



The South African flag was adopted in 1994. The colorful flag is symbolic of the long journey from disparity to unity of the South African people.

In a word

South Africa has 12 official languages and many unofficial ones. The official languages are isiZulu, Afrikaans, English, isiXhosa, siSwati, Sesotho, Xitsonga, Sepedi, isiNdebele, Setswana, Tshivenda and sign language.

This southernmost country on the African continent seems to have it all, but problems with poverty are an ongoing challenge. This land is home to a variety of cultures, an abundance of natural beauty and a cornucopia of landscapes from beaches, mountains and grasslands to deserts.

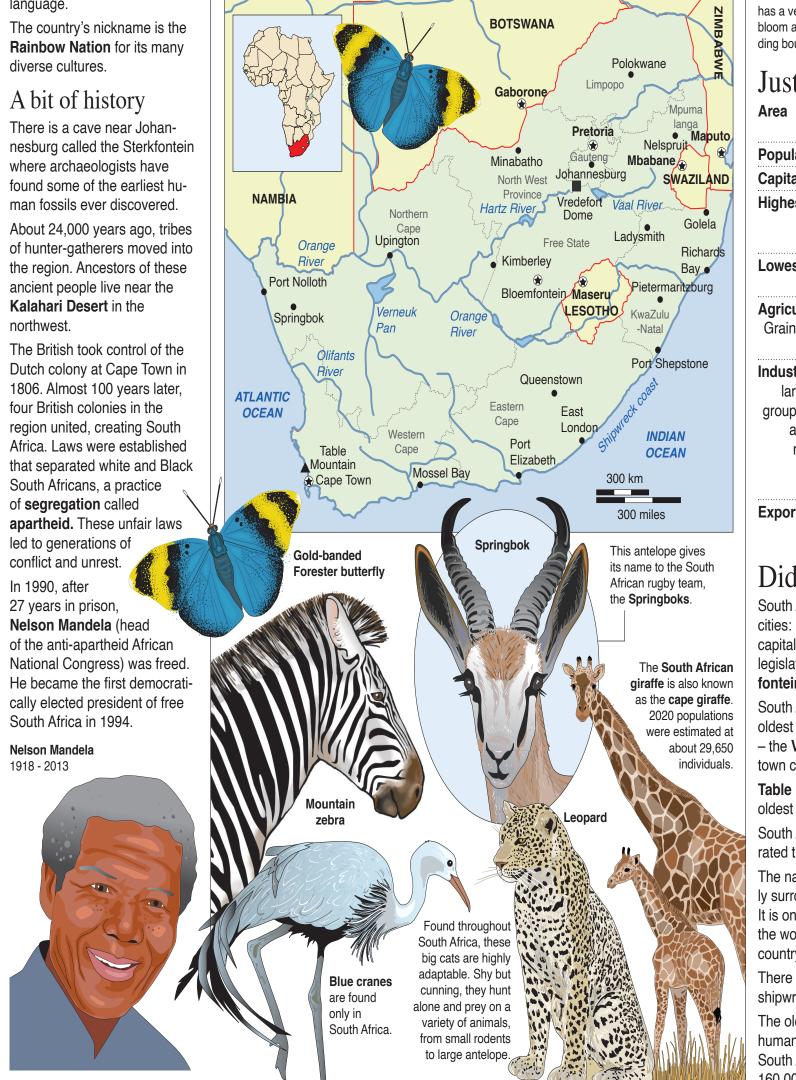
Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology

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Hearty Skillets

Avocado Toast



The giant protea or king protea is the national flower of South Africa. It has a very large, artichoke-shaped bloom and is sometimes used in wedding bouquets. It flowers in late spring.

Just the facts 471,445 sq. mi. (1,221,037 sq. km) **Population** 60 million **Capital city** Pretoria **Highest elevation** Mafadi 11,320 ft. (11,320 m) Lowest elevation Sea level Agriculture Grains, oilseeds, fruits, sugars, citrus, wine, vegetables Industry Mining (world's largest producer of platinum group metals, gold, chromium), automobile manufacturing, metalworking, technology, machinery, textiles, iron and steel Exports Gold, platinum, cars,

SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; https://www.britannica.com; https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com; http://www.wildlifesouthafrica.co

iron ore, coal briquettes

Did you know?

South Africa has three capital cities: Pretoria is the executive capital, Cape Town the legislative capital and Bloemfontein the judicial capital.

South Africa is home to the oldest meteor scar in the world - the Vredefort Dome in a town called Parys.

Table Mountain is one of the oldest mountains on the planet.

South Africa's drinking water is rated third-best in the world.

The nation of Lesotho is entirely surrounded by South Africa. It is one of only three nations in the world enclosed by another country.

There are more than 2,000 shipwrecks off the coast.

The oldest remains of modern humans were discovered in South Africa and are more than 160,000 years old.

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