African independence
from the Esri GeoInquiries™ collection for World History

Target audience – World history learners	Time required – 15 minutes

Activity	Examine the relationship between methods used to gain independence within Africa and political stability.
Standards	**C3: D2.His.1.9-12.** Evaluate how historical events and developments were shaped by unique circumstances of time and place, as well as broader historical contexts. **C3: D2.His.2.9-12.** Analyze change and continuity in historical eras. **C3: D2.His.3.9-13.** Explore questions generated about individuals and groups to assess how the significance of their actions changes over time and is shaped by historical context.
Learning Outcomes	• Students will determine the chronology of African countries achieving independence. • Students will compare the various methods used to achieve independence within Africa after World War II.

Map URL: http://esriurl.com/worldHistoryGeoInquiry6

🔲 Ask

When did African countries gain their independence?

→ Click the link above to launch the map.
→ Observe the dates of independence.
? Which countries were independent before 1945? *[Ethiopia, Liberia, and Egypt]*
? How many years passed between the first and second countries gaining independence? *[75 years]*
? During what year did most countries gain independence? *[1960]*
? Which country was the last to achieve independence? When? *[South Sudan - 2011]*

🔲 Acquire

How did the paths to African independence differ?

→ With the Details button depressed, click the button, (Show) Contents.
→ Check the box to the left of the layer name, Paths to Independence.
→ To view the legend, click the layer name, Paths to Independence."
? Which method of achieving independence was used most often? *[Peaceful transition]*
? Which countries resulted from civil wars? *[Eritrea and South Sudan]*
? How do you think civil war affects life in a country? *[Government investment in the military crowds out social investments, refugees, and so on.]*
? Why do you think some independence movements were more violent that others? *[Answers will vary.]*

🔲 Explore

What challenges did Africans seeking independence overcome?

→ Turn on the Case Studies layer, and use the bookmarks and pushpins to answer the questions. *[See the Zoom to a Bookmark tip on the next page for details.]*
? What factor complicated independence for Algeria? *[Many French citizens settled there and they opposed independence.]*
? How did Ghana gain independence? *[Peaceful transition]*
? How were the USA and the USSR involved in Zaire (Congo, DRC)? *[Each backed different leaders.]*
? How did Kenya gain independence? *[Guerrilla warfare]*
? What issue complicated independence for South Africa? *[Government policy of apartheid]*
? What do you notice about the leaders of the independence movements in Kenya and South Africa? *[The leaders of the "rebellion" became leaders of the country after independence.]*

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📋 Analyze

What challenges did African governments face after independence?

- – Read aloud, "A coup d'état is the sudden, violent overthrow of an existing government by a small group."
- ❓ What are some reasons that a government would be overthrown? *[Answers may include religion, corruption, economic downturns, rival political parties, and so on.]*
- ➜ Turn on the layer, Number of Coups to 2010.
- ❓ Which areas of Africa have had the fewest coups? *[Northern and southern regions]*
- ❓ Which countries experienced the most coups from independence to 2010? *[Sudan and Nigeria]*

☑ Act

Why do the number of coups differ?

- ➜ Click a symbol for coups and read the pop-ups.
- ❓ How do you think the additional information would affect political stability? *[Answers will vary.]*
- ➜ Compare the number of coups with the method of achieving independence.
- ❓ What could account for the observed patterns? *[Many countries with large numbers of coups had peaceful transitions to independence while most of the countries with guerrilla warfare have had fewer coups.]*

IDENTIFY A MAP FEATURE	ZOOM TO A BOOKMARK
• Click a feature on the map, and a pop-up window will open with information.	• Click Bookmarks.
• Links and images in the pop-up are often clickable.	• Click a bookmark name to zoom to a map location and scale.
• An arrow icon in the upper right of the window indicates that multiple features have been selected.	
• Click the button to scroll through the features.	

Next Steps

DID YOU KNOW?
ArcGIS Online is a mapping platform freely available to public, private, and home schools. A school subscription provides additional security, privacy, and content features. Learn more about ArcGIS Online and how to get a school subscription at http://www.esri.com/schools.

THEN TRY THIS...
• Create a story map to highlight key figures of the African independence movements.
• Create a time-aware app to show the sequence of independence in Africa.

🗄 TEXT REFERENCES

This GIS map has been cross-referenced to material in sections of chapters from these high school texts.

- *World History by Prentice Hall — Chapters 22, 27 & 31*
- *World History, Patterns of Interaction by McDougal Littell — Chapters 27 & 34*
- *World History, The Human Journey by Holt — Chapters 17 & 24*
- *World History by Glencoe — Chapters 21 & 30*