

South Africa
Beyond Our Borders Series

Subject Areas: Geography, Social Studies, History

Synopsis:

Explores South Africa's rich multicultural society with its unique blend of African, Dutch, British, and Asian cultural heritages. Emphasizes the great variations in the geography of South Africa, from the beaches of the Cape to the Drakensburg Mountains. Briefly reviews the history of this country, from the time of the San Bushmen, and Khoukoi shepherds through British, Boer, Afrikaners and post-Apartheid South Africans.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to describe the distinctive geography of South Africa.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to explain the contributions made by Dutch, British, Asian and East Asian settlers.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to explain the contributions made by native Africans such as the Khoukoi, the Xhosa and the Zulus.
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to compare the administrative centers of Johannesburg and Pretoria.
- Objective 5)** Students will be able to describe the natural heritage of South Africa and South African game reserves.

Vocabulary:

mysticism, exhilarating, bizarre, kaleidoscope, racial equality, Cradle of Civilization, merchant fleet, colored, Malay quarter, torments, botanical gardens, flora, protea, basking, commercial fishing, botanists, anglers, strutting, flamboyant, springbok, Boer, diamond rush, Xhosa, San, Zulu, rondavels, international banks, melting place, political equality, boulevards, Great Trek, diversity, heritage

Pre-Viewing Questions and Activities:

- 1) Why is the country of South Africa so often in the news? Who is the country's most respected political figure?
- 2) What was Apartheid?

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- 3) Who settled the country of South Africa?
- 4) What is South African society like today?
- 5) How would you describe the geography of South Africa?

Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) What is the name of the tribe of shepherds who were forced into the Capetown area by marauding tribes from the north? How does this tribe differ from the Zulus who inhabit the Eastern townships?
- 2) Where are Table Bay and Table Mountain located? Why are they considered to be natural geographical and historical monuments?
- 3) If you wanted to visit South Africa for a holiday of swimming and basking in the sun, where would you make your reservations?
- 4) Where are three quarters of the world's ostrich farms located? Why are these giant birds so prized?
- 5) What other industry sustains the people living on the Plain of Little Karoo?
- 6) Which city in South Africa is known for its British traditions and lifestyle? What other cultures are represented in this city?
- 7) What national park is the most famous of the 500 game parks in the Transvaal? What species of African animals can be found there?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Find further information about the cave paintings discovered in the Drakensburg Mountains. What do they depict? How skilled were the painters? How old are the paintings?
- 2) Research the reasons for the Great Trek and the expectations of those who followed Pretorius on this adventure.
- 3) Investigate the native flora that is represented in the Kirstenbosch Gardens.
- 4) Discover the history of the Malay slaves who settled in Capetown and developed the flower trade.
- 5) Discover other cultural groups in Pretoria that have a stature comparable with the Imilonji Kantu.

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- 6) Investigate the history of the Transvaal Gold Rush.

FOR INFORMATION, OR TO ORDER CONTACT:

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