

South Africa

South Africa is the '**Rainbow Nation**', with its colourful mix of cultures, each with its own history, traditions and language. There are eleven official languages and most people speak two or three languages. The flag of South Africa shows the country's history: black, green and yellow for Africa; red, white and blue from the British and Dutch flags, which represent the settlers from these countries. The **Y shape** symbolises how the different cultures have **joined together**. 80% of the 53 million population are African and less than 10% are white.

South Africa is the most southern country in Africa. The Atlantic and Pacific Oceans meet on its coast. It has **borders** with Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe in the north and Mozambique in the east. Lesotho and Swaziland are independent countries **surrounded** by South African territory. There isn't one capital city, but three: Pretoria, Cape Town and Bloemfontein. The largest city and business centre is Johannesburg. It is a newly industrialised country with the largest economy in Africa, but a quarter of the population live in poverty.

Most of the landscape of South Africa is high, flat land covered in grass and trees. The Karoo is a large semi-desert area in the centre and there is part of the Kalahari Desert in the north-west.

Its amazing natural beauty, long, beautiful coast and high mountains in the south-east make South Africa a popular tourist destination. There's so much to see and do: wildlife safaris in the Kruger National Park, a visit to the **caves** where archaeologists found the oldest human fossils, and Durban where you can go surfing and experience Zulu culture.



Glossary

rainbow

arcobaleno

shape forma

join together

unire

borders confini

surrounded

circondato

caves grotte

overthrow

rovesciare

fight lotta

Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela was a civil rights leader and the first African president of South Africa. He spent 27 years in prison because he tried to **overthrow** the pro-apartheid government. Apartheid was a social system which separated white Africans from Africans of other races. It meant the white minority controlled the country between 1948 and 1994. When he left prison in 1990, he continued his **fight** against apartheid. South Africans elected him as their president in 1994.

On 18th July – 'Nelson Mandela Day' – people spend 67 minutes helping others. This represents the 67 years Mandela spent helping his country.



Reading comprehension

- 1  Read and listen to the text. Then answer the questions.

- Why do people sometimes call South Africa 'the Rainbow Nation'?
- What does the flag tell us about the history of South Africa?
- What is unusual about Lesotho and Swaziland?
- In what way is the capital of South Africa different from other countries?
- What is the landscape of South Africa like?
- Why is South Africa a good place for holidays?
- Who was Nelson Mandela?
- What was 'apartheid'?
- Why do people help others on 18th July?
- In your opinion, what are the good and bad things about South Africa?

Dialogue completion

- 2 Complete the gaps in the dialogue.

George (1) ?

Alice We had a special holiday – we went to South Africa!

George (2) !

Alice We went to see my aunt and uncle and cousins who live there.

George (3) ?

Alice They live in Durban – it's a big city, but it's on the coast.

George (4) ?

Alice It was really long – we were on the plane for 14 hours!

George (5) ?

Alice Yes, we went to the Zulu Park and we saw loads of crocodiles and snakes!

George (6) !

Alice I'm sure, you would love it there. Do you want to see my photos?

George (7)

Alice I only uploaded them yesterday evening. Why don't we look at them now?

George (8)

Alice I'll just switch on my tablet.

Summary

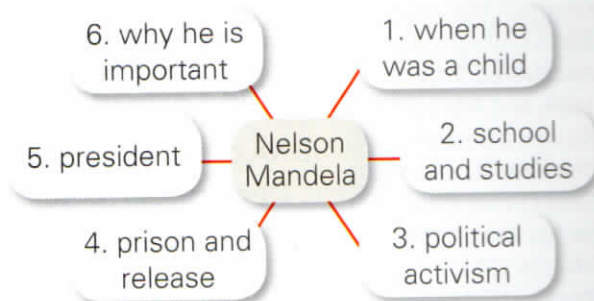
- 3 Put the subjects in the order they are in the text. Then use them to write your summary of the text.

- | | |
|---|---|
| a ☐ Apartheid | e ☐ Important cities |
| b ☐ Bordering countries | f ☐ Landscape |
| c ☐ Languages | g ☐ Tourist attractions |
| d ☐ Nelson Mandela | h ☐ Flag |

Speaking

Presentation: Nelson Mandela

- 4 Do some more research about Nelson Mandela using the questions in the mind map. Then use your answers to give a brief oral presentation.



Questions about holidays

- 5 In pairs, ask and answer the questions.

- Where do you usually go for your summer holiday?
- How do you spend the Christmas school holidays?
- Where did you go on holiday last year?
- What are your plans for your summer holiday this year?
- Where would you like to go on holiday?
- What's the best holiday you've ever had?