1 ANSWER THE QUESTIONS IN YOUR OWN WORDS!

Which countries are South Africa's neighbours to the north? Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Swaziland (today Eswatini).

Which country lies completely within South Africa? Lesotho – it is completely surrounded by South Africa.

Which two oceans surround South Africa? The Atlantic Ocean and the Indian Ocean.

Which is the biggest river in South Africa? The Orange River – it rises in the Drakensberg and flows into the Atlantic.

Name two famous deserts of South Africa: The Kalahari and the Namib.

Which mountains in South Africa are the highest? Which height do they reach? The Drakensberg, the highest part of the Great Escarpment – they reach a height of about 3,350 metres.

What kind of climate does South Africa have? A moderate climate with mild temperatures. Some areas get too little rain for farming, so droughts are common; the south has a Mediterranean climate.

Name the four ethnic groups in South Africa and their proportion of the population:

1. Blacks – almost 80 % (largest tribes: Zulu and Xhosa)
2. Whites – about 10 % (English-speaking South Africans and Afrikaners)
3. Coloureds (people of mixed race) – about 9 %
4. Asians (mostly descendants of settlers from India) – about 2 %

What are the descendants of the Dutch settlers called? Afrikaners (also called Boers).

Which part of the country do most of the people live in? About 95 % live in the eastern half of the country and along the southern coast – the north and the west are too dry.

Name at least three big cities in South Africa! Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, Pretoria and Bloemfontein.

South Africa has three capitals. Parliament meets in Cape Town , the government gets together in Pretoria and the court is in Bloemfontein

Which raw materials does the country produce? Gold, diamonds, coal and copper (also iron).

Who were the first Europeans to sail around Africa? The Portuguese – Bartolomeu Dias reached the Cape of Good Hope in 1488.

What was the Great Trek? After the British took over the Cape Colony in 1815, many Dutch Boers left the Cape and moved north into the interior, where they founded the Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

What was Apartheid about? A system of laws made by the white government to keep the races apart ("apartheid" = "separateness" in Afrikaans). Although Blacks were the majority, they had to live in separate areas, use separate schools and public facilities, could not vote and had no political power.

Who became South Africa's first black president? Nelson Mandela, in 1994.

What are South Africa's problems today? HIV/AIDS, crime and corruption, high unemployment and the loss of skilled workers.

2 MULTIPLE CHOICE EXERCISE—CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER

1 In 2010 South Africa will be host to the

(a.) football World Cup
b. African Games
c. Africa Cup
d. Commonwealth Games

2 Many educated and skilled workers

a. go to neighbouring countries
b. stay in South Africa
(c.) leave the country and go abroad
d. move to northern African countries

3 At the end of the 19th century

a. the Bantu were driven out of the country
b. the Boers won a war against the British
c. Germans started coming to South Africa
(d.) gold and diamonds were discovered

4 Afrikaans

(a.) is the language of the Dutch settlers
b. was spoken by early English settlers
c. was the language of the black people
d. is the capital of South Africa

5 The African National Congress was founded in

(a.) 1912
b. 1812
c. 1862
d. 1962

6 Nelson Mandela

a. was the first Dutch president of South Africa
(b.) was kept in prison for many years
c. was a famous tribal leader
d. was the last white president

7 Many countries around the world

a. founded companies in South Africa because they liked apartheid
(b.) criticized the apartheid system
c. increased trading with South Africa during the apartheid years
d. didn't let tourists travel to South Africa

8 Great wines are produced in South Africa

(a.) because of the Mediterranean climate
b. because many of the wine-growers are Italians
c. because South Africa got know-how from other countries
d. because of the rainy weather around the coast

9 Durban

a. is the centre of government
b. is the biggest industrial city of South Africa
c. is the country's tourist centre
(d.) is the country's biggest harbour

10 The Great Escarpment

a. is a big desert in the north
(b.) separates the inner plateaus from the coastal lowlands
c. separates the deserts in the north from the grasslands in the inner parts
d. is the border between South Africa and Botswana

11 Blacks make up

a. 20% of the population
b. 40 % of the population
c. 60% of the population
(d.) 80% of the population

12 Because the crime rate is so high

a. many South Africans move to tall buildings
(b.) South Africans hire security companies to protect them
c. more blacks are put into prison
d. the selling of guns has been forbidden

3 MATCH THE WORDS WITH THE DEFINITIONS

A	announce
B	copper
C	deposit
D	drought
E	government
F	iron
G	majority
H	retire
I	servant
J	settler
K	wheat
L	spread
M	release
N	race
O	fence
P	mine
Q	issue
R	arrest
S	cattle
T	descendant

F	hard metal that you make steel out of
O	something made of wood or metal that is around a house
R	to take a person to a police station because they have done something wrong
P	deep hole in the ground where people dig out important
I	someone who gets paid to help work in a household
N	group of people who have the same skin colour
A	to say officially
L	to stretch, expand
C	layer of rock in the earth with minerals in it
T	a person of someone's family who lived a long time ago
B	a soft reddish brown metal used in wires and pipes
J	a person who goes to live in a place where not many people have gone to before
S	cows and bulls on a farm
G	the largest group of people in a country
E	people who rule a country
Q	topic, subject
K	plant that you make white bread from
H	to stop working because you are too old
M	to set free
D	long period of very dry weather

4 IN THE FOLLOWING TEXT THERE ARE 6 SENTENCES THAT DO NOT BELONG THERE!UNDERLINE THEM !

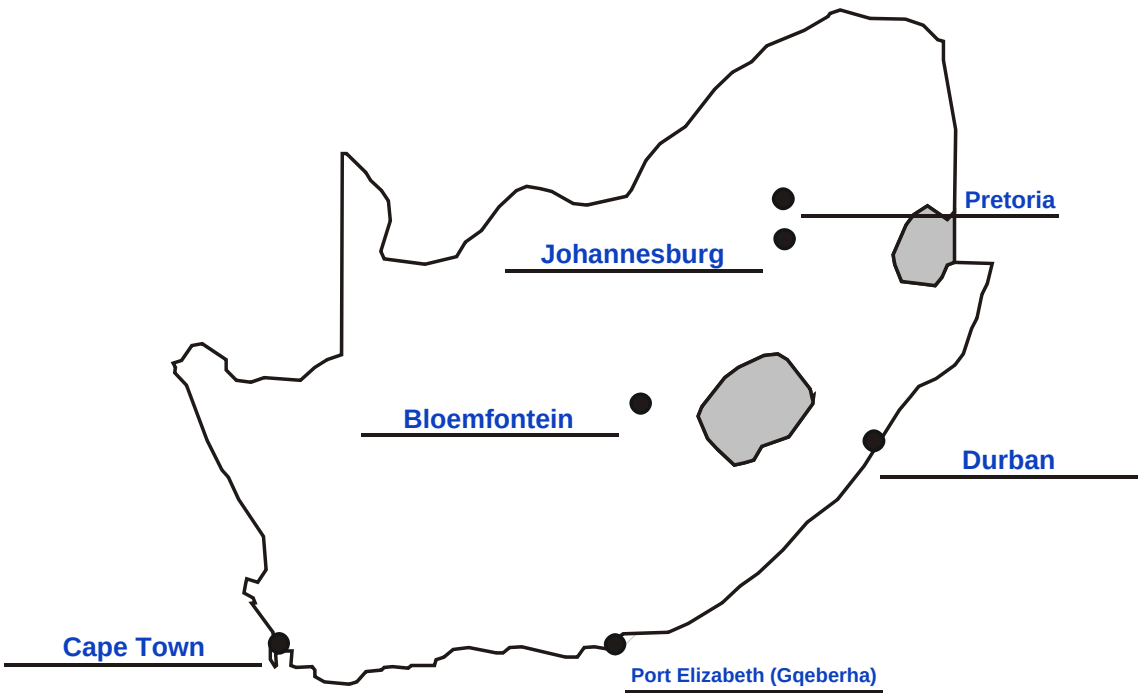
Most of South Africa lies on a high plateau called the Highveld . The Great Escarpment separates these regions from the lower regions of the coast. There are separate beaches for the black and white population. The northern part of the country is dry and deserts like the Kalahari and the Namib reach into South Africa. The Drakenberg Mountains are the highest parts of South Africa and the Orange is the major River. It got its name because it has orange water after it rains a lot.

There are four large ethnic groups. Blacks make up almost 80 % of the population. Their huts are made up of leaves. Most of them still work for white businesses, but unemployment is very high among them. The Whites make up about 10% of the population. Some of them speak English and some are Afrikaners, the descendants of Dutch settlers. The Dutch queen also visited South Africa. 9% are people of mixed race and Asians make up 2 % of the population.

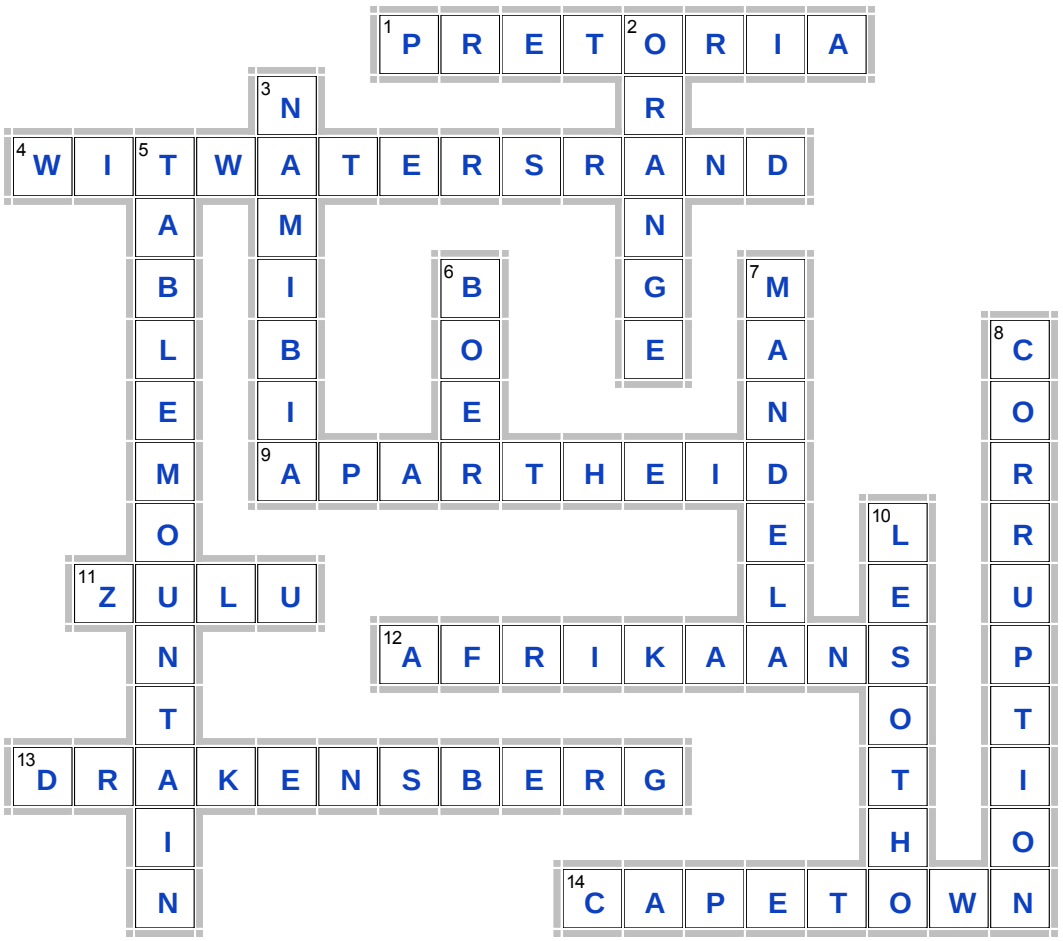
South Africa is the richest country in Africa. It produces about a quarter of all the goods and services of the African continent. Factories give Whites more money than Blacks. Although the whites are still controlling most of the economy, the situation is getting better for Blacks.

South Africa is the largest gold producer in the world. Most of it comes from the Witwatersrand area near Johannesburg. Many Bantu tribes live in homelands near the city. It also has other valuable resources like copper, diamonds and coal. Big farms produce wheat, sugar cane and corn. Wine is grown in the winter rain areas of the south.

5 PUT THE MOST IMPORTANT SOUTH AFRICAN CITIES INTO THE MAP BELOW. LOOK THEM UP IN AN ATLAS IF YOU ARE NOT SURE!



6 CROSSWORD



Across

1. one of South Africa's capital cities
4. centre of gold production near Johannesburg
9. political and social system that kept races apart
11. one of the largest tribes in South Africa
12. language that is spoken by white South Africans
13. highest mountain range in South Africa
14. oldest city in South Africa

Down

2. biggest river in South Africa
3. one of South Africa's neighbours to the north
5. famous landmark that looks down on Cape Town
6. a white South African with Dutch roots
7. first black president of South Africa
8. one of South Africa's big problems
10. country that is completely surrounded by South Africa

7 TRUE OR FALSE?

	T	F
Most of South Africa lies on a plateau.	X	
The biggest river is the Orange	X	
Durban is the city where the government meets		X
Johannesburg became famous as a gold mining town in the 19th century.	X	
The northern part of the country gets a lot of rain .		X
Many blacks still work for white people in gold mines.	X	
Whites make up the majority of the population.		X
During apartheid the whites had to leave South Africa and go back to Europe.		X
The Boers won the war against the British colonists.		X
During the Great Trek many Boers moved to the northern parts.	X	
Most of the country's Asian population live on the eastern coast	X	
Wines are produced in regions with a Mediterranean climate	X	
Table Mountain overlooks Cape Town	X	
It was the aim of the African National Congress to put white people in charge of South Africa.		X
Nelson Mandela was the first black president of South Africa.	X	
In 1902 the British and Dutch colonies united to form a single South African state	X	
Gold was discovered near Cape Town and Durban in the last years of the 19th century.		X
During the apartheid years many countries increased trading with South Africa.		X
South Africa has more HIV infected than any other country in the world.	X	
The country will be host to the 2010 Olympic Games		X
Many educated and skilled South Africans leave the country and go to Europe or the USA.	X	

8 AS A BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR GOVERNMENT IN WHICH YOU ASK FOR THE BETTER TREATMENT OF BLACKS IN SOCIETY.

Soweto, 15 March 1985

To the Government of South Africa, Union Buildings, Pretoria

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you as a Black South African to ask you for a fair and equal treatment of my people. Blacks make up almost 80 % of the population, but we have no right to vote and no say in how our country is governed.

Every day we feel the injustice of apartheid. We have to carry passes, we are forced to live in overcrowded townships far away from our work, and we are not allowed to use the same buses, hospitals, beaches or schools as white people. Our children get a much worse education, so they have little chance of finding a good job later. Many of us work hard in the gold and diamond mines for very low wages, while the profits go to white companies.

Therefore, I kindly ask you to:

– abolish the pass laws and let us live and work wherever we want,

– give every South African the right to vote, whatever the colour of his or her skin,

– give our children the same education as white children,

– pay Black workers fair wages and give them the same chances of promotion,

– release political prisoners such as Nelson Mandela and make the ANC legal again.

We do not want revenge – we want to live together peacefully with all South Africans. Please listen to us before even more violence happens.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully,

Thabo Nkosi