system that has plate tectonics.

Constructed Response
Explain how the movement of the earth’s plates formed the seven continents. Use two details from the selection to support your answer.