

# Geography and History Activity

networks

## Contemporary Global Issues

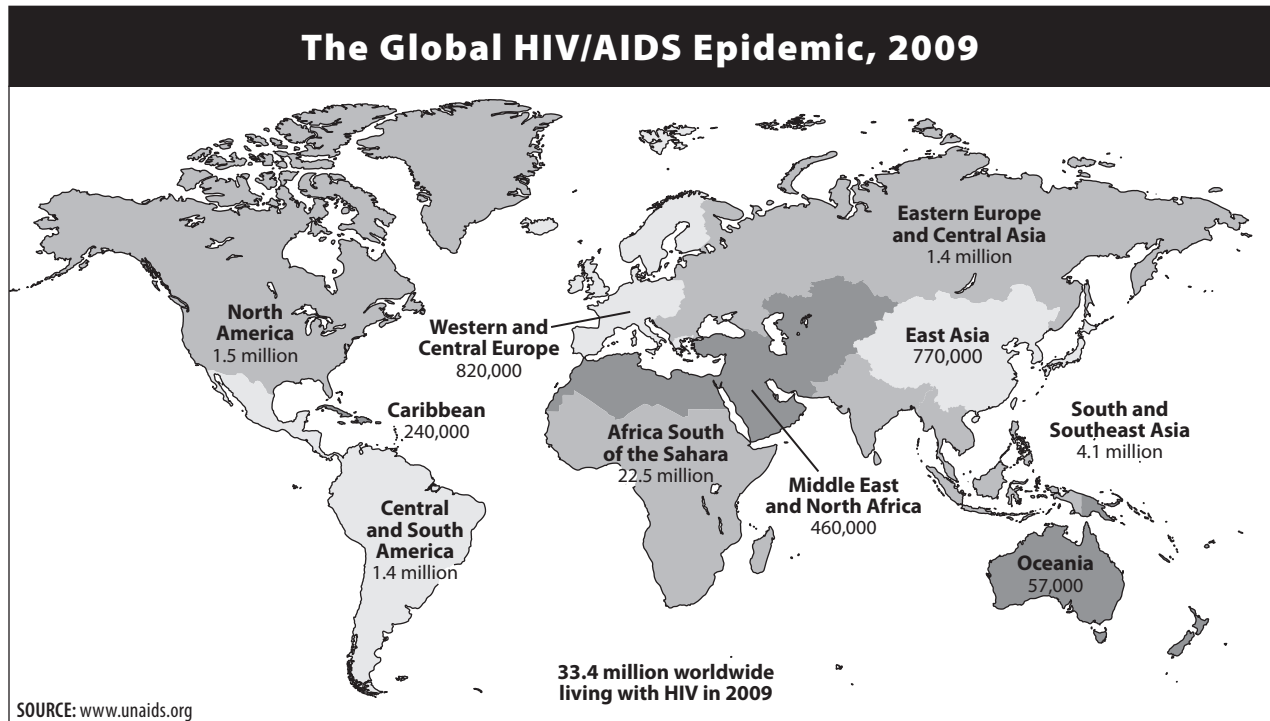
### Global Health: HIV/AIDS

**Medical geography** is the study of patterns of disease and death—for example, how diseases spread and how local environments affect mortality rates. This focus also includes variations in the rate or proportion of disease in any given area. Medical geographers study the impact of location and climate on a person's health. They also study the distribution of health services, which has an obvious correlation to the health of inhabitants of a given area.

One of the most pressing issues studied by medical geographers today is the global HIV/AIDS epidemic. The map shows the **spatial aspect** of the disease, depicting how the patterns vary in different regions of the world. These variances are often due to the influence of economics, education, access to health care, perceptions about HIV/AIDS, the status of women, and the movement of people.

The World Health Organization, among other experts, has noted that **migration** is one of the reasons behind the spread of HIV/AIDS. When migrant laborers travel away from their families in search of work, they are separated from their spouses for long periods. These migrant workers have disposable income, which may lead to risky behaviors. When they return home, they are often reluctant to practice safe sex, so the disease spreads.

Statistics from World Health Organization and UNAIDS



**Caption:** By 2009, about two-thirds of the HIV/AIDS cases in the world were in Africa south of the Sahara.

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# Geography and History Activity *Cont.*



## Contemporary Global Issues

**Directions:** Answer the questions below in the space provided.

### Understanding Concepts

1. **Interpreting** According to the map, how many people living in Eastern Europe and Central Asia are infected with HIV/AIDS?

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2. **Explaining** Explain the focus of medical geography.

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3. **Analyzing** What part does migration play in the spread of HIV/AIDS?

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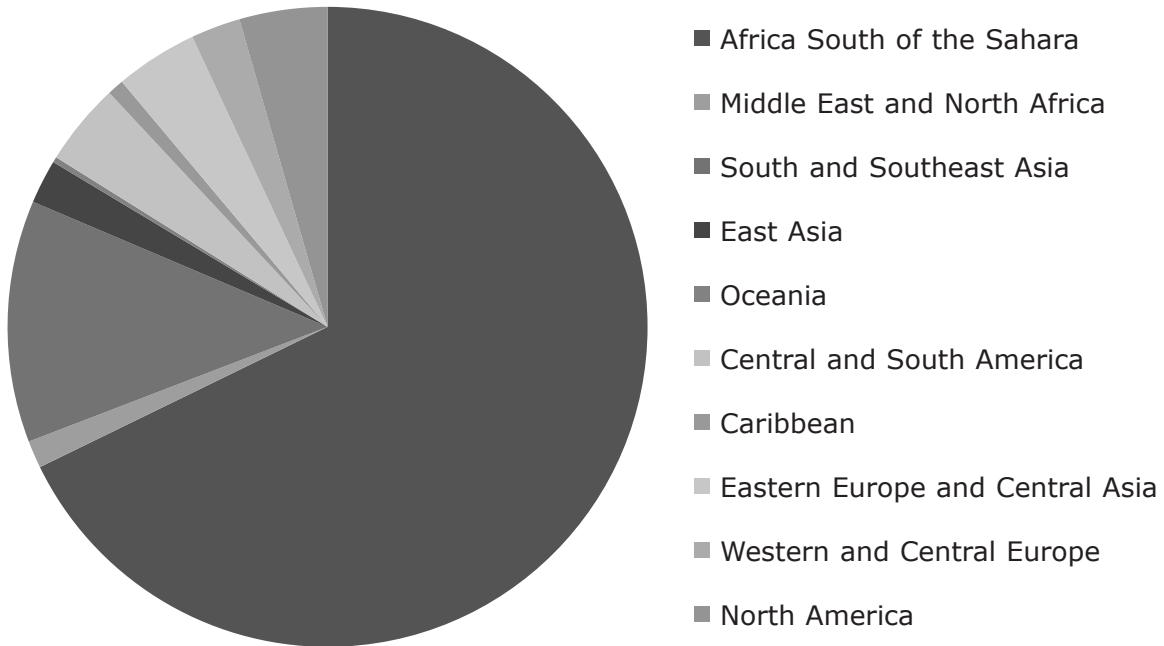
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# Geography and History Activity *Cont.*



## Contemporary Global Issues

### People Living with HIV/AIDS



#### Applying the Concept

4. **Comparing and Contrasting** Look at the circle graph. Which area makes up the largest percentage (68 percent) of people living with HIV/AIDS? Which area has 12 percent of the world's population living with HIV/AIDS?

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5. **Drawing Conclusions** Based on the information in the text and on the map, what do you think is the connection between poverty and HIV/AIDS?

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6. **Making Connections** Based on what you know about the causes of HIV/AIDS, how do you think the people of Africa south of the Sahara could best be helped?

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