

# Health Ratings for Sub-Saharan Africa Contributed by Artis West

**Suggested Grade Level:** 9

**Class Length:** 90 minutes

## **Inquiry Question:**

What are the health ratings for sub-Saharan African and what do they tell us?

## **Standards Addressed:**

**Standard 1:** How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.

**Standard 9:** The characteristics, distribution, and migration of human population on Earth's surface.

**Standard 13:** How the forces of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of Earth's surface.

**Standard 15:** How physical systems affect human systems.

**Standard 18:** How to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future.

## **Materials:**

A three-page packet for each student which consists of the following: Country Information Sheet, World Health Rating Scale, blackline political map of the African continent

## **Procedure:**

1. Sub-Saharan Africa country sign-up sheet rotates around the classroom.
2. Students are instructed to research sources for answers to blank demographic and other information on Country Information Sheet.
3. Once Country Information Sheet is complete, seven necessary components of data are transferred to World Health Rating Scale Sheet.
4. Data from top of scale are computed by chart into results tallied at bottom of page, result numbers are totaled and then divided, this number is Health Rating.
5. All African countries' ratings can now be written to transparency on OHP so that all students may record the data base, countries' names, and rating numbers 1-10, using one decimal point, e.g., 1.4 or 3.7.
6. Students are asked to create a meaningful and accurate representation of this information using the blackline political map of the African continent.
7. Students are asked to share with the class their thoughts and any conclusions they can draw from their own finished map. Students, teacher discussion, expansion, clarification ensues.

## **Evaluation**

Collect the finished packets from the students -- Completed map on top, then page of collected ratings, then World Health Rating Chart and, finally, Country Information Sheet. Grade according to completeness of info chart, quality of map, neatness, accuracy.

**Health Ratings sheets and other materials are below:**

## World Health Rating Scale

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Look up the most recent information about your country in the following categories:

\_\_\_ Male Life Expectancy                      \_\_\_ Infant Mortality Rate                      \_\_\_ Population Per Physician  
 \_\_\_ Female Life Expectancy                      \_\_\_ Crude Death Rate                      \_\_\_ % of Population under 15  
 \_\_\_ Per Capita GNP

Rate the country on a scale of 1 to 10 for each of these categories in the following manner. In the chart below, circle the number which is closest to the number you listed above in each category. If a country's number is midway between the two points on the chart, give it the number to the right representing a higher level of development. On the top line of the chart, find the rating for each category and enter it in the spaces below the chart. When you have entered all seven numbers, add them and divide by seven to get an overall Health Rating for the country.

	DEVELOPING					DEVELOPED				
Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Life expectancy (M)	43	47	51	54	58	61	65	68	72	76
Life Expectancy (F)	46	50	54	57	61	65	69	73	77	81
Infant Mortality per 1,000	143	127	111	96	81	66	50	35	20	5
Crude Death Rate	20	18	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	3
People/Physician	44,761	39,812	34,863	29,914	24,965	20,016	15,067	10,118	5,169	1,142
% Population Under 15	50	46	43	39	36	32	28	24	20	17
Per Capita GNP	149	3,202	6,255	9,308	12,361	15,414	18,467	21,520	24,573	27,622

### RESULTS

Male Life Expectancy    \_\_\_    Population per Physician    \_\_\_  
 Female Life Expectancy    \_\_\_    % Population Under 15    \_\_\_  
 Infant Mortality    \_\_\_    Per Capita GNP    \_\_\_  
 Crude Death Rate    \_\_\_  
 Total \_\_\_\_\_ / 7 = Health Rating \_\_\_\_\_

**Suggested Internet links to use:**

[www.lonelyplanet.com/dest/loc-afr.htm](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/dest/loc-afr.htm)

<http://www.national-geographic.com/maps/atlas/africa/Africa.html>

**Have students define and explain the terms used on the “World Health Rating Scale.”**

**Possible questions to use with the lesson:**

1. What do you observe about the specific location of the countries on the continent of Africa and the Health Rating number?
2. How does the rating vary among countries in the same region?
3. What reasons can you give for a developed nation having a better health rating than a developing nation?
4. Does the abundance of natural resources and the type of climate influence the health rating of a country? In what way?
5. Give reasons why the following factors influence the general health of a population. Relate these factors to the countries in sub-Saharan Africa.
  - a. Access to medical facilities and health care
  - b. Water and sanitation
  - c. Stable government
  - d. Political policy
  - e. Agriculture
6. Compare and contrast the health rating for sub-Saharan Africa with the USA.

## Country Information Sheet

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Population: total pop. \_\_\_\_\_ annual pop. growth \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnic groups and their pop.-growth rates \_\_\_\_\_

Religions \_\_\_\_\_ Languages \_\_\_\_\_

Literacy rate \_\_\_\_\_ Infant mortality rate \_\_\_\_\_ Crude death rate \_\_\_\_\_

Life expectancy-males \_\_\_\_\_ females \_\_\_\_\_

Population per Physician \_\_\_\_\_ Percent of Pop. under age 15 \_\_\_\_\_

Geography: area \_\_\_\_\_ major cities \_\_\_\_\_

Terrain \_\_\_\_\_

Climate \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetation \_\_\_\_\_

Government: type \_\_\_\_\_ date of independence \_\_\_\_\_

Branches \_\_\_\_\_

Political Parties: \_\_\_\_\_

Suffrage (who can and cannot vote) \_\_\_\_\_

Economy: gross national product \_\_\_\_\_ GNP annual growth rate \_\_\_\_\_

Per capita GNP \_\_\_\_\_ average inflation rate \_\_\_\_\_

Natural Resources \_\_\_\_\_ Agricultural products \_\_\_\_\_

Types of industry \_\_\_\_\_ Major exports \_\_\_\_\_

Major trade partners \_\_\_\_\_

Military: percent of GNP spent on defense \_\_\_\_\_

Size of active-duty armed forces \_\_\_\_\_ reserve forces \_\_\_\_\_

Status of relations with United States: \_\_\_\_\_

Foreign aid received: sources and amounts \_\_\_\_\_