# SOUTH AFRICA – FACTS TO KNOW

The Powerpoint Presentation will give you basic facts to know about South Africa. Memorize as much information as possible before you take on the quiz which follows.



### FAST FACTS

**OFFICIAL NAME: Republic of South Africa** FORM OF GOVERNMENT: Republic CAPITALS: Pretoria (administrative), Cape Town (legislative), Bloemfontein (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** Rand AREA: 470,693 square miles (1,219,089 square kilometers) MAJOR MOUNTAIN RANGE: Drakensberg MAJOR RIVERS: Limpopo, Orange



#### South African Flag



A South African Rand

### GEOGRAPHY

Most of South Africa's landscape is made up of high, flat areas called plateaus. 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 Lesotho. Much of South Africa's water comes from the snowcapped peaks of this tiny, landlocked nation.

In 1910, the British united four colonies – Cape of Good Hope, Orange Free State, Transvaal and Natal – 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.

#### an aardvark

a springbok

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.



#### a warthog

a cheetah

#### **PEOPLE & 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 "rainbow nation."

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 host the football World Cup.



#### SOUTH AFRICAN LANGUAGES

Language	Number of speakers*	% of total
Afrikaans	5 983 420	13.35%
English	3 673 206	8.2%
lsiNdebele	711 825	1.59%
IsiXhosa	7 907 149	17.64%
lsiZulu	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	I 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 & ECONOMY**

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

#### PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Name: Cyril RAMAPHOSA

Date of birth: 17 November 1952

President: since 15 February 2018

<u>Term length</u>: 5 years (once renewable)

<u>Political party</u>: African National Congress (a centre-left-winged party)

<u>Predecessor</u>: Jacob Zuma (African National Congress)



## HISTORY : APARTHEID

- Definition: a political system/regime of racial segregation and discrimination in South Africa
- Political party which promoted Apartheid: the Nationalist Party
- <u>Architect of Apartheid (person who designed the system)</u>: <u>Hendrik Verwoerd</u>, member of the Nationalist Party. He argued that races would never be able to coexist, hence he recommended the system of Apartheid.
- <u>Year of beginning of Apartheid</u>: 948

• Year of dismantlement/abolition of Apartheid:



# HISTORY : CONSEQUENCES OF APARTHEID

- Each race was assigned a different *homeland* (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
- whites and non-whites held different jobs, lived in different regions, and were subject to different levels of pay, education, and health care
- Blacks had to carry passes & obey curfew laws if they wanted to travel outside of their homelands.
- Along the fringes of the cities, Africans lived in massive, terrible slums, often separated from their families because only one family member could get a permit to live in the city.
- 1977: Press censorship = the Apartheid government banned The World, the Weekend World and arrested the newspapers' editor Percy Qoboza. Pro Veritate, an ecumenical newspaper, was also banned.

NELSON MANDELA: FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Full Name: Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

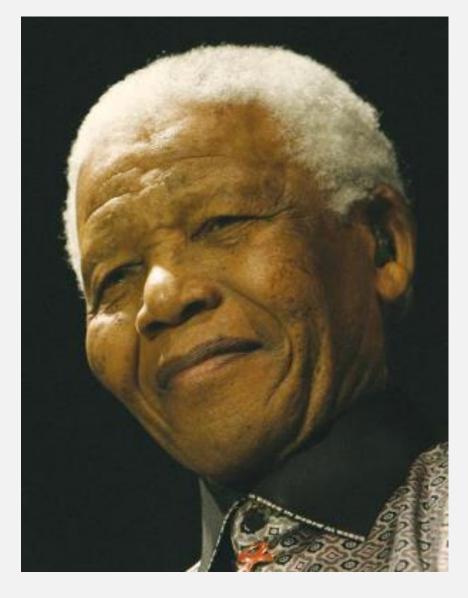
Years of life: 1918 - 2013

<u>Political party:</u> African National Congress (ANC's aim: maintain voting rights for "coloureds" and black African people)

Presidency: served from 1994 to 1999

Predecessor: F. W. de Klerk (African National Congress)

Worldwide symbol of resistence to Apartheid => before becoming President, he jointly worked with President F.W. de Klerk to dismantle Apartheid



"It always seems impossible until it's done."

- Nelson Mandela

# 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.
- I652: The Netherlands established the southern city of Cape Town, and Dutch farmers, called Boers, began settling in the areas around the city.
- 1806: Wars in Europe left the British in control of the Cape Town colony.
- 1880 1881: First Boer War (British colonizers VS Boers of the Transvaal Republic). Defeat for the British and the second independence of the Transvaal Republic.
- 1899 1902: Second Boer War (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, Transvaal and Natal to found South Africa.
- 1948: Beginning of Apartheid
- I963: Mandela was sentenced to prison for life 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.
- 1994: Dismantlement of Apartheid, beginning of Mandela's presidency (lasted until 1999).
- 2013: Death of Nelson Mandela



YOU HAVE ONE MINUTE TO JOIN THE MEMBERS OF YOUR TEAM, AND THEN 15 MINUTES TO MAKE A QUIZ FOR ANOTHER TEAM.

The team betting the highest score of good answers might get a bonus for the next vocabulary minitest !

Are you ready ? ... Steady ? ... Go !