

Geographical features



SECOND EDITION

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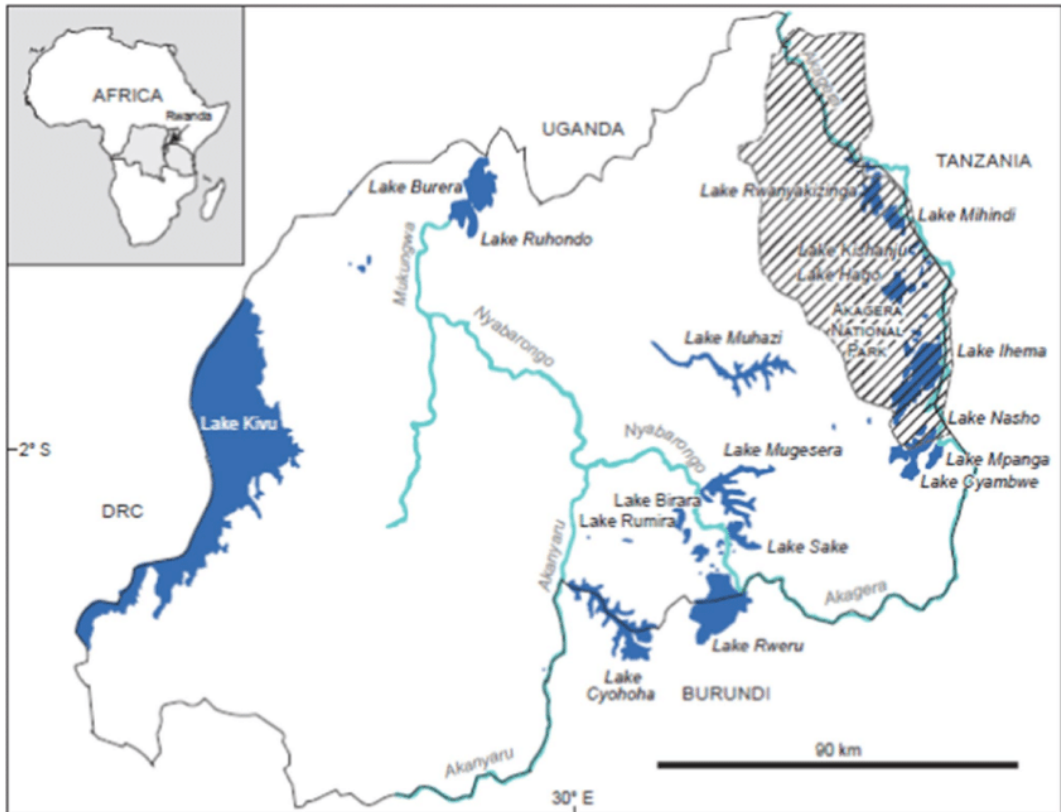
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Disclaimer: The first edition was made possible with assistance from the American people sponsored by the US Agency for International Development (USAID). The second edition is made possible with assistance from The World Bank. The contents are the sole responsibility of Rwanda Basic Education Board and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the US Government or The World Bank.



Rwanda is a small mountainous country in central Africa. It is bordered to the north by Uganda, to the East by Tanzania, to the south by Burundi and to the west by Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Rwanda has five volcanoes, 23 lakes and numerous rivers including Akagera. Akagera forms the source of River Nile.



Rivers:

A river is a flowing, moving stream of water. Usually a river feeds water into an ocean, lake, pond, or even another river.



There are many rivers in Rwanda.
The River Nyabarongo is the longest
river in Rwanda.



Lakes:

A lake is a body of water that is surrounded by land. Lake Kivu is one of the Great Lakes of Africa. It is important for fishing.

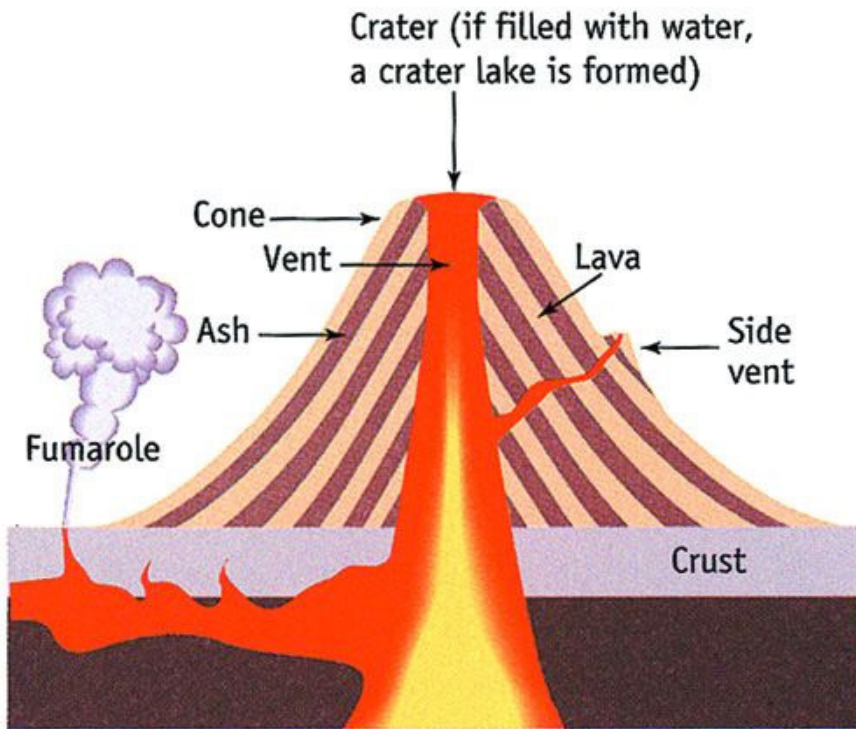


Mountains:

A mountain is a landform that rises high above its surroundings. Taller than a hill, it usually has steep slopes and a rounded or sharp peak.



Mount Karisimbi is the highest mountain in Rwanda.



Volcanoes:

A volcano is a vent, or opening, in Earth's surface through which molten rock, gases, and ash erupt.



Rwanda has five volcanoes. **Bisoke, Sabyinyo, Karisimbi, Gahinga and Muhabura.**



Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda is one of the places where Gold and Silver monkeys are found.

The National park is also a home to the mountain gorillas. The most common are silver back gorillas. What wonderful creatures! You find them jumping and playing in the trees.



The best time to visit Volcanoes Park is during the dry season from June to mid-September. Paths are less muddy and easier to navigate. However, the jungle is most green during the rainy season.



Hills:

A hill is a high piece of sloping ground. Rwanda is known as the Land of a Thousand Hills.



Swamps:

A swamp is a water-logged area. The major swamps are associated with major lakes such as Lake Cyohoha, Rweru, Mugesera, Nasho, and rivers, such as Nyabarongo, Akanyaru, Mukungwa, Base, Nyabugogo, among others. Swamps provide building materials like clay and reeds. They also help in climate moderation.



Forests:

Rwanda has a few natural forests and many planted forests. The natural forests include Nyungwe forest, Cyamudongo, Gishwati and Mukura. Forests provide timber and help in climate moderation.



The forest is home to chimpanzees, black and white monkeys and the blue monkeys among others.

Forests are home for various types of bird species as well.



Valleys:

A valley is a stretch of flat, low land between hills or mountains. A valley is often with rivers flowing through.

For example, we have Lake Kivu green valley. Lake Kivu is the largest of all valleys. It has freshwater bodies and hot springs that attract tourists.

Comprehension questions

1. What is the longest river in Rwanda?
2. Name one of the Great Lakes of Africa?
3. What is the highest mountain in Kigali?
4. Name the five Rwandan Volcanoes.
5. What is Rwanda also known as?
6. Name a river, mountain and lake in your community.

