

Nelson Mandela (b. 1918) won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.



South Africa

AFRICA

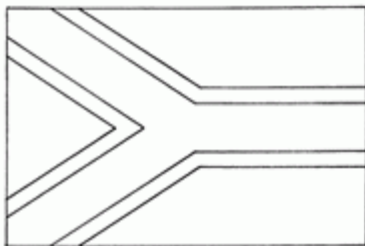
The baobab tree stores water in its trunk to use during droughts.



South Africa has the world's biggest gold fields, and exports more diamonds than any other country.

Game parks are home to animals such as impala antelopes (above), elephants, zebras, giraffes, lions, leopards, and cheetahs.

Rugby is a very popular sport. South Africa hosted and won the World Cup in 1995.



South African Flag

Fast Facts

South Africa was settled by Dutch and British colonialists in the nineteenth century. In 1948, the government imposed apartheid, which kept the black and white people separate. In 1994, democratic elections eliminated apartheid, and Nelson Mandela led the country's first majority black government.

CAPITAL: Pretoria (executive),
Capetown (legislative),
Bloemfontein (judicial)
AREA: 471,011 square miles
POPULATION: 42,718,530
LANGUAGES: Afrikaans,
English, Ndebele, Pedi, Sotho,

Swazi, Tsonga, Tswana, Venda,
Xhosa, Zulu
CURRENCY: Rand
MAIN EXPORTS: gold,
diamonds, platinum, other
metals, minerals, machinery