



World Geography

GIS Inquiry: African Agriculture

Name:

Section:

Score: ____/5

Directions: Open up the webmap African Agriculture from the course website and answer the following series of questions using the map.

Question Set 1 – Farming Systems of Africa

Instructions: The layer should already be visible when you open up the map and close the splash page. Take a moment to navigate through the different options on the top left bar and familiarize yourself with the contents of this webmap.

1. Which two farming systems seem to cover the largest geographic area? What are they and what areas are they located in?
2. For both of the agricultural practices look them up and try to figure out what types of agricultural products (if any) can be produced there. (Hint – on the map details page there is a link to the Atlas of African Agriculture Research and Development that will have more information about each of the layers)

Question Set 2 – Agricultural Productivity

Instructions: For this set of questions you will be using the Average Length of Growing Period (LGP), the Farming Systems of Africa map, and the Cropping Intensity map (the darker it is the more agriculture is produced). For this you will be examining maps on top of one another and will need to turn maps on and off to see information clearly. Take some time to familiarize yourself with turning on and off layers, and changing the opacity (click on a layer, on the new screen you will be able to examine the legend and change the opacity of a layer using the slider).

1. Use the Farming Systems of Africa and the Cropping Intensity Layers to find the three farming systems that have the highest intensity of cropping.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. How long is the average estimated growing period for each of the Farming systems?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

3. Use the Average Length of Growing Period and the Cropping Intensity Map to find the areas where there is a low amount of cropping intensity. What are the three largest areas of low cropping density as compared to the LGP. Write down the LGP, and the general area where it is, as well as a general explanation of why there is such low cropping intensity.

a.

b.

c.

Question Set 3 –Agroecological Zones

Instructions: For this series of questions you will be switching between the two different Agroecological Zones maps and the Farming Systems of Africa map.

1. Examine the two different Agroecological zone maps of Africa and explain the general difference between the two. Which map do you think is better for finding information and why?

2. Explain the connection between climate and agriculture using the maps. Explain your answer using specific information and examples from the maps.

Question Set 4 – The Geography of Crops

Instructions: Choose one Crop and one Livestock and use all of the layers to fill out as much area about them in the areas provided below. For some of the questions you may need to use the eAtlas as well.

African Agricultural Products	
Generally where is the agricultural product grown/produced? List specific regions and countries	Crop: _____ Livestock: _____
In that area(s) what is the LGP?	
What type of Agroecological Zones support the growth of the crop/livestock	
Why might those animals/crops do so well in those Agroecological Zones and not others?	
What farming system(s) is each of the agricultural products part of?	

Thought Question:

Explain your reaction to the following quote. Use information from the maps and eAtlas to help you better explain your answer. “Famine in Africa is not so much the result of food shortage, rather it is an issue in food distribution.” Do you agree or disagree with the quote? Explain.