



10 facts about Africa Day



Africa Day is celebrated annually on May 25 to commemorate the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). Here are some interesting facts about Africa Day and this year's theme:

1. On 25 May 1963, leaders from 30 of the 32 independent African states signed a founding charter in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
2. In 1991, the OAU established the African Economic Community and in 2002 the OAU established its own successor, the African Union. However, the name and date of Africa Day has been retained as a celebration of African unity.
3. The African Union, comprised of 53 member states, has brought together the continent of Africa to collectively address the challenges it has faced, such as armed conflict, climate change, and poverty. This year's theme of Africa Day is "Africa and the Diaspora."
4. Diaspora is derived from Greek διασπορά, meaning "scattering, dispersion" and most commonly refers to "the movement, migration, or scattering of people away from an established or ancestral homeland".
5. There were many reasons for the people dispersing and settling far from their homelands, the two main reasons being slavery and migration.
6. There are significant populations of African emigrants in many other countries around the world, including the UK and France, both of which had colonies in Africa.

7. The African diaspora was the movement of Africans and their descendants to places throughout the world - predominantly to the Americas, and also to Europe, the Middle East and other places around the globe. The term has been historically applied in particular to the descendants of the Africans who were enslaved and shipped to the Americas by way of the Atlantic slave trade, with the largest population in Brazil. In modern times, it is also applied to Africans who have emigrated from the continent in order to seek education, employment and better living for themselves and their children.

8. Dispersal through slavery: Many Africans were dispersed throughout Europe, Asia and the Americas during the Atlantic and Arab Slave Trades. The dispersal through slave trading represents one of the largest forced migrations in human history. The economic effect on the African continent was devastating.

9. Dispersal through migration: From the very onset of Spanish activity in the Americas, black Africans were present both as voluntary expeditionaries and as involuntary labourers. Emigration from Sub-equatorial Africa has been the primary reason for the modern diaspora. People have left the subcontinent because of warfare and social disruption in numerous countries over the years, as well as to seek better economic opportunities. Countries with the largest recorded numbers of immigrants to the U.S. are west African nations, Nigeria, Ghana and Sierra Leone. Some immigrants have come from Angola, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, and Cameroon. Immigrants typically congregate in major urban areas.

10. There is an estimated 800 million African descendants living outside of Africa.

