

SOUTH AFRICA - FACTS TO KNOW

Fast facts

OFFICIAL NAME: Republic of South Africa

FORM OF GOVERNMENT: Republic

CAPITALS: (administrative), (legislative), (judicial)

OTHER LARGE CITY: Johannesburg

POPULATION: 48,375,645

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES: 11 official languages (Afrikaans, English, IsiNdebele, IsiXhosa, IsiZulu, Northern Sotho, Sesotho, Setswana, SiSwati, Tshivenda, Xitsonga)

CURRENCY:

AREA: 470,693 square miles (1,219,089 square kilometers)

MAJOR MOUNTAIN RANGE:

MAJOR RIVERS:,



Geography

Most of South Africa's landscape is made up of high, flat areas called These lands are covered with rolling grasslands, and tree-dotted plains.

Interestingly, South Africa has another country within its borders. Nestled in the Drakensberg is the mountainous kingdom of Much of South Africa's water comes from the snowcapped peaks of this tiny, landlocked nation.

In 1910, the British united four colonies –,, and – in the region and created South Africa.

Nature

South Africa is full of **wildlife**. The country takes up only about one percent of Earth's land surface, but is home to almost 10 percent of the world's known bird, fish, and plant species and about 6 percent of its **mammal** and reptile species.

The seas around South Africa are also crowded with wildlife. About 2,000 marine species visit South African waters at some point during the year. There's also a world-famous sardine run off the east coast each June that draws thousands of hungry sharks, dolphins, and birds.



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People and culture

Many different peoples make up South Africa, each with their own language and history. The country has 11 official languages and many more unofficial ones. This colorful mix of cultures gives South Africa its **nickname** ".....".

South Africans are passionate about music, often using song and dance to express social and political ideas. They're also known worldwide for their skill in sports, including rugby, cricket, golf, and soccer. In 2010, South Africa became the first African nation to

SOUTH AFRICAN LANGUAGES		
Language	Number of speakers*	% of total
Afrikaans	5 983 420	13.35%
English	3 673 206	8.2%
IsiNdebele	711 825	1.59%
IsiXhosa	7 907 149	17.64%
IsiZulu	10 677 315	23.82%
Sesotho sa Leboa	4 208 974	9.39%
Sesotho	3 555 192	7.93%
Setswana	3 677 010	8.2%
SiSwati	1 194 433	2.66%
Tshivenda	1 021 761	2.28%
Xitsonga	1 992 201	4.44%
Other	217 291	0.48%
TOTAL	44 819 777	100%

Government and Economy

South Africa has been a since holding its first truly open election on April 27, 1994. Natural resources, agriculture, tourism, and manufacturing have made South Africa the on the continent. But problems with,, and, present huge challenges for the government.

President of the Republic of South Africa

Name:

Date of birth: 17 November 1952

President: since 15 February 2018

Term length: 5 years (once renewable)

Political party:
(a centre-left-winged party)

Predecessor: (African National Congress)



.....: a shameful political regime

Definition: a political system/regime of racial and discrimination in South Africa

Political party which promoted Apartheid :

Architect of Apartheid (person who designed the system):, member of the

..... . He **argued** that races would never be able to coexist, **hence** he recommended the system of Apartheid.

Year of beginning of Apartheid:

Year of **dismantlement**/abolition of Apartheid:

Consequences of theregime

- Each race was **assigned** a different (an area) in the city or around in the **outskirt**
- Blacks had no political rights in the South African Parliament, which had complete control over the homelands
- Priority **housing**, jobs, education and political power for
- whites and non-whites held different jobs, lived in different regions, and were subject to different levels of, education, and
- Blacks had to carry & obey **curfew** laws if they wanted to travel outside of their homelands.
- Along the **fringes** of the cities, Africans lived in massive, terribles, often separated from their families because only one family member could get a permit to live in the city.
- 1977: Press = the Apartheid government banned *The World, the Weekend World* and arrested the newspapers' editor Percy Qoboza. Pro Veritate, an **ecumenical** newspaper, was also banned.

.....: First Black President of South Africa



Full Name:

Years of life:

Political party: (ANC's aim: maintain voting rights for "**coloureds**" and black African people)

Presidency: **served** from to

Predecessor: (African National Congress)

Worldwide symbol of to Apartheid => before becoming President, he jointly worked withto Apartheid.

A brief timeline of South Africa's key dates

- In the 1400s: European ships heading to the Far East began stopping on the South African coast for **supplies**.
- 1652: The Netherlands established the southern city of, and Dutch farmers, called *Boers*, began **settling** in the areas around the city.
- 1806: Wars in Europe left the in control of the Cape Town colony.
- 1880 -1881: (British colonizers VS Boers of the Transvaal Republic) . Defeat for the British and the second independence of the Transvaal Republic.
- 1899 -1902: (British Empire VS Boers of the Transvaal and Orange Free State). Gold was discovered in Transvaal, leading to an influx of foreigners into Transvaal and Orange. Victory for the British.
- 1910: The British united the Cape of Good Hope, the Orange Free State, and to **found** South Africa.
-: Beginning of Apartheid
- 1963: Mandela was after travelling abroad illegally and trying to **sabotage** a train carrying members of the Nationalist Party
- 1990: After 27 years in prison, Nelson Mandela was **released, pardoned** by President F. W. de Klerk.
-: **Dismantlement** of Apartheid, beginning of Mandela's presidency (lasted until 1999).
- 2013: Death of Nelson Mandela