

UNIT 1

C1.1

1. Read the text and answer the questions.

South Africa

South Africa, officially the **Republic of South Africa (RSA)**, is a country in the south of Africa. It has 2,798 kilometers of coastline stretching along the South Atlantic and Indian oceans, and is bordered on the north by the neighboring countries of Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe, and on the east by Mozambique and Swaziland, and it surrounds the kingdom of Lesotho. South Africa is the 25th-largest country in the world by land area, and with close to 53 million people, is the world's 24th-most populated nation. In this piece we will look at the geography, culture and other aspects that make South Africa one of the world's most interesting countries.

One interesting fact about South Africa is that it has three capital cities: a legislative, an administrative and a judicial one. Cape Town, in the Western Cape, is the legislative capital and is where the country's parliament is found. Bloemfontein, in the Free State, is the judicial capital, and home to the Supreme Court of Appeal. Pretoria, In Gauteng, is the administrative capital, and the ultimate capital of the country. It is home to the Union Buildings and a large portion of the public service. The largest and most important city is Johannesburg, the economic heartland. Other important centres include Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

South Africa also has a wealth of wild animals; the best known are the mammals often referred to as the Big Five: elephant, lion, rhino, leopard and buffalo. Note that giraffes, hippos or whales are small. The Kruger National Park alone has well over 10,000 elephants and 20,000 buffalo. In 1920 there were an estimated 120 elephants left in the whole of South Africa. The white rhino has also been brought back from the brink of extinction and now flourishes both in the Kruger National Park and Hluhluwe Umfolozi Park. Now the attention is on protecting the black rhino.

Aside from occupying the top of the food chain, the lion also tops the glamour stakes. Sadly, it does have one formidable enemy in humankind, which has expelled it from most of the country so that it now remains almost exclusively in conservation areas. The beautiful leopard survives in a larger area, including much of the southern Cape and far north of the country, although numbers are small in some places. The cheetah is the speed champ, capable of dashes of almost 100 kilometers per hour. Its population is comparatively small and confined mostly to the far north (including the Kruger National Park), the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park in the Northern Cape, and reserves in KwaZulu-Natal and North West.

Information from Wikipedia

1. What are the neighboring countries to South Africa?

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2. What is the population of South Africa?
.....
3. Which 2 oceans surround South Africa?
.....
4. South Africa has 3 capital cities. What type of capital is each city?
.....
5. Which animals make up the “Big Five”?
.....
6. Which national park has more than 10,000 elephants and 20,000 buffalo?
.....
7. How many elephants were left in 1920?
.....
8. Which animal can run at speeds up to 100k/h?
.....

2. Complete the sentences with the appropriate word from the box.

hemisphere peninsula equator longitude atlas elevation compasses altitude

1. Zero degrees latitude begins at the _____ and increases to ninety degrees at the poles.
2. With the GPS system broken, the ships’ crew were forced to rely on _____ to navigate.

3. The peak of K2 has an _____ of 8,611m above sea level.
4. Ninety percent of the world's population lives in the northern _____.
5. She developed a keen interest in geography when she received an _____ for her eighth birthday.
6. Together, Spain and Portugal form the Iberian _____.
7. With the town's near eight thousand feet, plenty of snow was to be expected.
8. The Prime Meridian, which runs through the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, London, was allocated the position of 0° _____.

3. Order the words in the boxes.

my teacher old maths boring

1 _____

blue small box Scottish a old

2 _____

man a slim friendly young

3 _____

tall our uncle funny

4 _____

stone dark a bench long

5 _____

new a perfect system

8 _____

18th century an French amazing castle

9 _____

a businessman horrible greedy

10 _____

a big old black dog

11 _____

parent self-righteous a middle-class

12 _____

village a French beautiful historic

6 _____

art nice teacher Greek our

7 _____

spoilt girl nasty a little

13 _____

blue-eyed gorgeous brown-haired a boy

14 _____

4. Discuss the importance of animal conservation (180 words).