

## Lesson 17

1. Africa is the second-largest continent, after Asia. It \_\_\_\_\_ of over fifty countries, and its people speak over a thousand different languages.
2. The world's largest desert, the Sahara, is in Africa. Travelers across it make their way from one \_\_\_\_\_ to the next, spending a night at each as they proceed on their way.
3. The continent has suffered greatly because of both natural and man-made disasters. Hunger, disease, and war are three of Africa's greatest \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Some countries in Africa are quite prosperous. If the country is at peace and the soil is \_\_\_\_\_, life can be good in these countries.
5. Climate changes greatly affect what happens to the land. Desert may \_\_\_\_\_ to grassland in one part of the continent, and the opposite may occur somewhere else.
6. Cattle are a measure of wealth in many parts of Africa. A loss of \_\_\_\_\_ means the size of the herd must be reduced.
7. Farmers in sub-Saharan Africa keep a close eye on the weather. Lots of rain means a good harvest, while little or no rain means the crops will \_\_\_\_\_ and die.
8. Farmers are helpless as they watch their crops fail for lack of water. No longer able to survive on the \_\_\_\_\_ land, the people move to the cities.
9. There's no fixed duration by which to measure a long period without rain. Some \_\_\_\_\_ last for a few weeks, while others go on for years.
10. Cutting down trees can be harmful for the land. Tree roots hold the soil in place and prevent it from being \_\_\_\_\_ by heavy rains.
11. Makeshift camps are set up to house people fleeing the advancing desert. These camps are \_\_\_\_\_ with people who have little hope for the future.
12. Babies born in these camps can expect to live there all their lives. Housing, education, and health services, if they are available at all, are often extremely \_\_\_\_\_.
13. The people forced to leave home would like nothing better than for conditions to improve so that they can return to their farms. They are not \_\_\_\_\_ by choice.
14. Food for the starving people arrives at African ports. For a variety of reasons, it often fails to reach the victims of \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Ending world hunger is a challenge for rich countries. They will need to \_\_\_\_\_ their efforts if they are to succeed.