



RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

M.Ed. In TESL Program Country Informational Reports

Produced by Graduate Students in the M.Ed. In TESL Program
In the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development

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Republic of South Africa
Language, Culture and Education

PRESENTED BY MICHAEL D. KING

General Background Information

- Independence: 31 May 1910 (Union of South Africa formed from four British colonies: Cape Colony, Natal, Transvaal, and Orange Free State); 31 May 1961 (republic declared); 27 April 1994 (majority rule)
- Until 1994, the country was known for apartheid – white-minority rule. South Africa's remarkable ability to put centuries of racial hatred behind it in favor of reconciliation was widely considered a social miracle, inspiring similar peace efforts in Northern Ireland, Rwanda and elsewhere.
- The highest law of the land is the Constitution, which came into force on 4 February 1997, and is considered to be one of the most progressive in the world. The Constitution's Bill of Rights protects equality, freedom of expression and association, property, housing, health care, education, access to information, and access to courts. Protecting those rights is the country's independent judiciary, subject only to the Constitution and the law.
- With 13 parties in Parliament, South Africa has a vibrant political system. The African National Congress is the governing party, and strongly in the majority, though the opposition parties are robust and vocal.

Location

Located Southern Africa, at the southern tip of the continent of Africa.

- **Capitals:**
Pretoria (administrative) Cape Town (legislative) Bloemfontein (judicial)
- **Provinces:**
Eastern Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape
Limpopo, North West, Free State, Western Cape






Population

- South Africa is a nation of diversity, with 51.77-million people and a variety of cultures, languages and religious beliefs.
- According to Census 2011, the country's population stands at 51, 770, 560 people. Africans are in the majority at 41 000 938, making up 79.2% of the total population. The black population is estimated at 4 615 401 (8.9%), the white population at 4 586 838 (8.9%), and the Indian/Asian population at 1 286 930 (2.5%). In the census carried out in 2011, 280 454 (0.5%) South Africans classified themselves as "other".
- Females make up just over half (51.3%) of the population, and males 48.7%.



HIV and AIDS

- South Africa is one of the countries most affected by HIV, with 5 million HIV infected individuals. Twenty percent of the 15-49 year old population is infected, and in parts of the country more than 35% of women of childbearing age are infected. Overall, 11-12% of the population is infected. About 1,700 new infections occur each day, and approximately 40% of deaths are believed to be AIDS-related. There are approximately 660,000 children who have lost one or both parents, and by 2008 1.6 million children will have been orphaned by AIDS.
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Literacy Rate

- The functional illiteracy rates – that is, people 15 years old and over with no education or a highest level of education less than grade seven – have dropped from 31.5% in 2001 to 19.1% in 2011. Poorer rural provinces, such as Limpopo and the Northern Cape, have cut their functional illiteracy rates by almost half to around 25% since 1996.




- Read more:
<http://www.southafrica.info/about/facts.htm#education#ixzz2MQkGehNh>



Teacher Qualifications

A four-year B.Ed. degree, which includes the equivalent of one full-time year of supervised practical teaching experience in schools, is the standard qualification for teachers wishing to teach in any learning area, subject and phase.

An Advanced Diploma will be offered to graduates with an appropriate first degree who wish to teach. This will replace and be equivalent to the current Post-Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) and the Higher Diploma in Education.




Education

- South Africa's National Qualifications Framework (NQF) recognizes three broad bands of education: General Education and Training, Further Education and Training, and Higher Education and Training.
- During apartheid, black and white children attended different schools. Since 1993, all children attend school together.
- Children from seven to 13 must attend school. School is free for all South Africans and a uniform is mandatory for most students
- School life spans 13 years or grades, from grade 0, otherwise known as grade R or "reception year", through to grade 12 or "matric" – the year of matriculation. General Education and Training runs from grade 0 to grade 9.
- Under the South African Schools Act of 1996, education is compulsory for all South Africans from the age of seven (grade 1) to age 15, or they completion of grade 9.
- General Education and Training also includes Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET), which is available to adults who want to finish their basic education.



Education

- Further Education and Training takes place from grades 10 to 12, and also includes career-oriented education and training offered in other Further Education and Training institutions – technical colleges, community colleges and private colleges. Diplomas and certificates are qualifications recognized at this level.
 - The curriculum covers eight Learning Areas: Languages; Mathematics; Social Sciences; Natural Sciences; Technology; Arts and Culture; Economic and Management Sciences and Life Orientation.
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Typical Classrooms

- A typical class size is between 21-46, this depended on if the class is in a rural or urban area. Race also played a part in classroom size.
- Teachers contractual hours depended on where they taught. They are contracted to teach from 25-35 hours five days a week.

Video of a classroom in South Africa

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6n1ukZMkK8&feature>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-0Qxf16V_4&feature



Languages Spoken

- South Africa has 11 official languages, and scores of unofficial ones. English is the most commonly spoken language in official and commercial public life – but only the fifth most spoken home language.
- English has been both a highly influential language in South Africa, and a language influenced, in turn, by adaptation in the country's different communities. Around half of the country's people have a speaking knowledge of English.
- South Africa's second-largest language, isiXhosa is spoken by 16% of all South Africans, or 8-million people.
- Afrikaans is the third most common language in South Africa. It is spoken by 13.5% of the population, or 6 855 082 people – mainly black and white South Africans

Read more:

<http://www.southafrica.info/about/people/language.htm#ixzz2MX7bFUrG>



U.S. - South African Relations

- U.S.-South Africa relations were severely affected by South Africa's racial policies. However, since the abolition of apartheid and democratic elections of April 1994, the United States has enjoyed an excellent bilateral relationship with South Africa.
 - Read more: South Africa
<http://www.infoplease.com/country/profiles/south-africa.html#ixzz2Mix4BFV7>
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Migration

- Of the whites who left South Africa in the years leading up to and following the end of apartheid, most did not go to the United States. They were far more likely to settle in Australia or New Zealand, countries which share South Africa's British heritage.
- White South Africans also settled in Britain and Canada.
- As for those whites who have moved to the United States, both before and after the end of apartheid, a relatively large number have settled in Midwestern states such as Minnesota and Illinois. Thus some stores in Chicago, for instance, sell Marie biscuits, cookies often served by South Africans with tea. There are also pockets of South African immigrants on the East Coast, in areas such as Atlanta, which has a large population of South African Jews. A number of South Africans have also settled in Mid-Atlantic states such as Maryland, and in New York.
- Throughout the western United States, for instance in Arizona, California, and in the Pacific Northwest, there are small South African populations, though it would be hard to discern a pattern to such settlements. Unlike, say, the Irish, South Africans in general—both white and black—have tended to come to America individually rather than in large groups. Thus they can be found throughout the country.

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