



GEOnotes

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The Extra Credit Opportunity of a Lifetime

Africa South of the Sahara

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Based on the text (p. 87), the continent of Africa contains some of the world's most significant mineral deposits, included is diamonds. According to a USA Today article by Dan Vergano <http://usatoday.com/news/world/2001-01-25-diamonds.htm>, while warfare simmers on the diamond-rich continent, governments look for ways to identify diamonds sold by legitimate mines as opposed to forces like Angola's UNITA rebels. In some cases where murderous armies commit atrocities, wielding weapons bought with diamonds stolen from rightful mine owners for much of the last decade. In the last six years the rebel group UNITA raised \$3.7 billion through illicit diamond sales, according to the British human rights group Global Witness.