

Year 4 - Geography - South Africa



Where would you like to go to school?

Subject specific Vocabulary

Africa	Africa is a continent and it is thought to be the place where humans first developed.
Atlantic Ocean	The Atlantic Ocean is bordered by the Americas to the west and Europe and Africa to the east. It is the 2nd largest oceans in the world.
Drought	A drought is an extended period of time when a country or region has below average rainfall.
Human geography	Things that are present in the world because of humans. E.g. Bridges, roads, population, religion and education.
Hemisphere	The earth is divided in two by an imaginary line called the equator. The part of the world above this line is the northern hemisphere and the area below the line is the southern hemisphere.
Indian Ocean	One of the worlds five oceans. The Indian Ocean is between southern Asia, Africa and Australia.
Plateau	A large, flat area of land. Grasslands are called 'highveld' and tree dotted plains are called 'bushveld'.
Population	The number of people living in an area.
Physical geography	Things that are present in the world and would be here without humans. E.g. Rivers, coastlines, mountains, forests and volcanoes.
South Africa	A country in the southern region of Africa
Urbanisation	Urbanisation occurs when people move from rural areas to urban areas (cities)

Extra Information

Comparison with the UK

South Africa is in the southern hemisphere, whereas the UK is in the northern hemisphere.
 The UK is an island in Europe, whilst South Africa is on the African continent.
 The UK has a temperate climate, whilst the South Africa climate varies in different parts of the country.
 South Africa is much larger than the UK however South Africa has a population of 59 million whereas the UK has 66 million.



Physical Geography

The Orange river is the longest river in South Africa and is approx. 209km in length. High up in the snow-capped mountains, the river sometimes freezes over and this causes droughts downstream.

The Drakensberg mountain range is the main mountain range of Southern Africa. In Afrikaans the name means 'dragon mountains'. It was formed around 182 million years ago in the Jurassic period. Many animals live in the mountains including the eland, mountain reedbuck, the grey roebuck and oribi.

Veld means field in Afrikaans. There are lots of different types of veld including highveld, bushveld and thornveld.

In the bushveld (which means thorn bush field), some of Africa's most well-known animals can be found.

The highveld covers around 30% of South Africa's land area. There are not many mountains and is mainly made up of rolling plains. It is home to a number of endangered animals including the straw coloured fruit bats.

Human Geography

Approximately 10% of the land in South Africa is used for farming.

Farming gives lots of people jobs and brings money to the country when it exports goods. The main crops include corn, wheat, sugarcane, peanuts, citrus fruits and potatoes.

In 1870 there was a large-scale diamond rush when diamonds were discovered in South Africa. It is still one of the leading suppliers of diamonds.

The most important manufacturing industries in the country include, food processing, the production of metals, chemicals and textiles.

South Africa is also known as the 'Rainbow Nation'. This refers to the different cultures and types of people that live there and this is reflected in their food.

South Africa has 3 capital cities, Pretoria, Cape Town and Bloemfontein.

Sticky Knowledge

South Africa is a country in the southern region of Africa.

South Africa's most important manufacturing industry is the production of metals and metal products.

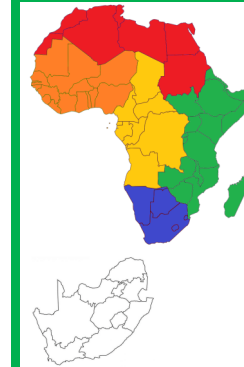
South Africa has 11 official languages.

South Africa's land is made up of a variety of terrains, including highveld and bushveld.

Education is compulsory between the ages of 7 and 15.

Urbanisation occurred in Cape Town for three main reasons: better jobs, improved services and better education.

Maps and Interesting Images



Books linked to the theme

