

Chapter 9

Republic of South Africa

Chapter Preview

People

Afrikaners, Nelson Mandela, Boers, Zulus, Kgalema Motlanthe, Jacob Zuma, F. W. de Klerk, Desmond Tutu, Thabo Mbeki

Places

Indian Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Cape of Good Hope, Lesotho, Orange River, Drakensberg Mountains, Great Escarpment, Kalahari Desert, Johannesburg, Union of South Africa, Pretoria, Bloemfontein


Terms

apartheid, veld, escarpment, acid rain, Dutch East India Company, African National Congress (ANC), homeland, embargo, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, African Union (AU), republic, head of government, head of state, Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, Constitutional Court, National Development Plan, rand, African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), BRICS

Top: Sandstone mountains reach skyward at Royal Natal National Park in eastern South Africa.

Background: Johannesburg is South Africa's largest city and site of soccer's 2010 World Cup.

Bottom Right: African penguins in South Africa live thousands of miles north of penguins' main habitat in Antarctica.



South Africa's history has been greatly affected by its location. In one sense, it is remote. It lies at the southern tip of the African continent. From Atlanta, a commercial air flight would take about sixteen hours nonstop. In another sense, it is a crossroads. Ships traveling between the Indian and Atlantic Oceans from Asia to Europe skirt the coast of this country and go around the Cape of Good Hope on their journeys. This location has encouraged an active trading environment.

In the 1600s, Dutch (Netherlands) businessmen set up a colony near the Cape of Good Hope as a trading post and place for ships to stop for repairs and supplies on their journey from Europe to trade in Southeast Asia. This settlement grew into the colony of South Africa. Settlers and their descendants were known as Afrikaners and their language evolved into Afrikaans. The English would later enter the region and have a time of control before the country became independent.

It was the time after independence that was most infamous for South Africa. The country had a legally separated society called **apartheid**, the Afrikaans word for "apartness." This apartness separated whites and blacks at all levels of society and restricted freedoms for black Africans. One of South Africa's most famous people is Nelson Mandela. He worked to end apartheid, but in doing so, he spent twenty-seven years in prison. Four years after his release, an amazing event happened. Mandela was elected president of his country.

South Africa's natural wonders are as interesting as its history. The country has amazing wildlife and diverse biomes (communities of plants and animals). From lions to leopards, elephants to giraffes, ostriches and even penguins, South Africa is home to great diversity, which makes learning about it a fascinating journey.

“

I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.

- Nelson Mandela,
former president
of South Africa



PASSPORT



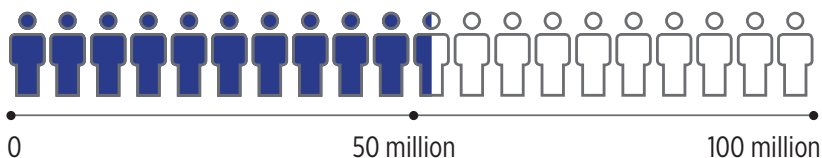
Official Name: Republic of South Africa
Capital: Pretoria
Form of Government: parliamentary republic
Head of Government: President
Head of State: President
Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal
Currency: South African rand (ZAR)



Top Left: Flag of South Africa.
Top Right: Cyril Ramaphosa became president in 2018. **Middle Left:** The Parliament buildings in Cape Town.
Middle Right: Pretoria. **Right:** South African currency.

CULTURE CONNECTION

POPULATION

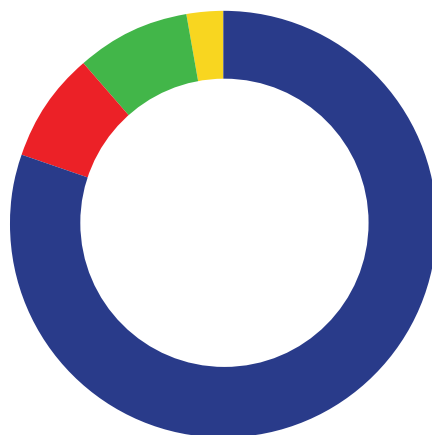


South Africa
54,300,704 (est. July 2016)
Population Rank 26

United States
324,386,000 (est. 2017)
Population Rank 3

ETHNIC GROUPS

- black African 80.2%
- white 8.4%
- mixed 8.8%
- Indian/Asian 2.5%



FUN FACTS

The Karoo region in the Western Cape province of South Africa is home to some of the best fossils of early dinosaurs. Also, it is estimated that roughly 80 percent of the mammalian fossils found to date were from the Karoo.

Official Language:

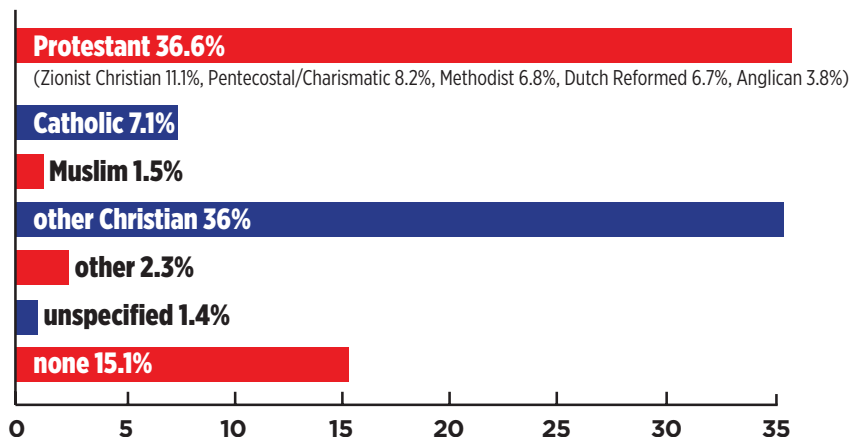
Zulu 22.7%

Xhosa 16%, Afrikaans 13.5%, English 9.6%, Sepedi 9.1%, Setswana 8%, Sesotho 7.6%, Xitsonga 4.5%, siSwati 2.5%, Tshivenda 2.4%, isiNdebele 2.1%

Phrases in Zulu

- Hello** – Sawubona
- Goodbye** – Hamba kahle
- Good morning** – Sawubona
- Good afternoon** – Sawubona
- Thank you** – Ngiyabonga
- You're welcome** – Wamukelekile
- Yes** – Yebo
- No** – Ayikho

RELIGION



LIFE EXPECTANCY

Average 63.1 years
Male 61.6 years
Female 64.6 years



EDUCATION

Literacy: total population 94.3%; male: 95.5% / female 93.1%
Education Expenditures 6.1% of GDP
Rank 42

Below: The Castle of Good Hope in Cape Town was built in 1666. It is South Africa's oldest surviving building.

Bottom: This statue in Pretoria honors Nelson Mandela. He was imprisoned for his political activities but was later elected president of South Africa.

Bottom Right: South Africa hosted the FIFA World Cup in 2010.

TIMELINE

OF SOUTH AFRICA HISTORY



Figure 9.1





Area: 470,693 square miles

Area Rank: 25

Natural Resources:

gold, chromium, antimony, coal, iron ore, manganese, nickel, phosphates, tin, rare earth elements, uranium, gem diamonds, platinum, copper, vanadium, salt, natural gas

Environmental Issues:

lack of important arterial rivers or lakes requires extensive water conservation and control measures; growth in water usage outpacing supply; pollution of rivers from agricultural runoff and urban discharge; air pollution resulting in acid rain; soil erosion; desertification

Map 9.1

South Africa

Map Skill: What is unusual about the area labeled “Lesotho”?

Section 1

The Geography of South Africa


 Setting a Purpose

As you read, look for

- ▶ how South Africa's geography and location affect trade;
- ▶ how velds are used by the people in South Africa;
- ▶ the Great Escarpment;
- ▶ environmental issues in South Africa;
- ▶ the number of official languages spoken in South Africa;
- ▶ terms: **veld**, **escarpment**, **acid rain**.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Cape of Good Hope was originally named the Cape of Storms. The name was changed at the suggestion of Portuguese King John II to make the name sound more encouraging.

Location and Size of South Africa

South Africa is located at the southern tip of Africa, with over 1,864 miles of coastlines on both the Indian and Atlantic Oceans. It is situated in both the eastern and southern hemispheres. The Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet at Cape Point in the continent's southwestern corner. Five African countries border South Africa: Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe. The kingdom of Lesotho is located completely within the territory of South Africa. The physical features of South Africa include grasslands, forests, deserts, mountains, beaches, and coastal wetlands. South African farmers refer to the open lands they farm as **velds**.

At 470,693 square miles, South Africa is about eight times the size of the state of Georgia. It is the ninth-largest country in Africa.

Top: South African farmers refer to open farmland like this near Ceres as velds. **Bottom:** The Cape of Good Hope lies at the southern tip of Africa where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet.

Physical Features of South Africa

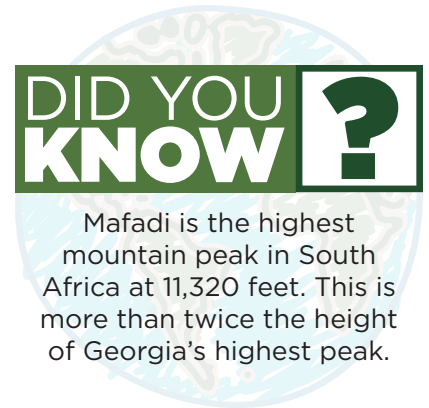
Even though South Africa has long coastlines, none of the river mouths along the coast are good for ports or harbors. Sandbanks block the entrances to most rivers. The Orange River is South Africa's longest river. Rising in the Drakensberg Mountains, it runs through the Lesotho Highlands and joins the Caledon River between the Eastern Cape and the Free State. Before it flows into the Atlantic Ocean, it forms the border with Namibia. While there are many other rivers in South Africa—including the Vaal, Breede, and Limpopo—they are not the size of the major rivers of Africa, like the Nile, Congo, or Niger. Additionally, none of South Africa's rivers are navigable for transportation and trade. South Africa does not have any large lakes. People, however, have created artificial lakes to help with crop irrigation.

One of the most important physical features in South Africa is the Great Escarpment. An **escarpment** is a long, steep slope that usually separates lands at different heights. South Africa's Great Escarpment separates an interior plateau from a coastal plain. The eastern part of the escarpment is made up of the Drakensberg Mountains, which are the highest part of the plateau. The majority of land in South Africa is part of a plateau that stretches to the Sahara Desert in North Africa. The average height of the plateau is about 400 feet above sea level.

Finally, in the northwestern corner of South Africa lies the Kalahari Desert. The Kalahari is also located in Botswana and Namibia. It covers over 350,000 square miles, making it the second-largest desert in Africa behind the Sahara. Ironically, the Kalahari Desert actually receives too much rain to be considered a true desert. It receives between five and ten inches of rain a year! The Okavango River actually flows through the Kalahari. The desert is home to lions, leopards, and meerkats, as well as people who were hunter-gatherers who have lived there for thousands of years.



The light of the new Cape Point Lighthouse on the Cape of Good Hope can be seen by ships at sea up to thirty-seven miles away.



Mafadi is the highest mountain peak in South Africa at 11,320 feet. This is more than twice the height of Georgia's highest peak.



Bottom Left: The Orange River divides South Africa and Namibia. **Bottom Right:** The Kalahari Desert lies in the northwest corner of South Africa.



Climate of South Africa

The climate of South Africa is mainly temperate, or mild. The two things that have the most effect on the climate are the ocean currents and the altitude. For example, the plateau is in the northern part of South Africa, which would suggest a tropical climate. However, because the plateau is at a higher elevation, the climate is mostly semiarid. Between the Great Escarpment and the coast lies a narrow coastal plain. The climate along the coast is subtropical as a result of the warm ocean currents.

Natural Resources of South Africa

South Africa has some of the most valuable natural resources found in Africa. In addition to fertile land, South Africa has large deposits of diamonds, gold, and platinum. Other important natural resources include chromium, coal, iron ore, nickel, manganese, phosphates, tin, salt, uranium, and natural gas. All of these valuable minerals have helped economic growth within South Africa. These minerals have also led to a lot of interest and investment from countries around the world. In fact, most of South Africa's exports are minerals, like gold and platinum, as well as diamonds.

Where People Live in South Africa

The majority of South Africans live in the eastern part of the country, where the geography and climate are more favorable. The northwestern part of the country is covered by the Kalahari Desert, which means that it is sparsely populated. Over half of the population lives in cities. The largest city is Johannesburg. Over 8 million people live in the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Area.

One other major factor besides physical geography that influences where people live is apartheid. During this system of racial segregation, black South Africans were forced to live in separate areas. Even though apartheid ended in 1994, the effects of it on population distribution are still clear.



Top: Warm weather encourages beachgoers at Scottburgh on the Indian Ocean. **Above:** Diamonds are one of South Africa's most famous exports. **Right:** This upscale residential area is located outside of Johannesburg.

Environmental Issues in South Africa

Like most countries in the world today, South Africa has several important environmental issues its people are working to solve. One of the most important environmental issues is the lack of rivers and lakes. As the population of South Africa continues to grow, people must practice water conservation techniques to meet their need for water. Population growth is already outpacing the amount of available fresh water. This could lead to serious problems in the future. Another result of a growing population and urbanization is an increase in air pollution, leading to **acid rain** (rain with increased acidity that is caused by air pollutants and other environmental factors). Acid rain can cause the death of forests as well as fish and plant life in water environments. Desertification and soil erosion are other serious environmental issues facing the people of South Africa.



South Africa's People

South Africa is home to over 54 million people. The people of South Africa are diverse in religious beliefs, cultures, and languages. The impact of Dutch and British colonization can be seen throughout the culture of South Africa. People of European descent are a minority at about 8 percent of the population. The main ethnic groups are the Nguni (including the Zulu and Swazi) the Sotho-Tswana, the Venda, and the Tsonga.

There are eleven official languages in South Africa, and most South Africans can speak two or more languages. Afrikaans, the language of the Dutch settlers, is spoken by about 13 percent of the population. The non-European languages are native African languages. English is the most commonly used language for government and commercial use. About 80 percent of the people are of African descent. About 80 percent of South Africans identify as Christian.



Reviewing the Section

1. How does South Africa's geography affect trade?
2. What are velds? How are they used by the people in South Africa?
3. How do the rivers in South Africa affect the people who live there and how they trade?
4. What is the Great Escarpment?
5. What is the most important environmental issue in South Africa? What is being done to solve it?
6. How many official languages are spoken in South Africa? How do you think this affects life in South Africa?
7. Putting It All Together: How does geography affect the people of South Africa? Be sure to explain where most people live and why they choose those locations.

Top: Air pollution from coal-burning power plants billows into the air on a cold winter morning. **Above:** This young Zulu woman is wearing a traditional beaded headdress.

Section 2

A Brief History of South Africa


 Setting a Purpose

As you read, look for

- ▶ why Europeans were first interested in South Africa;
- ▶ which European countries colonized South Africa;
- ▶ reasons the African National Congress was formed;
- ▶ how apartheid impacted the lives of black South Africans;
- ▶ the importance of Nelson Mandela and F. W. de Klerk;
- ▶ how life in South Africa changed after the end of apartheid;
- ▶ terms: **Dutch East India Company, African National Congress (ANC), homeland, embargo, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, African Union (AU).**

Early History of South Africa

Thousands of years ago, the people living in the area that would become South Africa were hunter-gatherers. As the name suggests, they hunted animals and gathered plants to supply their need for food. Archeologists have discovered evidence that, about 2,000 years ago, these hunter-gatherers began to herd animals and plant crops. This lifestyle allowed for the development of larger settlements. About 1,800 years ago, Bantu from the north moved into the region, and most South Africans trace their history to these people.

Top: At the Lesedi Cultural Village, a young woman models the traditional costume of a member of the Bantu nation. **Above:** A young Bantu man demonstrates a traditional costume at the Lesedi Cultural Village. **Right:** The rondavel is the traditional type of home for the Bantu.



Early Colonial Period

The first Europeans to arrive in South Africa were Portuguese sailors who were seeking a sea route to India in the late 15th century. As trade increased, more Europeans passed the area's shores. In the late 16th century, other Europeans, like the Dutch and British, arrived.

The Dutch were the first Europeans to establish a settlement in South Africa. In 1652, the Dutch East India Company set up a trade post to re-supply passing ships in the area where Cape Town would be eventually located. The **Dutch East India Company** was a Dutch trading company founded in 1602 to protect Dutch trading interests in the Indian Ocean. By 1657, European settlers were creating permanent farms around Cape Town in the colony called South Africa. Dutch settlers were known as Boers. In the 1700s, European settlements began to move further inland. As the settlers needed more land and water resources, the indigenous people were forced to give up their land and became servants. The number of slaves steadily increased as colonists needed more labor. The slaves came from Africa, as well as parts of Asia. The slaves from Asia brought Islam with them. Even after slavery was abolished in 1834, native Africans were denied full rights of citizenship and were discriminated against by the European colonists.

British Colonial Rule

When the British took over the colony in the early 1800s, many of the descendants of the Dutch settlers moved north into land occupied by the native Zulus. This move led to warfare with the Zulus, a tribe that later fought the British as well. The Dutch descendants set up two new states in South Africa, Transvaal and Orange Free State. In the early 1900s, these states were merged with British South Africa to form the Union of South Africa, a state that by this time had discovered vast deposits of gold and diamonds. The Union of South Africa was a constitutional monarchy with the British monarch as the head of state. Because native Africans were considered second-class citizens in the Union of South Africa, they formed the **African National Congress (ANC)** to work for equal treatment of the nonwhite population. On May 31, 1961, South Africa changed its government from a monarchy to a republic. Even with a change in the type of government, the racist policies continued to be enforced in South Africa.



Top: Ships like this Dutch East India Company replica in Amsterdam, Netherlands, once brought goods and people to South Africa. **Left:** The Cape Town City Hall was built in 1905, while the Union of South Africa was under British rule.

special Feature

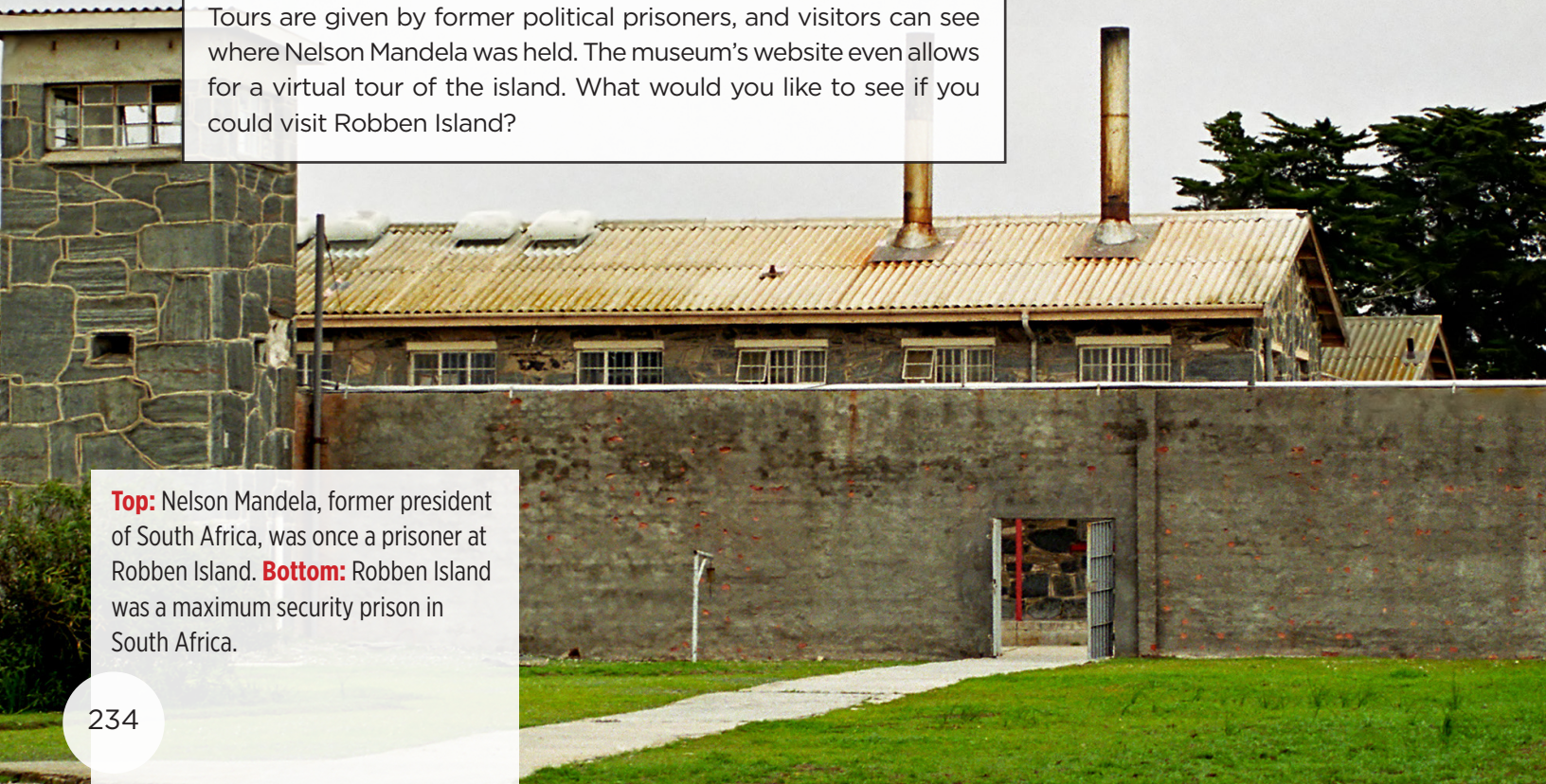
Robben Island

Robben Island was the most notorious prison for anti-apartheid protestors during the apartheid era in South Africa. Nelson Mandela spent eighteen of his twenty-seven prison years there.

The history of Robben Island goes back long before apartheid in South Africa. Located just six miles north of Cape Town, Robben Island, or Robbeneiland in Afrikaans, is only five square miles in area. The name comes from the Dutch word meaning “seal”; there used to be many seals on the island. After attempts at settlement failed, the Dutch made Robben Island a prison. Eventually, it would become a British penal colony, or colony of prisoners. From 1846 until 1931, Robben Island was a leper colony, which means it was a place where people who had leprosy (a highly communicable disease) were sent. People who were declared insane were also sent there.

Beginning in the mid-1960s until 1991, Robben Island was South Africa’s maximum security prison. Most of the inmates during this period were black men who were imprisoned for political offenses, which usually meant protesting against apartheid. The most famous prisoner was Nelson Mandela. Two other presidents of South Africa, Kgalema Motlanthe and Jacob Zuma, were also imprisoned there. In 1991, all prisoners were released as apartheid was coming to an end.

Today, Robben Island is a museum and World Heritage Site. Visitors can take a ferry from Cape Town and explore the island. Tours are given by former political prisoners, and visitors can see where Nelson Mandela was held. The museum’s website even allows for a virtual tour of the island. What would you like to see if you could visit Robben Island?



Top: Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa, was once a prisoner at Robben Island. **Bottom:** Robben Island was a maximum security prison in South Africa.

Apartheid

In 1948, the National Party was voted into power in South Africa and instituted a strict segregation system known as apartheid. The word apartheid means the legal separation of the races. Apartheid continued to be law even after the government changed and became known as the Republic of South Africa in 1961. The country had a complicated system of racial identification, classifying citizens as either black, colored, Asian, or white.

Blacks were allowed to own very little land, even though they made up over 70 percent of the population. Most black Africans, over 3.5 million people, were forcefully relocated to areas known as **homelands**. There were ten homelands in South Africa. Black South Africans were assigned to a homeland based on their ethnic group. In order to leave the homelands and travel to their jobs in other parts of South Africa, black South Africans were forced to carry passbooks with them. All sorts of public facilities were segregated, including schools, libraries, movie theaters, restaurants, and even beaches. People were not allowed to marry anyone who was of a different race. The apartheid system lasted until 1994, with the white minority making all the laws for the nonwhite majority.

Throughout these years, two groups were working to end this South African regime: the African National Congress led by Nelson Mandela and the Pan Africanist Congress. The African National Congress worked for many years to end this system, eventually getting the international community to help by imposing embargoes on South Africa. An **embargo** meant countries refused to trade with South Africa until they changed their discriminatory policies. Embargoes can result in people not having the goods they need. Riots and fighting took place frequently, and Nelson Mandela was sentenced to prison. He remained in prison for twenty-seven years. The repressive measures did not slow down the protests, however.

By 1985, pressure from the embargo and continuing resistance led by the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress forced the South African government to begin making changes. Apartheid began to come apart. In 1990, President F.W. de Klerk agreed to allow the African National Congress to operate as a legal political party, and he released Nelson Mandela from prison. De Klerk also began to repeal the apartheid laws. In 1994, South Africa held its first multiracial elections, and the African National Congress won the most delegates in the new government. Nelson Mandela was chosen as South Africa's first black president. Rather than be bitter about being jailed, Mandela announced that one of his goals was to get the races in South Africa to work together to overcome the hatred that had grown during the apartheid years.



Top: Signs directed people to “white” or “non-white” areas during apartheid in South Africa. **Middle:** During the apartheid era, a black man could be arrested for sitting on a bench reserved for whites. **Above:** President F. W. de Klerk began repeal of apartheid laws in the early 1990s.

special Feature

Desmond Tutu

Desmond Tutu was one of the most outspoken critics of apartheid. He even won a Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts.

Born in 1931 in Klerksdorp, South Africa, Desmond Tutu aspired to be a doctor, but his family could not afford the tuition. Instead, Tutu became a teacher. After seeing the inequality in the education system for black and white children, Tutu resigned as a teacher after two years. He then attended a theological college and became an ordained Anglican priest in 1961. In 1975, Tutu was the first black African to be appointed dean of St. Mary's Cathedral in Johannesburg. Following that position, Tutu then became the Bishop of Lesotho for two years.

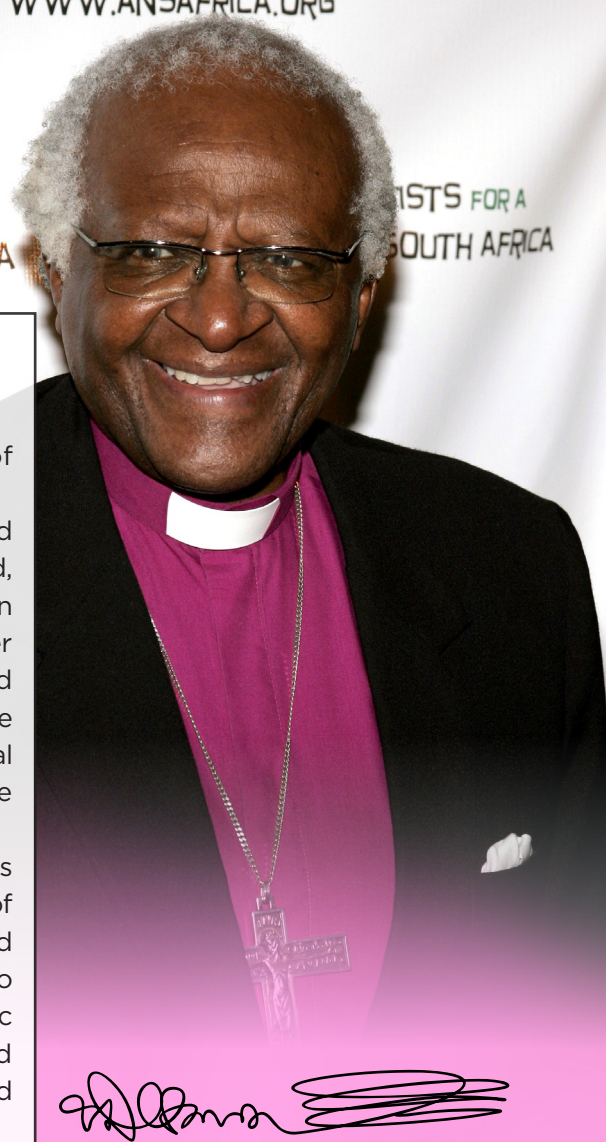
In 1978, Tutu was appointed general secretary of South Africa's Council of Churches and became a spokesperson for the rights of black South Africans. Throughout the 1980s, Tutu was unparalleled in his commitment to drawing national and international attention to apartheid. Tutu advocated nonviolent protest, as well as economic punishment—like the sanctions placed on South Africa by the United States and many European countries. In 1984, Tutu was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work against apartheid.

After apartheid ended, Tutu continued working for the rights of black South Africans. In 1995, Nelson Mandela nominated Tutu to be the head of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that was charged with investigating human rights abuses during apartheid. On his 79th birthday, October 7, 2010, Desmond Tutu retired from public life. He continues to work with The Elders, a group of older world leaders that includes Jimmy Carter and Kofi Annan. The group works to promote solutions to problems with human rights, climate change, HIV/AIDS, and poverty. What do you think is Desmond Tutu's greatest accomplishment?

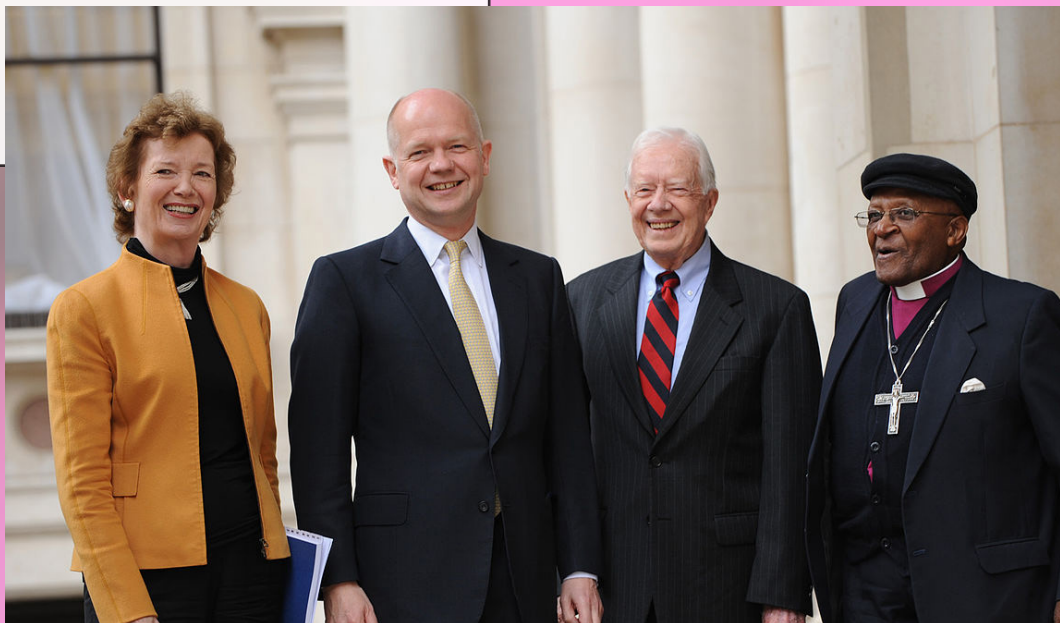
Top: Archbishop Desmond Tutu worked to end South Africa's apartheid system. **Right:** Former Irish President Mary Robinson, UK Foreign Secretary William Hague, former US President Jimmy Carter, and Desmond Tutu met as part of The Elders in 2012.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Desmond Tutu", with several horizontal scribbles underneath.



Post-Apartheid South Africa

After the end of apartheid, the government of South Africa wrote a new constitution in 1996. The constitution set up a democracy and re-structured the country into nine new provinces, instead of ten homelands and four provinces. The new government was committed to trying to improve the lives of all South Africans and to promote and encourage unity. Both of these goals were quite challenging as a result of the fifty years of apartheid. All elections since 1994 have had high voter turnouts and have been peaceful.

In the 1999 election, the second since the end of apartheid, the ANC gained control of almost two-thirds of the government. Thabo Mbeki was selected to be the successor to Nelson Mandela as president. The government established the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission** that was tasked with investigating the wrongs and abuses during the apartheid era. Over 19,000 people or families were found to need reparations assistance. The South African government continues to assist the people and families who were victims of the apartheid system. Government aid includes housing, water, electricity, education, and health care.

South Africa has also become one of the leading countries in Africa in politics, economics, and social matters. South Africa helped establish the **African Union (AU)** in 2002. The purpose of the AU is to help unify the countries of Africa in socioeconomic development. South Africa is also an active member of the United Nations, working to resolve conflicts and promote peace and security across Africa.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 2011
CITY OF CAPE TOWN
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL PARTY VOTE

011051

Party Name	Logo	Party Abbreviation	Vote
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS		ANC	
AFRICAN PEOPLE'S CONVENTION		APC	
AL JAMA'AH			
AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION		AZAPO	
CAPE MUSLIM CONGRESS		CMC	
CAPE PARTY/ KAAPSE PARTY		CAPE	
COMMUNITY COALITION		COMCO	
CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE		COPE	
DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE/DEMOKRATIESE ALLIANSIË		DA	
DEMOCRATS FOR CHANGE		DFC	
INDEPENDENT CIVIC ORGANISATION OF SOUTH AFRICA		ICOSA	
INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY		IFP	
NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR DEMOCRACY		NAD	
NATIONAL FREEDOM PARTY		NFP	
NATIONAL INDEPENDANT CIVIC ORGANISATION		NICO	
NATIONAL PARTY SOUTH AFRICA		N.P	
NATIONAL PEOPLE'S PARTY		NPP	
PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS OF AZANIA		PAC	

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 2011
CITY OF CAPE TOWN
WARD 19100059 CANDIDATE VOTE

Candidate Name	Logo	Party	Vote
ABDEROEF, ABOURAGHEM			
BESTER, MOGAMAT RUSHEN ASHRAF		AMP	
CHAABAN, WISAL LEE		NPP	
FIENIES, MARTIN MATHEUS		U.P.	
GALLANT, SIGMUND			
GOODSON, STEPHEN MITTFORD			
HOWIE, CHERYL JOAN			
IVERSEN, IAN RONALD			
JACKSON, ALAN CHARLES			
KEY, CHARLENE			
MOORE, ROBERT CHARLES			

Top: Residents received information about an upcoming election from ANC workers outside Imizamo Yethu Township in 2016. **Bottom:** In the 2016 South African elections, citizens had the choice of a number of political parties.



Top: South African President Thabo Mbeki visited US President George W. Bush at the White House in 2001.

Right: US President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama surrounded South African President Jacob Zuma and Mrs. Primrose Zuma at the White House in 2014.

In 2004, there were celebrations around the world as South Africa marked ten years since the end of apartheid. The year 2004 was also the year of the third elections since the end of apartheid. Once again the ANC did well, and Mbeki was reelected as president. The government created a mandate to cut the amount of unemployment and poverty in South Africa in half by the year 2014.

Elections were once again held in 2009 for the National Assembly as well as the provincial legislatures. Once again, the ANC had the most votes with about 66 percent. Jacob Zuma became the new president of South Africa. The government is still focusing on righting the wrongs from apartheid. In 2010, South Africa hosted the FIFA World Cup. It was the first African country to host this important soccer tournament, which allowed the country and its people to be showcased to the world. South Africa has set a very ambitious goal to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030. This plan was welcomed by the people of South Africa who are placing their hopes, dreams, and ideas on the future.

Reviewing the Section

1. Why were Europeans first interested in South Africa?
2. Which European countries colonized South Africa?
3. Why was the African National Congress formed?
4. What was the system of apartheid? How did it affect the lives of black South Africans?
5. Who was Nelson Mandela? Why is he important in South African history?
6. Who is F. W. de Klerk? Why is he important in South African history?
7. How did life in South Africa change after apartheid ended?



Section 3

The Government of South Africa

As you read, look for



- ▶ the type of government in South Africa;
- ▶ how citizens participate in the government;
- ▶ individual freedoms of South African citizens;
- ▶ the challenges facing South Africa's government;
- ▶ terms: **republic, head of government, head of state, Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, Constitutional Court.**

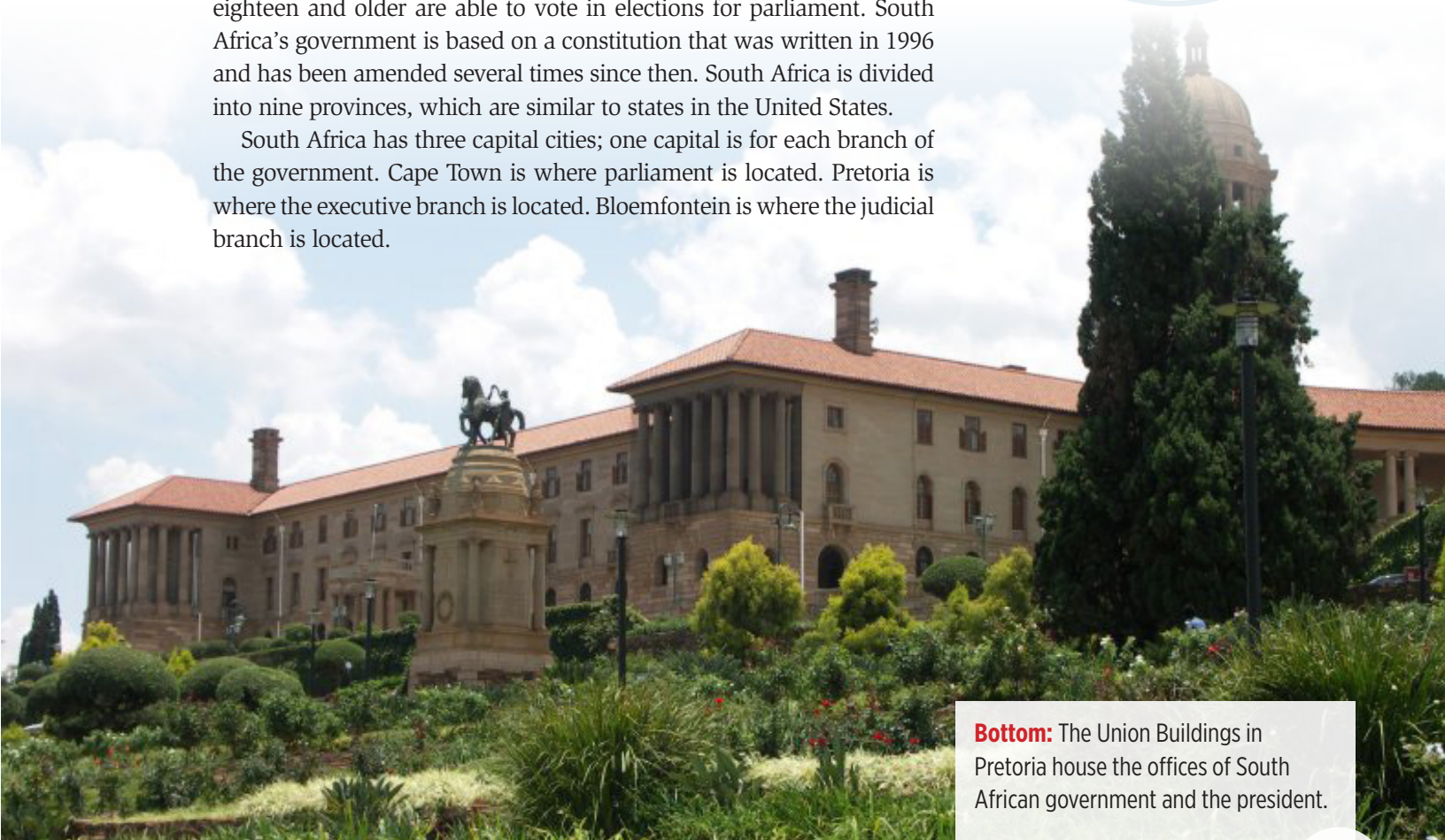
Type of Government

Since the end of apartheid, South Africa has made significant progress in increasing the personal freedoms for all its citizens, regardless of race. The government of South Africa is a **republic** (a country with elected representatives) with a bicameral (two house) parliament. Citizens age eighteen and older are able to vote in elections for parliament. South Africa's government is based on a constitution that was written in 1996 and has been amended several times since then. South Africa is divided into nine provinces, which are similar to states in the United States.

South Africa has three capital cities; one capital is for each branch of the government. Cape Town is where parliament is located. Pretoria is where the executive branch is located. Bloemfontein is where the judicial branch is located.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Queen Elizabeth II was once monarch of South Africa.



Bottom: The Union Buildings in Pretoria house the offices of South African government and the president.

Branches of Government

The executive branch of South Africa's government is made up of the president and cabinet. Even though South Africa has a president, it is not a presidential democracy. The president is elected by the National Assembly for a five-year term. Presidents can serve for two terms in a row. The president serves as both the **head of government** (the person in charge of the day-to-day business of running the government) and the **head of state** (the chief public representative of the country) in South Africa. The cabinet is appointed by the president to help the president make decisions and to give advice.

The legislative branch of South Africa's government is the bicameral **Parliament of the Republic of South Africa**. Its two houses are the National Council of Provinces and the National Assembly. The National Council of Provinces has 90 members. Each of the provinces appoints ten people to serve for a term of five years. The members of the National Council of Provinces have the ability to protect regional interests. This includes protecting traditions of ethnic minorities. The National Assembly is made up of 400 members, who are directly elected by South African citizens for five-year terms. Additionally, members of the National Assembly elect the president.

The judicial branch of South Africa's government is made of the Supreme Court of Appeal and the Constitutional Court. The **Constitutional Court** has a chief justice, deputy chief justice, and nine judges. The justices and judges are appointed by the president for a twelve-year nonrenewable term, or until they reach the age of seventy. The main duty of the Constitutional Court is to ensure that the laws and actions of parliament are in agreement with the constitution of South Africa.

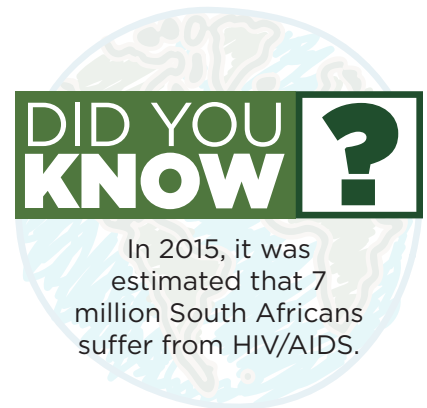


Top: The chamber of the National Assembly of South Africa is located in Cape Town. **Bottom:** The Supreme Court of Appeal of South Africa is located in Bloemfontein.

The Supreme Court of Appeal is made up of a court president, vice president (or deputy president), and twenty-one judges who are appointed by the president. The judges serve on the Supreme Court of Appeal until they are discharged from active service. The Supreme Court of Appeal is the final authority on all legal matters except those involving the constitution.

Challenges Facing the Government

There are several challenges facing the South African government. One of these challenges is the slow growth of the country's economy. Unemployment is also contributing to economic problems. Additionally, the government is continuing to deal with the aftermath of apartheid. Inequality between races and housing shortages are lingering problems even now, over twenty years after the end of apartheid. Finally, corruption has become a problem within the government. Jacob Zuma, who served as South Africa's president from 2009 until he resigned in 2018, has even been charged with corruption.



Reviewing the Section

1. What type of government does South Africa have?
2. How do citizens participate in the government?
3. What freedoms do South African citizens have?
4. Who is the head of government in South Africa? How does he gain power?
5. Even though South Africa has a president, it is not a presidential democracy. Explain why that is true.
6. What do you think is the biggest challenge facing South Africa's government? Why?



Top: Poverty is high in the community of Imizamo Yethu Township due to the effects of apartheid. **Left:** In 2017, protesters demanded the resignation of President Jacob Zuma, who had been charged with corruption.

Section 4

The Economy of South Africa


 Setting a purpose

As you read, look for

- ▶ the type of economic system in South Africa;
- ▶ South Africa's most valuable natural resources;
- ▶ the four areas that contribute the most to the GDP of South Africa;
- ▶ reasons for high unemployment in South Africa;
- ▶ the lingering effects of apartheid on the economy of South Africa;
- ▶ terms: **National Development Plan**, **rand**.

Type of Economy

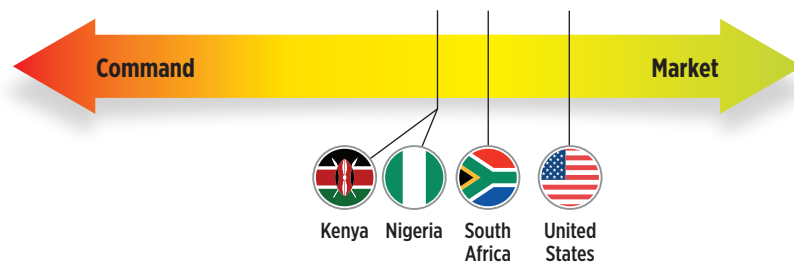
The economic system of South Africa is a technologically advanced market economy with some government control. There is a rule of law that protects property rights. It is the second-largest economy in Africa behind Nigeria. South Africa is also one of the world's leading exporters of gold and platinum. While the mining, services, manufacturing, and agriculture sectors of the economy are strong, the economy is still dealing with the long-lasting effects of apartheid. Many people live in poverty.

Three of the biggest challenges facing South Africa's government are these: poverty, inequality, and some of the highest rates in the world of unemployment. Access to high-quality education is difficult for many people, which can lead to high unemployment rates. Currently, about 25 percent of the workforce is unemployed. Young black men make up the largest group of unemployed people in South Africa. In 2012, the government created a **National Development Plan** with the goal to reduce and end poverty and inequality by the year 2030. Another challenge facing the government of South Africa is building better infrastructure throughout the country, especially in areas that were former homelands. While the government is working to build more power plants, blackouts (large power failures) are common.



Figure 9.2

Economic Systems in Africa



Above: Krugerrand coins are made of one ounce of South African gold.

Trade in South Africa

After the embargoes placed on South Africa during apartheid were lifted, South Africa entered the global market, ready to trade. Today South African exports total about \$94 billion, placing it 36th in the world. The top exports are gold, diamonds, platinum, other metals and minerals, machinery, and equipment. South Africa's top export partners are China, the United States, Germany, Namibia, Botswana, Japan, the United Kingdom, and India. The value of South Africa's imports is about \$81 billion, placing it 36th in the world. Popular imports include machinery and equipment, chemicals, petroleum products, scientific instruments, and food. South Africa's top import partners are China, Germany, the United States, Nigeria, India, and Saudi Arabia.

The currency of South Africa is the **rand**. To trade in South Africa, businesses must exchange their currency for rand. South Africans must exchange their rand for other currencies to trade with businesses and people in other countries. One US dollar can be exchanged for about 13 rand.

Georgia businesses trade with people and businesses in South Africa. In 2014, Georgia exports to South Africa totaled \$152 million. South Africa is currently the 47th-largest export market for Georgia. Top exports from Georgia to South Africa include parts and accessories for special-purpose motor vehicles, motor vehicles, internal combustion piston engines, and insecticides.

Natural Resources of South Africa

South Africa has many natural resources. It is the leading African nation in the mining and sale of gold. About 96 percent of all the world's platinum reserves are found in South Africa. South Africa is also the world's leading producer of the metal chromium. Other important natural resources include diamonds, coal, iron ore, nickel, manganese, phosphates, tin, salt, uranium, and natural gas.



Top: South African coins. **Above:** South African banknotes. **Left:** South Africa supplies most of the world's platinum. In 2017, each of these bars was worth about \$30,000.

DID YOU KNOW?

The largest diamond discovered, the Cullinan, was found in South Africa. It weighed over one pound.

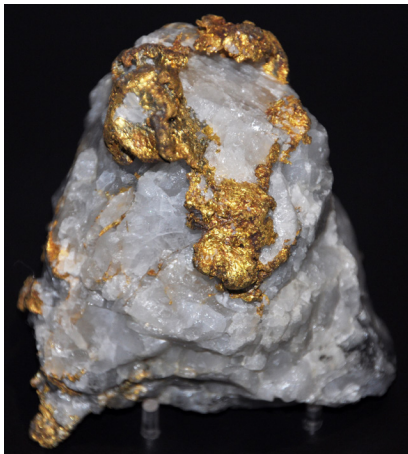
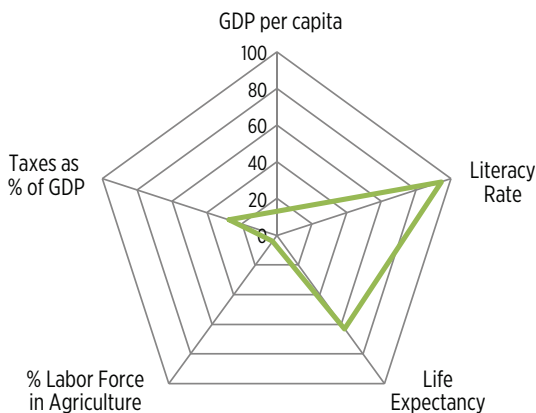


Figure 9.3
South Africa
Spider Graph



Above: This rock found in Witwatersrand has gold embedded in quartz. **Right:** Students in a South African school prepare for a life of freedom not available to their parents or grandparents.

South Africa is believed to have about 40 percent of the world's gold. The South African government has been able to use much of the gold profit to improve the country and its people. However, unemployment remains high. Many of those who work in the gold mines have difficult and unsafe working conditions and low pay. There are currently thirty-five gold mines in South Africa.

The diamond industry in South Africa is dominated by the De Beers Company. This industrial giant realizes that political stability is good for business, so the South African diamond trade is well regulated and the country enjoys benefits from its riches. Other countries that have diamonds have not been as fortunate as South Africa. In those countries, diamonds are often sold to provide money for weapons for soldiers in many wars and civil conflicts.

Human Capital in South Africa

South Africa invests about 6 percent of its total GDP on education, placing it 42nd in the world for investment in education. It has a diversified economy and one of the highest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) outcomes in Africa. The literacy rate in South Africa is about 94 percent. Most students attend school for 13 years. The electronics industry in South Africa requires workers with skills and training, and the mining industry relies on workers who can use sophisticated technology. Even though there are positives with human capital investment, South Africa still has one of Africa's highest rates of unemployment. Most of the unemployed are black people who are suffering from the effects of the apartheid system. One of the major lingering effects of apartheid is inequality in access to education.



Capital Goods in South Africa

South Africa is an example of a country that has invested in capital goods. The equipment needed to get gold, diamonds, and platinum from deep within the earth requires investment in equipment, technology, and training. The same is true for South Africa's iron and steel production, as well as automobile and truck assembly plants.

Entrepreneurship in South Africa

Many people face the reality of unemployment in South Africa; however, some people are working to become entrepreneurs to avoid unemployment. Starting your own business sounds like a great way to become employed. Unfortunately, it is not as easy as it sounds. The biggest challenge facing entrepreneurs is funding. Starting a business requires a large amount of money. In order to start a business in South Africa, a business license must be purchased. This process takes about two months.

Reviewing the Section

1. What type of economy does South Africa have?
2. What are two of South Africa's most valuable natural resources?
3. What are the four areas that contribute the most to the GDP?
4. Why does South Africa have high unemployment? How is the government trying to reduce it?
5. What are South Africa's top exports and imports?
6. What are the lingering effects of apartheid on the economy of South Africa?
7. Copy the chart below and fill it in with information from the reading.

Factor of Growth	How Does South Africa Invest in It?	Examples in South Africa
Natural Resources		
Human Capital		
Capital Goods		
Entrepreneurship		



Top: Investment in electrical supply lines such as these in Soweto is needed to supply the needs of individuals and businesses. **Above:** This industrial building in South Africa is part of a plant for processing gold ore. **Left:** Containers are in line to be loaded on container ships at the port of Durban on the Indian Ocean.

Section 5

US-South Africa Relations



As you read, look for

- ▶ reasons for the strained relationship between South Africa and the United States;
- ▶ the focus of US-South African relations today;
- ▶ the importance of South Africa to the continent;
- ▶ the trade relationship between South Africa and the United States;
- ▶ South Africa's membership in international organizations;
- ▶ terms: **African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)**, **BRICS**.



Above: A South African delegation showed the country's new flag to US President Bill Clinton in 1994 at the start of improved relations with the United States.

A Changing Relationship

The United States and South Africa have had diplomatic relations since 1929. These relations were strained, however, once apartheid took over South Africa. From the 1970s until 1994, US-South African relations suffered because the United States was one of the countries that placed embargoes on South Africa in an effort to end apartheid. Today, the United States is one of South Africa's leading trade partners.

After the end of apartheid and the beginning of democratic rule in South Africa, the relationship between the United States and South Africa improved. The two countries work together on shared goals throughout Africa that focus on the areas of health, security, trade, and political and economic development. Because South Africa is one of the most stable and successful countries in Africa, it plays a very important role in economic and political development on the continent. As a result of South Africa's leading position in Africa, the United States would like to increase the relationship between the two countries.

US Assistance to South Africa

Even though South Africa has come a long way from the oppressive system of apartheid, there are still many challenges to overcome. Some of these challenges include high unemployment, HIV/AIDS, crime, and corruption. US assistance to South Africa focuses on improving health care and increasing education standards and teacher training. Additionally, the United States helps South Africa with improving agriculture practices and creating clean energy.

Bilateral Economic Relations

South Africa and the United States are committed to a strong and equal trade relationship. As a result of the **African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)**, South Africa receives trade benefits with the United States. South Africa is a member of the Southern African Customs Union. This group signed an agreement with the United States called the Trade, Investment, and Development Cooperative Agreement. The goal of this agreement is to encourage trade, reduce trade barriers, and promote investment. The top exports from the United States to South Africa include machinery, vehicles, aircraft, and optical and medical equipment. The top exports from South Africa to the United States include diamonds, platinum, vehicles, iron and steel, and machinery.

South Africa's Membership in International Organizations

South Africa belongs to many international organizations. The government of South Africa hopes that belonging to these different organizations will benefit its people. Some of the issues they are focused on include bringing about peaceful endings to conflicts in Africa and encouraging economic and political development. South Africa is a member of the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization. Finally, South Africa is a member of BRICS. **BRICS** is made up of the fastest-developing countries in the world and includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.



Reviewing the Section

1. Why was the relationship between South Africa and the United States strained for decades?
2. Why is South Africa important in Africa?
3. What has the United States done to help fight HIV/AIDS in South Africa?
4. What are South Africa's top exports to the United States? What are the United States' top exports to South Africa?
5. How does being a member of international organizations help the people of South Africa?



Top: South Africa is a member of the World Trade Organization, which has headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
Left: The United States exports aircraft such as this Boeing 737 to airlines in South Africa.

Chapter Review

Chapter Summary

Section 1: The Geography of South Africa

- Located on the southern tip of Africa, South Africa has a long coastline on both the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.
- South Africa contains many natural wonders such as the Kalahari Desert, Great Escarpment, and Drakensberg Mountains, but it lacks long, navigable rivers.
- Large deposits of valuable minerals such as gold, platinum, and diamonds can be found in South Africa.
- South Africa is home to a diverse group of over 45 million people who primarily live in cities in the eastern half of the country.

Section 2: A Brief History of South Africa

- The Dutch were the first Europeans to colonize the area of South Africa after the Dutch East India Company set up a trade post in 1652. The colony was taken over by the British in the early 1800s.
- After the formation of the Union of South Africa, the African National Congress (ANC) and the Pan Africanist Congress advocated for equality of nonwhite South Africans who faced legal discrimination.
- Apartheid, which lasted from 1948 to 1994, legally separated races—restricting where people could live and travel and even who they could marry. International embargoes pressured the government to hold interracial elections.
- Nelson Mandela was the first black president of South Africa. He encouraged reconciliation, peace, and reparations after apartheid.

Section 3: The Government of South Africa

- After being part of the British Empire, South Africa became a republic in 1961.

- The executive branch of South Africa's government is made up of the president, who is elected by the National Assembly, and a group of presidential advisors called the cabinet.
- The two houses of parliament are the National Council of Provinces, which has 90 members who represent the 9 provinces, and the National Assembly, which has 400 members elected by the people.
- The judicial branch of the government is composed of the Supreme Court of Appeal (the final authority on all legal matters except for those about the constitution) and the Constitutional Court (which ensures that laws are in agreement with the constitution).
- The government is currently facing issues of high unemployment, inequality after apartheid, and charges of corruption.

Section 4: The Economy of South Africa

- South Africa has the second-largest economy in Africa with annual exports of about \$94 billion because it is a world leader in exporting valuable metals, like chromium, and precious materials, such as diamonds.
- Political stability has helped South Africa grow into an economic leader.
- South Africa invests about 6 percent of its total GDP in education to ensure a skilled population of technology workers, but due to unequal access to education, many people work in low-paying mining jobs.
- The National Development Plan was created to reduce poverty and unemployment, particularly among young black men affected by the inequality of apartheid.

Section 5: US-South Africa Relations

- Although the United States placed embargoes on South Africa to oppose apartheid, the two countries are now major trading partners, and South Africa benefits from the African Growth

and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which removed trade barriers with the United States.

- The United States supplies assistance to help South Africa solve its issues with poor health care, unequal access to education, and widespread corruption.
- South Africa is a member of many international organizations, such as the United Nations and BRICS, which encourage political stability, economic growth, and cultural cooperation.

Activities for Learning

Reviewing People, Places, and Things



Match each of the following with the correct description below:

Lesotho	rand
Desmond Tutu	Afrikaners
veld	National Council of Provinces
Kalahari Desert	homelands

1. descendants of Dutch settlers in South Africa
2. kingdom located completely within South Africa
3. a feature of the northwestern corner of South Africa
4. places where black South Africans were forcefully relocated
5. open land used for farming
6. the currency of South Africa
7. part of South Africa's parliament
8. a Nobel Peace Prize winner

Understanding the Facts



1. What physical feature separates South Africa's broad plateau from the coastal plain?
2. What two European countries colonized South Africa?
3. Nelson Mandela was the leader of what political party?

4. How did foreign countries help to end apartheid?
5. What types of government has South Africa had?
6. What changes did South Africa's 1996 constitution introduce?
7. Who elects the president of South Africa?
8. Why did the United States and South Africa have a tense relationship in the past?

Developing Critical Thinking



1. List three examples of how apartheid still affects South Africa today.
2. Compare and contrast the systems of government in the United States and South Africa.

Writing across the Curriculum



1. South Africa has enormous deposits of many valuable natural resources. Write a short report describing the effect of these resources on the country's history.
2. Imagine you were an American politician during apartheid. Write a speech defending or rejecting America's choice to embargo South Africa.

Applying Your Skills



Create a timeline of apartheid in South Africa with at least four important events.

Exploring Technology



1. Use the Internet to answer the following questions about education in South Africa: (a) Compared to other countries, how much money is spent funding schools? (b) How well do students perform on exams? (c) What barriers are there to getting a good education? (d) How do teachers affect the education system?
2. Use the Internet to research South Africa's currency, the rand. How strong is the rand compared to the US dollar and the currency of South Africa's other trading partners? How would this affect imports and exports?