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Auszug aus:

What do you know about South Africa?

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| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Titel: | South Africa: Country, History and Culture – Arbeitsblatt zum Leseverstehen |
| Reihe: | |
| Bestellnummer: | 40137 |
| Kurzvorstellung: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nach ein paar anregenden Fragen zum Einstieg in das Thema, gibt es einen einführenden Text über Südafrika, der das Leseverstehen der Schüler fördert und gleichzeitig den Ausgangspunkt für zahlreiche interessante Fragen und Rätsel bildet.• Dieses Material bringt Abwechslung in jeden Unterricht, macht Spaß und gibt interessante sowie lehrreiche Hintergrundinformationen zu Südafrika |
| Inhaltsübersicht: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Einführende Fragen zur Thematik• Englischer Text über Südafrika• Verständnisaufgaben und fortführende Rätsel• Lösungen zu den Aufgaben |

“South Africa” – Reading comprehension

Read the whole text and answer the questions.

South Africa

The Republic of South Africa occupies the southern tip of Africa, its long coastline stretching more than 2500 km from the desert border with Namibia on the Atlantic coast, southwards around the tip of Africa, then north to the border with subtropical Mozambique on the Indian Ocean. On dry land, going from west to east, South Africa shares long borders with Namibia and Botswana, touches Zimbabwe, has a border with Mozambique to the east, and lastly curves in around Swaziland before rejoining Mozambique's southern border. In the interior (slightly south-eastern), nestled¹ in the curve of the bean-shaped Free State, is the small mountainous country called Lesotho, completely surrounded by South African territory.

South Africa is a medium-sized country, with a total land area of slightly more than 1.2-million square kilometres, making it roughly the same size as Niger, Angola, Mali and Colombia. It is one-eighth the size of the US, twice the size of France and over three times the size of Germany.

The country has nine provinces, which vary considerably in size. The smallest is tiny and crowded Gauteng, a highly urbanised² region, and the largest the vast, arid³ and empty Northern Cape, which takes up almost a third of South Africa's total land area.

South Africa has three capitals: Cape Town, Bloemfontein and Pretoria because the governmental power – judicial, legislative, and administrative - is split. However, the largest and most important city is Johannesburg, the economic heartland of the country.

The country has eleven official languages, among native South African mother tongues, English is the best known one. This is because the country looks back on a history of colonisation, apartheid,

and multiculturalism⁴: The earliest representatives of South Africa's diversity - the earliest we can name - were the San and Khoekhoe peoples. Both were resident in the southern tip of the continent for thousands of years before its written history began with the arrival of European seafarers.

Throughout the years 1652-1688, there were more and more settlers from Europe coming over to South Africa and establishing⁵ a colony south of Cape Town. First of all, there were Dutch settlers, then French, and later, around 1806, British settlers took advantage of the rich country. After 1948, the laws of apartheid regulated the daily life of South Africans, which meant that the dominant majority of white people domineered over the indigenous black people. They were enslaved and exploited, had to work for the whites, were separated from them to avoid the merging of races. Only after the release of Nelson Mandela in 1990, South Africa underwent a change of policy, so that he became president in 1994 during the first democratic election taking place in the Republic. Nelson Mandela was the most important activist for human rights and the first black president fighting against the suppression of the blacks in South Africa.

If the history of South Africa is in large part one of increasing racial divisiveness⁶, today it can also be seen as a journey through massive obstacles⁷ towards the creation, from tremendous diversity⁸, of a single nation whose dream of unity and common purpose is now capable of realisation.

¹ to nestle – to huddle against sth., to adapt to sth.

² to urbanise – once a rural area, but now like a city

³ arid - dry

⁴ multiculturalism – a lot of people from different cultural backgrounds living together in one country

⁵ to establish – here: to set up

⁶ divisive – parted, to disagree with so.

⁷ obstacle – resistance, barricade, hindrance

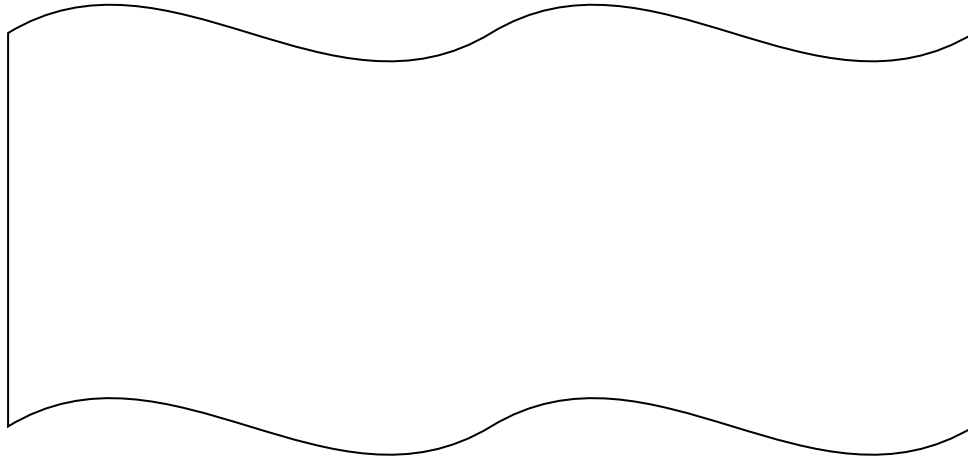
⁸ tremendous diversity – terrible differences

Questions on the text “South Africa”

1. True or false? Tick (✓) the right answer.

| | true | false |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| The coastline of South Africa is exactly 2500 km long. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Swaziland is totally surrounded by the Republic of South Africa. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mali is a province of South Africa. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South Africa is twice the size of France. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. Go through the detailed description in the beginning and draw a map of South Africa. Do not forget the countries and the oceans around it.



3. Name two provinces of South Africa.

4. What is wrong?

- Johannesburg is the capital of South Africa.
- South Africa has nine provinces.
- The USA is just a bit smaller than South Africa.
- South Africa looks back on a history of peace and harmony.

5. Who were the first representatives of South Africa?

English settlers

British peoples

San peoples

6. What changed after 1948?

7. What is so special about Nelson Mandela?

He was among the first settlers coming over to South Africa.

He dedicated his life to the fight against apartheid in South Africa.

He wanted equal rights for the whole society of South Africa.

Although he won the first democratic election in South Africa, he did not want to become president.

8. Try to describe the life of black South Africans under the laws of apartheid!

9. What seems to be a good subtitle for the text?

- A country of good weather.
- A country of multiculturalism.
- A country with a hero named Nelson Mandela.
- A neighbouring country of Angola.

10. Combine the parts of the sentences. Put the correct letter below each number.

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) South Africa represents | (a) is still of popular figure of South Africa. |
| (2) Nelson Mandela | (b) took place in 1994. |
| (3) British settlers | (c) a mixture of different cultures and peoples. |
| (4) The first democratic election | (d) are influenced by the aftermath of apartheid, they dream of unity. |
| (5) Although the people of South Africa | (e) arrived around 1806. |

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)



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