

Social Studies 10 - Berlin Conference Simulation

Title of Lesson:

Creation of the Political Map of Africa: 1884 Berlin Conference Simulation
“Scramble for Africa”

Time:

100 Minutes

Required Materials:

- Background Information on the Berlin Conference 1884-1885
<http://geography.about.com/library/weekly/aa021601a.htm>

Objectives:

- Students will understand that political boundaries are human constructions by groups or individuals in political, economic, military power
- Students will understand that the current political map of Africa is largely a construction of European Imperialism of that late 19th and early 20th centuries
- Students will apply their knowledge of African climates, ecosystems, and resources

Teaching Suggestions:

- It is the teacher's discretion as to when to read the background information. It can be done before or after the simulation. Or, the background information can be split into two readings, one reading leading up to the Berlin Conference and the second following the simulation and reporting the results of the conference.
- Students could research the Berlin Conference and their country's role prior to the simulation
- The actual conference lasted from November 15, 1884 to February 26, 1885, was led by German Chancellor Otto Von Bismark. This role can be assumed by the teacher, a student or not at all.

Student Activities:

Berlin Conference 1884-1885 Simulation-

Teacher notes italicized

1. Students are divided into 8 country “ambassadors” and receive a role card for their country. (At the end of the document) *Role cards give a historical perspective and outlines where the country had colonial outposts and where they wanted to extend control.*
2. Students are given an outline map of Africa (At the end of the document)
3. Students use text to access physical, climate, ecosystem, and resource maps
4. Ambassadors utilize role card, background information on the conference, and the maps to determine which parts of Africa they would like to control and locate them on the map.

5. Dividing Time: Ambassadors caucus to determine which country gets which pieces of land. *This phase can be 15 minutes to multiple class periods depending how historically accurate and structured the teacher would like the simulation.*
6. Teacher uses map outline transparency to hear periodic reports from Ambassadors (use .png file and a Paint program to 'fill' in the countries of Africa as they are claimed)
7. Simulation is complete when the African continent is politically divided.

Closure/ Discussion Questions/ Reflection/Assessment Activities:

Can be done in any order

1. Students compare the simulated and actual political map created by conference
Textbooks commonly print the 1914 political map and is more readily available
2. Complete the discussion questions in groups.
3. Hand out the "Scramble for Africa" assignment sheet as a culminating activity.

Berlin Conference Role Cards
(print off on separate sheets and distribute to groups)

Germany

The 1884 Berlin Conference to partition Africa has been called by the German Chancellor, Otto Von Bismark. You are hosting the conference in your capital city. The goal of the conference is to negotiate and create a process for the partition of Africa into European colonies or spheres of influence. The European powers are interested in gaining access to raw materials and resources for their industrialization. Germany has some control of coastal southwestern Africa and coastal east Africa. Germany desires to maintain control of these areas.

France

The goal of the conference is to negotiate and create a process for the partition of Africa into European colonies or spheres of influence. The European powers are interested in gaining access to raw materials and resources for their industrialization. France has colonial outposts established along the west coast of Africa and extending inland approximately 500 miles east of Lake Chad. French colonial outposts include the cities of Libreville, Conakry, Dakar, and Abidjan.

Great Britain

The goal of the conference is to negotiate and create a process for the partition of Africa into European colonies or spheres of influence. The European powers are interested in gaining access to raw materials and resources for their industrialization. Great Britain is most concerned about maintaining control of the Suez Canal (it has been under their control since 1875) and the surrounding territory. The canal connects the Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean, Red, and Arabian Seas providing important shipping routes. Great Britain has expanded its control around the canal, throughout Egypt and south into the Sahara to create a buffer zone against French expansion. Great Britain desires holdings from the Cape (southern tip of Africa) to Cairo. British colonial outposts exist in west Africa in the cities of Lagos, Freetown, and Banjul. Great Britain is also in conflict with the Dutch for control of the Cape of Africa.

Portugal

The goal of the conference is to negotiate and create a process for the partition of Africa into European colonies or spheres of influence. The European powers are interested in gaining access to raw materials and resources for their industrialization. Portugal has the oldest colonial outposts on the continent: on the west coast, southwest coast, and the southeast coast.

Netherlands/Dutch

The goal of the conference is to negotiate and create a process for the partition of Africa into European colonies or spheres of influence. The European powers are interested in gaining access to raw materials and resources for their industrialization.

The Dutch have a long history in the Cape region of Africa dating back to the 1600s. The Dutch are presently struggling for control of the area against the British.

Belgium

The goal of the conference is to negotiate and create a process for the partition of Africa into European colonies or spheres of influence. The European powers are interested in gaining access to raw materials and resources for their industrialization.

Led by King Leopold, the Belgians want access to the mineral and rubber resources of the interior tropical rainforest in the Congo River basin. The Belgians are also interested in the ivory trade (elephant tusks).

Spain

The goal of the conference is to negotiate and create a process for the partition of Africa into European colonies or spheres of influence. The European powers are interested in gaining access to raw materials and resources for their industrialization.

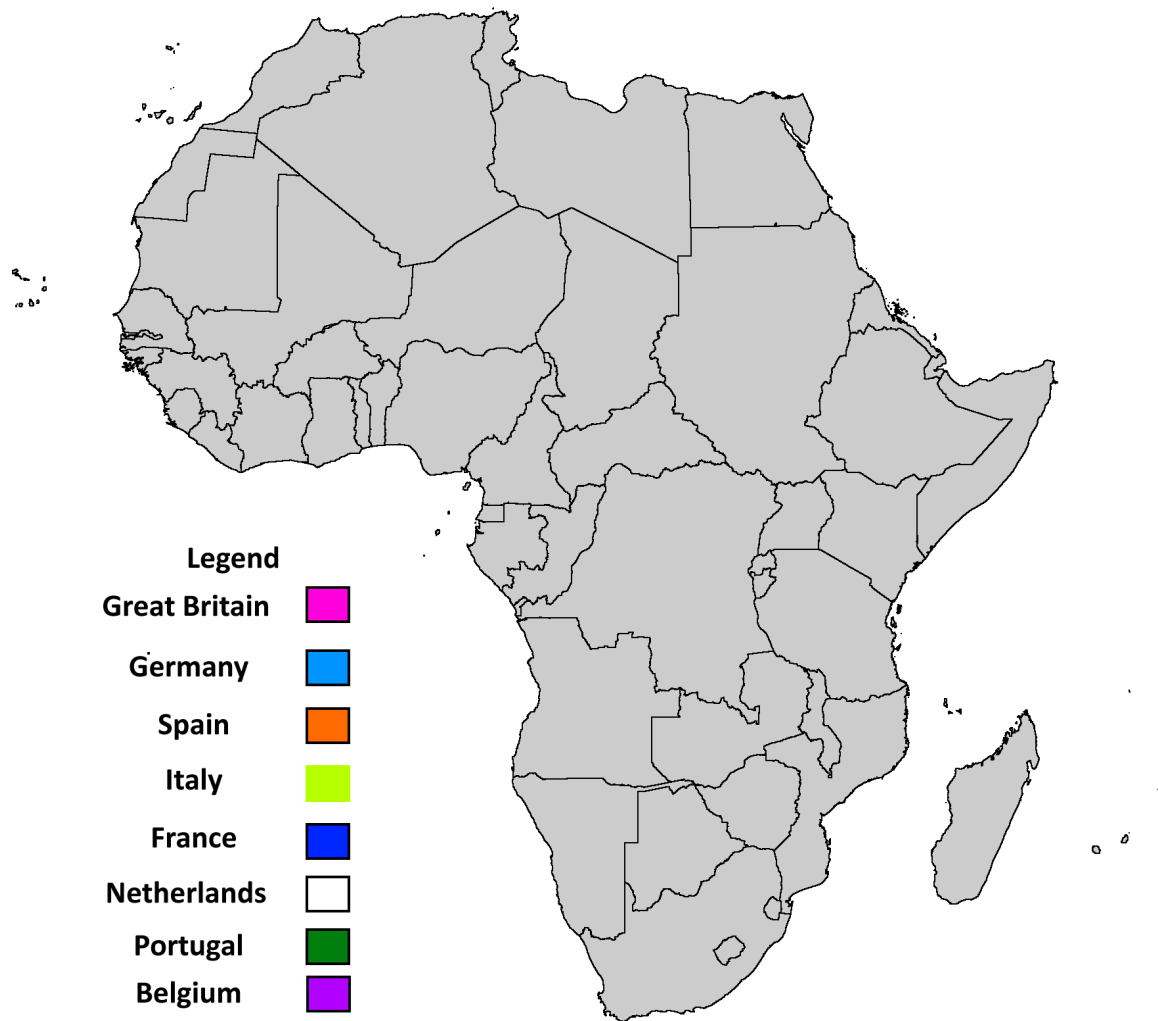
The Spanish want to maintain a presence on the western coast of Africa. However, the wars for independence in Latin America beginning in the 1820s have left the empire with little monetary funds.

Italy

The goal of the conference is to negotiate and create a process for the partition of Africa into European colonies or spheres of influence. The European powers are interested in gaining access to raw materials and resources for their industrialization.

Italy desires the Horn of Africa.

Map of Africa



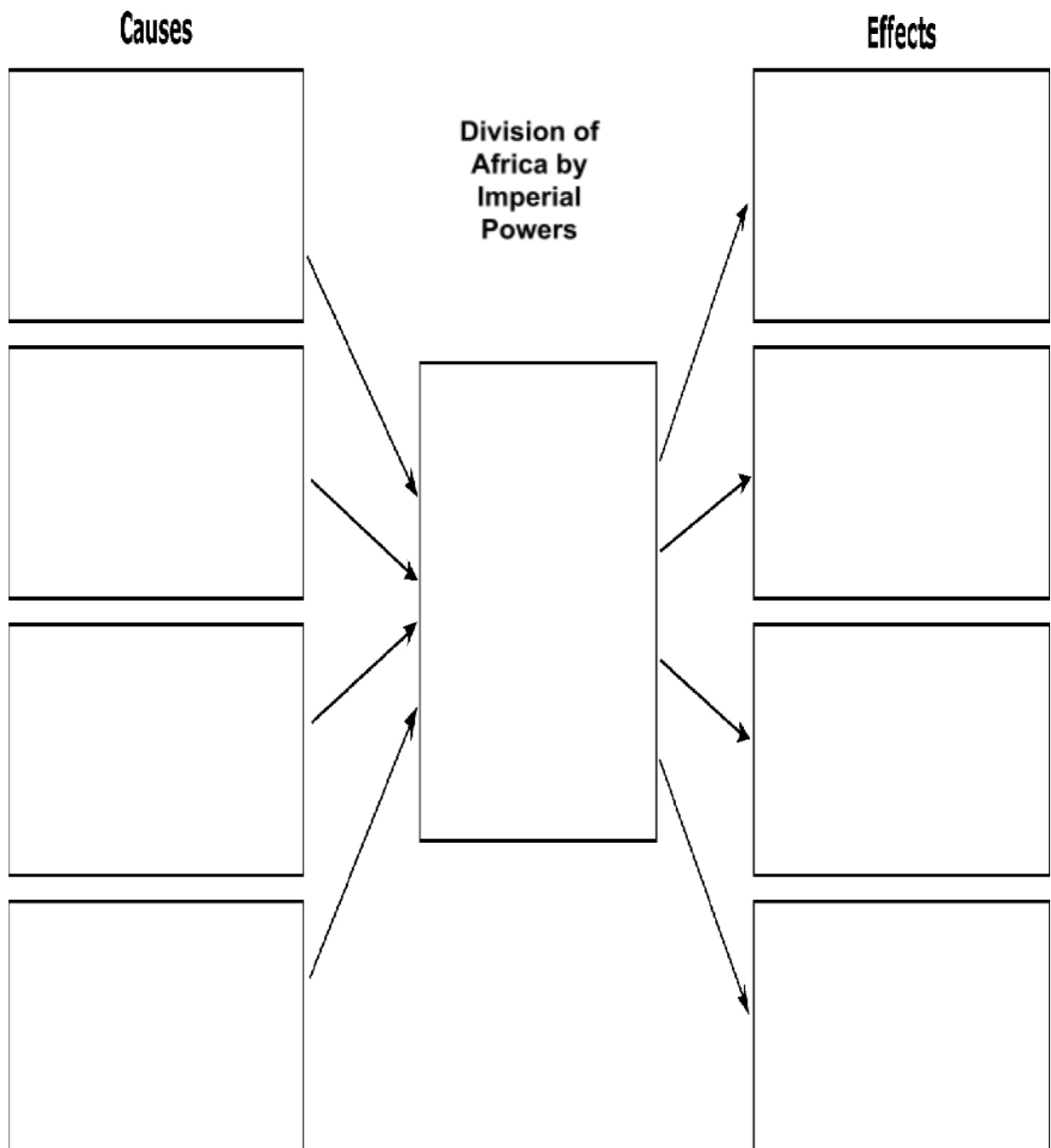
Scramble for Africa – Discussion Questions

1. Discuss and record the differences and predict the reasons for the *actual* political boundaries
2. Who was not represented at the conference? Why?
3. What challenges did this process create for the indigenous people of Africa?

Social Studies 10-1:

The Scramble for Africa

Refer to pages in 142-143 in your Exploring Globalization textbook. Follow steps 1-3 as outlined in your textbook. For step two, use the graphic organizer provided with this handout. For step 4, refer to the “Berlin Conference” simulation we did in class and the material presented on p. 138-141 in your textbook. Once you have completed steps 1-4 as outlined in your textbook, follow the instructions on the back of this page to complete the assignment.



KEY QUESTION: TO WHAT EXTENT DID THE CAUSES OF THE IMPERIAL POWER'S DIVISION OF AFRICA AFFECT THE FUTURE OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ON THAT CONTINENT?

