African voices is a topic that is both captivating and inviting. One particular area that is fascinating is the Sahara desert. The geography within the desert brings about many questions on those who inhabit the area, as well as how a living was earned. After the continent was formed, the Sahara desert became the home for several tribes, but also brought about issues regarding the obtainment of water.

**SAHARA DESERT**

- Sahara is Arabic for “The Great Desert.”
- The desert receives about less than half an inch of rain per year.
- The desert is over 3.6 million square miles of area, and the temperature is known to go above 100 degrees daily.

Africa is the largest continent on Earth and home to a diverse array of climates. It is often theorized that Africa was the origin of humanity. About 300 million years ago, the Earth we know was very different than it is today. The Sahara desert takes up about 8% of Africa and some parts consist of rich and fertile land. It is currently the home to about 2 million people.

**FORMING OF AFRICA**

- The Sahara has only two permanent rivers and a handful of lakes, but it has substantial underground reservoirs, or aquifers. The Sahara’s aquifers often lie just below the surface of intermittent drainages, called wadis, which rise in mountain ranges and empty onto the desert floor. The aquifers sometimes discharge some of their water to the surface at locations called oases, which are normally found in the lower points of surface depressions. In the older days, when oases were scarce, people used donkeys and handmade wells in order to pull up water.

**TRIBIS**

- **Bobo**: The Bobo tribe has lived in the western regions for centuries. They are known for their celebratory masks as well as agriculture skills.

- **Taureg**: The class structure starts with the nobles on top and slaves at the bottom. They were a very powerful tribe with their control of the caravan trade, but were soon defeated by France.

- **Zulu**: The Zulu was a mighty warrior nation. The Zulu family was patriarchal; a man was both head of the family and a figure of authority.

- **Saharawi**: The Saharawi were also desert nomads. Presently they can be found in the western part of the Sahara desert. The tribe’s most common language is Arabic.

The Sahara desert was considered home to many tribes. Although the area contained harsh conditions, such as high temperatures and limited resources, the natives were able to develop techniques in order to get water. The Sahara desert is only one of the many fascinating areas Africa has to offer. But like other areas, there are issues that need solutions as well as adaption.