

# Southern Africa



Lions in the  
Kalahari Desert

*Southern Africa includes the mainland countries of Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Lesotho, and Swaziland. Four island countries complete the group—giant Madagascar and tiny Comoros, Mauritius, and Seychelles.*

*Abatsu!* (Good morning!) First of all I would like to ask about you—if you are fine, then I am fine also. My name is Kha//an<sup>1</sup> and I am a San person from Namibia. I am a student in the ninth grade at the Tsumkwe<sup>2</sup> Secondary School. We do not have a house to sleep in, only a small shelter to store our things. We live near the gate in the fence at M'Kata. If you turn east when you get there, you will see our blankets under the tree. When we need shade or shelter, we just go and sit under the tree.

I live with my elder brother. My mother and father died when I was five years old, and my brother took care of me. We do not have any animals. Instead, the government helps us by giving us food rations.

At school I live in a hostel. For our main meal at noon we have maize meal, tea, and milk. I always attend classes as well as evening study periods. My favorite subjects are English, history, physical science, and mathematics.

Aside from my school days, my favorite times are when my brother and I do small jobs to earn some money. When I grow up, I want to be a doctor. I will have to work very hard. I read all the books I can get and ask the teachers to explain things to me. In my free time, I read newspapers and try to understand the words I do not know. My favorite game is soccer, which we play on Wednesday afternoons.

<sup>1</sup> The “//” is a click made by clucking the tongue at the sides of the mouth.

<sup>2</sup> The *k* in Tsumkwe is another kind of click. It is made by placing the tongue on the roof of the mouth and bringing it down with a “pop.”



Woman in Lesotho



# Section 1

# Natural Environments

HOLT

## Geography's Impact Video Series

Watch the video to understand the impact of apartheid.

### READ TO DISCOVER

1. What are the main landforms and rivers of southern Africa?
2. What climates, biomes, and natural resources are found in the region?

### DEFINE

escarpment  
biodiversity  
veld

### Reading Strategy

**VISUALIZING INFORMATION** Before you read, preview the Physical–Political Map of Southern Africa. Make notes about features you see on the map that you think will help you understand what you are about to read. For example, where are rivers, deserts, and mountains? As you read, explain how the features on the map relate to the materials in the section. Include key terms and their definitions.

### LOCATE

Drakensberg  
Orange River  
Limpopo River

Zambezi River  
Namib Desert  
Kalahari Desert  
Okavango Swamps



## Southern Africa: Physical–Political





One of the world's great waterfalls is located on the Orange River. At flood time, Augrabies (oh-KRAH-bees) Falls is several miles wide, and 19 separate waterfalls flow into a ravine 11 miles (18 km) long.

## Landforms and Water

Along southern Africa's coastline is a narrow coastal plain. This plain is less than 100 miles (160 km) wide in most places. Farther inland, a high plateau reaches more than 4,000 feet (1,220 m) above sea level. Most of the region lies on this plateau. Between the coastal plain and the plateau is an **escarpment**, a steep face at the edge of a plateau or other raised area. In South Africa the Drakensberg (DRAH-kuhnz-buhrk) range forms part of the escarpment. These mountains include a peak 11,425 feet (3,482 m) high.

Several major rivers flow across southern Africa. The Orange River starts in the Drakensberg and flows west across South Africa. It is the only major river in the region that drains into the Atlantic Ocean. Dams on the Orange River produce hydroelectricity. They also allow irrigation and economic development in central South Africa. The Limpopo, which is sometimes called the Crocodile River, drains into the Indian Ocean. The Zambezi River is another major source of hydroelectric power. It is more than a mile wide above Victoria Falls, where it drops 355 feet (108 m).

As southern Africa's rivers flow from the high interior plateau to the low-lying coastal plain, they form waterfalls and rapids. In addition, sandbars partially block the mouths of the Limpopo and Zambezi Rivers. As a result, large ships cannot sail upriver to the interior.

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Places and Regions** What are the three main landform regions of southern Africa? What are three major rivers in the region?

### INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

*The Drakensberg is the main mountain range of southern Africa. The name Drakensberg is Dutch and means "Dragon Mountains." The Zulu name for the range is Kwathlamba, which means "Piled-Up Rocks" or "Barrier of Pointed Spears." What does the Zulu name suggest about their physical geography?*

## Climates, Biomes, and Resources

As you can see on the unit climate map, tropical wet and dry and semiarid climates are found in much of southern Africa. The Drakensberg causes a rain-shadow effect. As a result, areas east of the escarpment get more rainfall than areas to the west. The wettest area is the tropical rainforest region of eastern Madagascar. This large island is known for its **biodiversity**, or many different types of plants and animals. (See Geography for Life: Biodiversity in Madagascar.) Cape Town, South Africa, has a pleasant Mediterranean climate that helps make it popular with tourists.



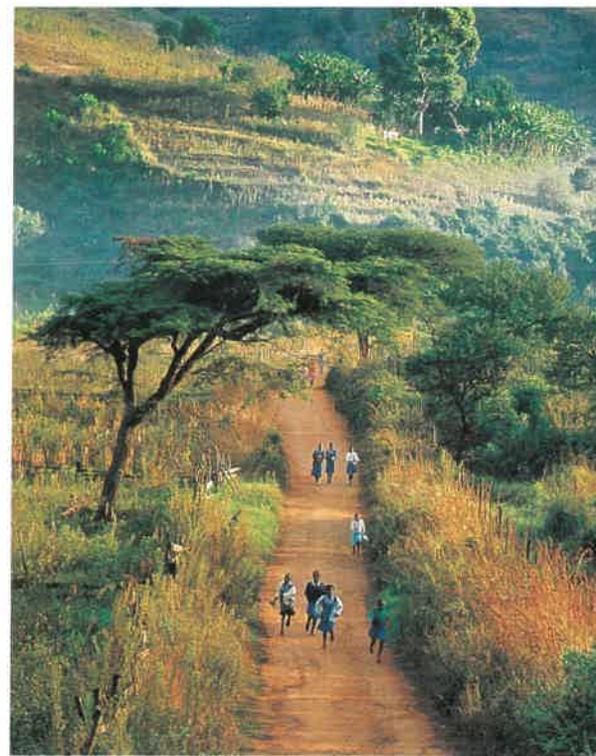
Because a cold current flows off the Atlantic coast of southern Africa, the evaporation rate there is low. The dry air influences the Namib (NAH-mib) Desert, which has some of the world's highest sand dunes. Some parts of the Namib get as little as 0.5 inches (13 mm) of rain per year. Plants get water from dew and fog rather than rain. Beetles, lizards, and snakes live in the Namib, but relatively few mammals can survive there.

Moving inland, rainfall gradually increases as the Namib gives way to the Kalahari Desert. Because it is not as dry as the Namib, plant life in the Kalahari ranges from grasses to palm trees. Many kinds of animals, including antelope and elephants, live there. The Okavango Swamps of northern Botswana are particularly rich in plant and animal life. A river empties into a maze of channels and shallow lakes within the area.

Along its eastern edge, the Kalahari merges into the grassland or veld (VELT) of South Africa. The grassy, high plains in central South Africa north and west of Lesotho make up what is called the highveld. The middleveld, a savanna region of short trees and bushes, is found at lower elevations. Still another of South Africa's regions is the lowveld, which includes dry tall-tree savannas as well as forests at the base of the Drakensberg.

Southern Africa has many valuable energy and mineral resources. For example, Angola has petroleum reserves. South Africa and Zimbabwe (zim-BAH-bway) have enormous coal deposits. Most of the region's electricity is generated by hydropower or by burning coal. Gold and platinum are among South Africa's many metal ore deposits. South Africa, Botswana, and Namibia have productive diamond mines. Zambia's rich copper deposits make it a major producer of that metal. In fact, miners have worked Zambia's iron and copper deposits for more than 1,500 years.

**READING CHECK:** *Physical Systems* How does the Drakensberg affect climate patterns in southern Africa?



**INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD** *Chimanimani National Park in eastern Zimbabwe is located in a savanna region. What can you see in this photo that shows this is a savanna biome?*

**internet connect**

**GO TO:** go.hrw.com  
**KEYWORD:** SW3 CH24  
**FOR:** Web sites about southern Africa

**Section 1**

**Review**

**Define**

escarpment  
 biodiversity  
 veld

**Working with Sketch Maps**

On a map of southern Africa that you draw or that your teacher provides, label the countries of the region and the Drakensberg, Orange River, Limpopo River, Zambezi River, Namib Desert, Kalahari Desert, and Okavango Swamps. What famous feature makes the Zambezi River distinctive?

**Reading for the Main Idea**

- Places and Regions** Which landform region covers the largest area of southern Africa?
- Physical Systems** How does the cold ocean current off the Atlantic coast influence southern Africa's climates?

**Critical Thinking**

- Finding the Main Idea** What are the two deserts in this region, and how are their environments different?
- Drawing Inferences and Conclusions** Do you think southern Africa's rivers are vital links between the region's interior and global trade? Why or why not?

**go.hrw.com** **Homework Practice Online**  
 Keyword: SW3 HP24

**Organizing What You Know**

- Create a graphic organizer like the one below. Use it to describe the landforms, climates, and resources of southern Africa. Use the unit atlas and the information in Section 1.

Landforms	Climates	Resources

# Geography for Life

## Biodiversity in Madagascar

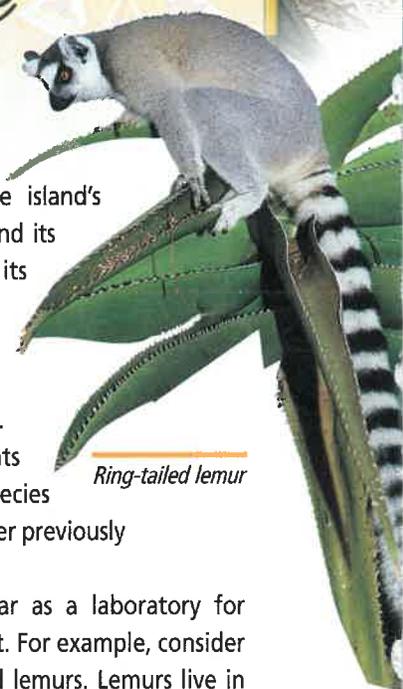
You may have heard people call various places a "Garden of Eden." The term often refers to a place of great beauty and wonder. If wonder is the defining feature, then Madagascar might be something of a Garden of Eden.

This big island off the southeast coast of Africa is home to a wide range of unique plants and animals. Some 80 percent of the country's species live nowhere else on Earth. Because Madagascar has been an island for millions of years, these species have developed in isolation. In addition, Madagascar has a wide range of environments. The east coast has a tropical rain forest. Farther west are grasslands and

scattered trees. A desert lies at the island's southern tip. Madagascar's isolation and its many environments contribute to its remarkable biodiversity.

Madagascar has more than 70 species of songbirds and parrots. There are about 800 butterfly species. More than 10,000 varieties of plants exist, from 1,000 orchid species to 6 species of baobab trees. Scientists often discover previously unknown plants on the island.

Ring-tailed lemur



**INTERPRETING THE MAP** Madagascar's government has passed laws to protect the country's native plants and animals. How do you think the efforts of conservation groups can influence the government's environmental policies?

Geographers can use Madagascar as a laboratory for studying the ways that species interact. For example, consider the small monkeylike mammals called lemurs. Lemurs live in trees and are active mainly at night. They are native to Madagascar and are also found on the nearby islands of Comoros. Lemurs of different species may be as small as mice or as big as medium-sized dogs. They eat mainly leaves and fruit. Therefore, lemurs depend on the forests. In an interesting twist, the forests also depend on the lemurs. Why is this so? When lemurs eat fruit from the trees, they also eat the seeds. Because the seeds do not digest, the lemurs spread them far from the parent tree in their droppings. This is the main way that many trees spread into new areas.

Today, however, Madagascar's natural environments are seriously threatened. Loss of habitat from deforestation is the biggest problem. Only some 10 percent of Madagascar's forests remain. Much of the damage comes from slash-and-burn farming. As the population grows, people clear more land for crops. Many conservation organizations now call Madagascar their top priority for preserving biodiversity. The country's government is working closely with these groups. Officials encourage citizens to take pride in the island's biodiversity. Ecotourism, better farming practices, and protected national parks may offer hope for Madagascar's environment.

### Applying What You Know

- Summarizing** Why does Madagascar have so many different plants and animals?
- Drawing Inferences and Conclusions** How might Madagascar preserve its biodiversity?

Section  
**2**

# History and Culture

**READ TO DISCOVER**

1. What are some important events in the history of southern Africa?
2. What are the region's cultures like?

## Reading Strategy

**VISUALIZING INFORMATION** Look at the photographs and other visuals in this section. What information does each one give you about the region? Write your answers on a sheet of paper. As you read the section, write main ideas and supporting details that connect the text to the visuals. Include key terms and their definitions.

**IDENTIFY**

Afrikaners  
African National Congress

**LOCATE**

Great Zimbabwe  
Cape of Good Hope  
Luanda  
Maputo  
Cape Town  
Durban  
Kimberley  
Johannesburg  
Pretoria  
Harare

**DEFINE**

apartheid  
sanctions

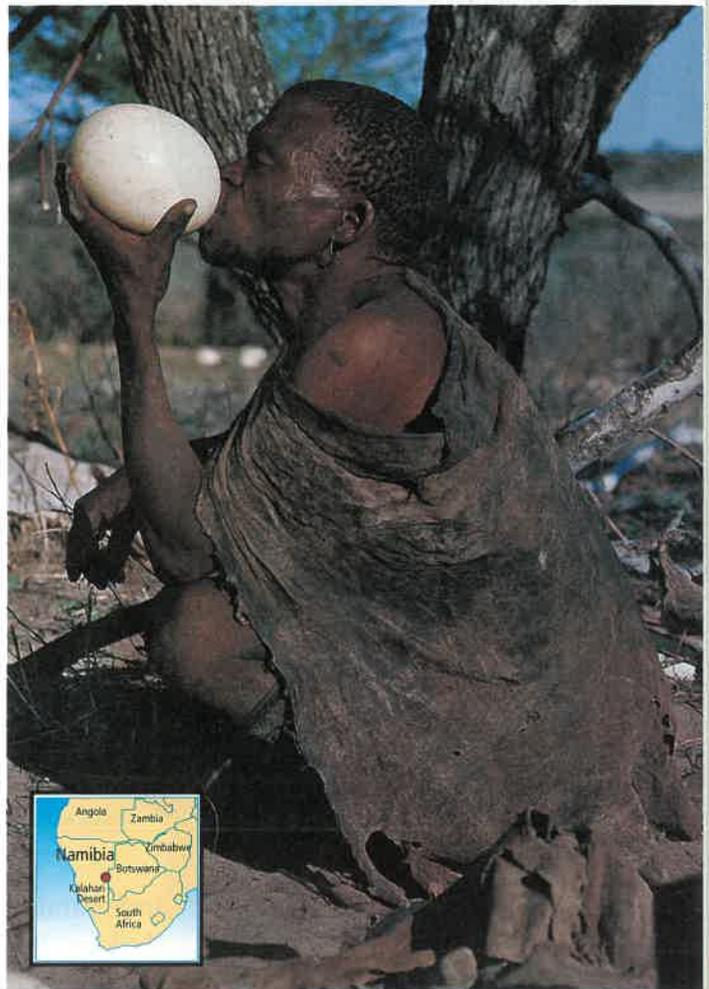
## History

The first inhabitants of southern Africa were hunter-gatherers and animal herders. Bantu-speaking peoples, the ancestors of most modern southern Africans, began migrating to the region around A.D. 100. Most early Bantu peoples were farmers who raised crops such as beans and sorghum. They also herded cattle, goats, and sheep. Unlike the people who already lived in the region, the Bantu knew how to make iron tools.

The Bantu peoples established several powerful kingdoms. Great Zimbabwe was the center of a wealthy farming and cattle-raising community. Farther south, the Sotho established a kingdom in the 1800s in what is now Lesotho. The realm of the Zulu lay east of the escarpment.

Portuguese sailors began exploring the southern African coast in the late 1400s. They reached the coast of what is now Angola in 1483. Soon Portuguese traders and merchants, eager to trade for spices in Asia, ventured farther. To get to Asia, they had to sail around the southern tip of Africa and then cross the Indian Ocean. The journey was long and difficult. Ships had to stop along the way for supplies. Therefore, the Portuguese set up small bases along the southern African coast. However, dense vegetation, the threat of disease, and the lack of navigable rivers discouraged them from moving very far inland.

✓ **READING CHECK: Environment and Society** What factors discouraged the movement of early Portuguese settlers into the interior of southern Africa?



A San man drinks water from a hollowed ostrich egg. The San, who live in the Kalahari Desert in Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa, were historically nomadic hunter-gatherers. However, most have now settled in villages.

### INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

*Tulbagh, northeast of Cape Town in South Africa, was founded in 1699 by Dutch farmers. How does the architecture in this photo reflect European influence?*



*Boer soldiers pose with their weapons during the Boer War. During the war, well-armed Boer soldiers held off a much larger British army for nearly three years.*

**The Colonial Period** In 1652 the Dutch set up a small settlement at the Cape of Good Hope. The Mediterranean climate at the Cape made it a good place to farm. Other Europeans, including French and Germans, joined the Dutch farmers. These European settlers were known as Boers (BOHRZ), which means “farmers” in Dutch. They thought of Africa as home and called themselves **Afrikaners** (a-fri-KAH-nuhrz). Over time, they developed a new language, called Afrikaans (a-fri-KAHNS). It combined elements of Dutch with African words. Speakers of German, French, and English also influenced the development of the language. Afrikaans even included words learned from Asians who had been brought to the Cape as slaves and laborers.

In the early 1800s, Great Britain took over the Cape area. In response, many Afrikaners moved inland. They wanted to be free from British rule and govern themselves. After fierce battles with Bantu-speaking peoples, the Afrikaners set up two independent republics in the interior.

During the late 1800s, the discovery of diamonds and gold drew people to southern Africa from all over the world. Both the Boers and the British wanted to control the region’s mineral wealth. This led to the Boer War of 1899 to 1902. In the end, all of what is now South Africa came under British control. Britain then granted the Union of South Africa independence in 1910.

Other European countries claimed different parts of the region. The Portuguese kept control of Angola and Mozambique (moh-zahm-BEEK). The territory of South-West Africa (now known as Namibia) was a German colony. After Germany’s defeat in World War I, South Africa took control of Namibia. Britain took Bechuanaland (now Botswana), Basutoland (Lesotho), Swaziland, and Northern and Southern Rhodesia (now Zambia and Zimbabwe).

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Human Systems** Why did the Afrikaners move into the interior of southern Africa?

**Independence** Most of southern Africa remained under colonial rule until the late 1900s. During the 1960s many independence movements grew. Britain granted independence to most of its remaining colonies. The Portuguese colonies—Angola and Mozambique—did not win independence until the 1970s. Africans in Rhodesia had also been fighting to end white-minority rule. Finally, Southern Rhodesia won independence in 1980. The country changed its name to Zimbabwe. Northern Rhodesia became Zambia.

Conflicts continued long after independence in some areas. In Mozambique, a civil war between the Communist government and rebels lasted until the 1990s. In 1975 a Communist government took power in Angola. Rebels supported by the United States fought against the government, which was backed by the Soviet Union and Cuba.

Although the other countries in the region had cast off rule by white minorities, Afrikaners continued to control South Africa. Whites held political power, owned most of the land, and controlled the economy. However, black Africans made up most of the population. Since 1948, black South Africans had been denied political rights under a system of laws called **apartheid** (uh-PAHR-tayt). The term means “separateness.” These laws forced black South Africans to live in separate areas and use separate facilities from whites. People of mixed race, called Coloureds, and Asian immigrants made up other South African ethnic groups. Their status was slightly higher than that of black South Africans.

**Ending Apartheid** Apartheid made South Africa an outcast in the world community. Eventually, some countries began to place economic **sanctions** on South Africa. Sanctions are penalties intended to force a country to change its policies. For example, a group of countries may refuse to provide economic aid to another country. Political organizations inside South Africa also pushed for an end to apartheid. The best known of these groups was the **African National Congress (ANC)**, founded in 1912.

In 1990 the South African government finally began to change its policies. In that year it released the leader of the ANC, Nelson Mandela, from prison. The government began to get rid of the apartheid system. In 1994 South Africa held its first elections open to all citizens. Nelson Mandela was then elected South Africa’s first black president.



### FOCUS ON HISTORY

**The Legacy of Apartheid** With the election of Nelson Mandela, South Africa entered a new era. According to new laws, all citizens must be treated equally. However, the country still faces serious challenges. Providing economic opportunities, education, and health care to the entire population has proven difficult. Poverty remains a problem, and on average, white South Africans are still much wealthier than black South Africans. In addition, crime has increased in the cities. One reason is that young people who had worked against apartheid are now frustrated with the slow pace of change. Poverty combined with frustration has led to violence. Finally, divisions among black ethnic groups have caused new problems. The long-term stability of the country may depend on whether the government can improve people’s standard of living.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Human Systems* What challenges has the end of apartheid left for South Africa?

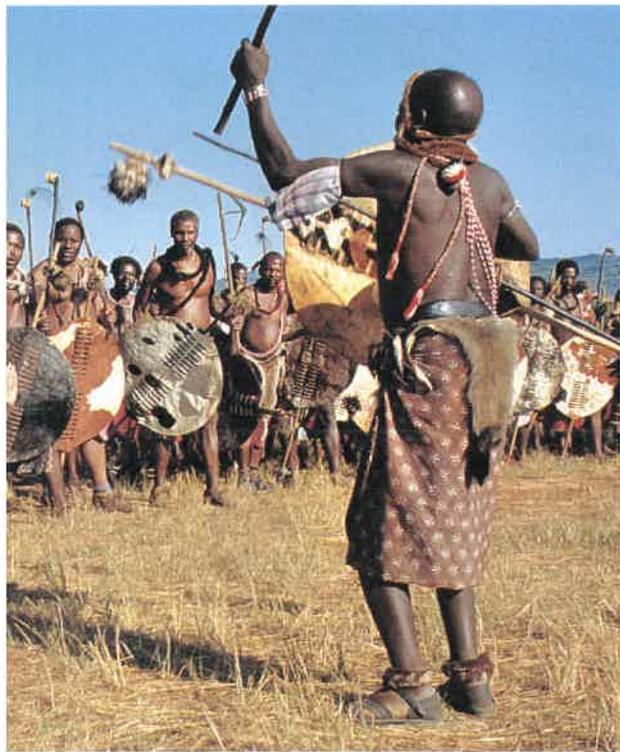


Queen Nzinga is one of Angola’s heroes. During the 1600s she led fighters into battle against Portuguese slave traders who were pushing farther into the interior.

*Nelson Mandela was imprisoned by South Africa’s government from 1962 to 1990 for his antiapartheid activities. After his release, Mandela assisted with South Africa’s transition to a democratic system of government. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 and became the country’s first black president in 1994.*







Swazi men dance in a traditional harvest festival. Music and dance help bring a sense of unity to Swazi communities.

## Culture

Southern Africa's cultural mix reflects its history. Over time, many peoples have settled in the region. Some aspects of their traditions have remained distinct. In other ways they have combined in a process of acculturation. Today African traditions are strongest in rural areas and small towns. In the cities, many people have adopted American and European customs.

**People, Languages, and Religion** Bantu languages of the Niger-Congo family are widely spoken in southern Africa. Two of these Bantu groups are Sotho and Nguni. Sotho speakers, including Tswana and Basuto peoples, live mainly in the interior. Nguni speakers, including the Zulu and Xhosa peoples, live closer to the coasts. The white population, concentrated in South Africa, speaks mainly English and Afrikaans. Smaller white populations live in Zimbabwe and Namibia and speak mostly English.

Because of the diversity of languages in each country, governments often rely on European languages. For example, English is commonly used in Zambia and Zimbabwe. Portuguese is the official language in Angola and Mozambique.

Before the arrival of Europeans, most southern Africans practiced traditional religions. These religions still have many followers. These followers may believe that ancestors and the spirits of the dead have divine powers. Diseases and misfortune may be explained as the work of spirits.

Europeans brought Christianity to southern Africa. Roman Catholicism is common in areas that the Portuguese colonized. The Dutch Reformed Church is the largest Christian denomination in South Africa. Today millions of Africans belong to Christian churches. Many others belong to churches that blend the teachings of Christianity with traditional African religious practices. Islam is also practiced. Some Muslims are descended from enslaved people who came from Southeast Asia in the 1600s and 1700s. South Asians brought Hinduism to southern Africa.

### Language Families of Africa

	Afro-Asiatic	Niger-Congo	Khoisan	Nilo-Saharan	Malayo-Polynesian
English	Arabic	Swahili	Nama	Kanuri	Malagasy
mother	umm	mama mzazi	//gòs	yâ	reny
child	walad	mtoto	/gòai	táda	zaza
head	râ's	kichwa	tanás	kəlâ	loha
water	mā	maji	/gami	nji	rano
tree	šajarah	mti	heis	kəšká	hazo
house	bayt	nyumba	omi	fáto	trano
red	aḥmar	-ekundu	/awa	cimê	mena
eat	akala	la	#û	búkin	homana
go/walk	qahaba/mašā	enda	Igú	lengin	mamindra

**INTERPRETING THE CHART** Like the rest of Africa, southern Africa has an incredible diversity of languages grouped into several main language families. For example, San is a Khoisan language, while Zulu is a Bantu language of the Niger-Congo family. **How might language differences affect cultural diffusion in the region?**



Women buy and sell food in a marketplace in Moroni, the capital of Comoros. Some 33 percent of the country's population lives in urban areas.

Connecting to  
**ANTHROPOLOGY**

### Marriage Customs

Anthropologists often study how marriages are arranged. Some societies in South Africa allow polygamy. Polygamy is a practice in which a person may have more than one spouse. However, under the old apartheid government, additional wives and their children had no official status as their husband's legal family. As a result, they also had no legal protection.

Under the black-majority government, laws have changed, and women benefit. South Africa's 1998 constitution recognizes traditional marriages as legal. Now, if a man wants to divorce any of his wives he must take the case to court. Before the laws changed, the husbands' families could end a marriage, which put women and children at risk financially.

**Summarizing** How have cultural beliefs influenced public policy in South Africa?



A Zulu wedding in South Africa

**Settlement and Land Use** The wetter eastern part of the region has long been more densely populated than the drier western part. Some small rural villages have a traditional settlement pattern. In the center of the village is a pen, called a kraal (KRAWL), where cattle are kept at night. Around the pen, villagers build small houses with wooden poles, clay, and grass roofs.

Europeans founded most of the region's cities. The Portuguese established Luanda in Angola and Maputo in Mozambique. These cities were important seaports and administrative centers. The Dutch established Cape Town in what is now South Africa. Another South African city, Durban, was a major British port. As Europeans moved into the interior, they also set up mining towns and administrative centers. For example, South Africa's Kimberley and Johannesburg started as mining camps. Pretoria, South Africa, and Harare, Zimbabwe, began as government centers. Today many southern African cities are large. However, most southern Africans still live in small villages.

✓ **READING CHECK: Human Systems** How did colonization influence the development of religion in the region?

Section  
**2**

## Review

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**Homework Practice Online**  
Keyword: SW3 HP24

**Identify** Afrikaners, African National Congress

**Define** apartheid, sanctions

**Working with Sketch Maps** On the map you created in Section 1, label Great Zimbabwe, Cape of Good Hope, Luanda, Maputo, Cape Town, Durban, Kimberley, Johannesburg, Pretoria, and Harare. Which of these places provided the name for a modern country?

### Reading for the Main Idea

- Places and Regions** Which three European countries had colonies in southern Africa?
- Places and Regions** How were the cities of southern Africa established?

### Critical Thinking

- Drawing Inferences and Conclusions** Why are European languages still used in several countries of southern Africa?

- Identifying Points of View** Why do you think nonwhite South Africans were so unwilling to accept the system of apartheid? Why do you think many whites wanted the system to continue? How did public policies change in the 1990s?

### Organizing What You Know

- Create an idea web in which you describe, compare, and contrast the languages, religions, land-use practices, and customs of southern Africa.

# Section 3

## The Region Today

### READ TO DISCOVER

1. What are the main economic activities in southern Africa?
2. What are the region's cities like?
3. What challenges face the people of southern Africa?

### Reading Strategy

**READING ORGANIZER** Before you read this section, create a three-column chart on a sheet of paper. Label the columns Country, Economies, and Challenges Today. As you read this section, write on your chart the name of each country and the main ideas and supporting details about their economies and challenges they face today. Include key terms and their definitions.

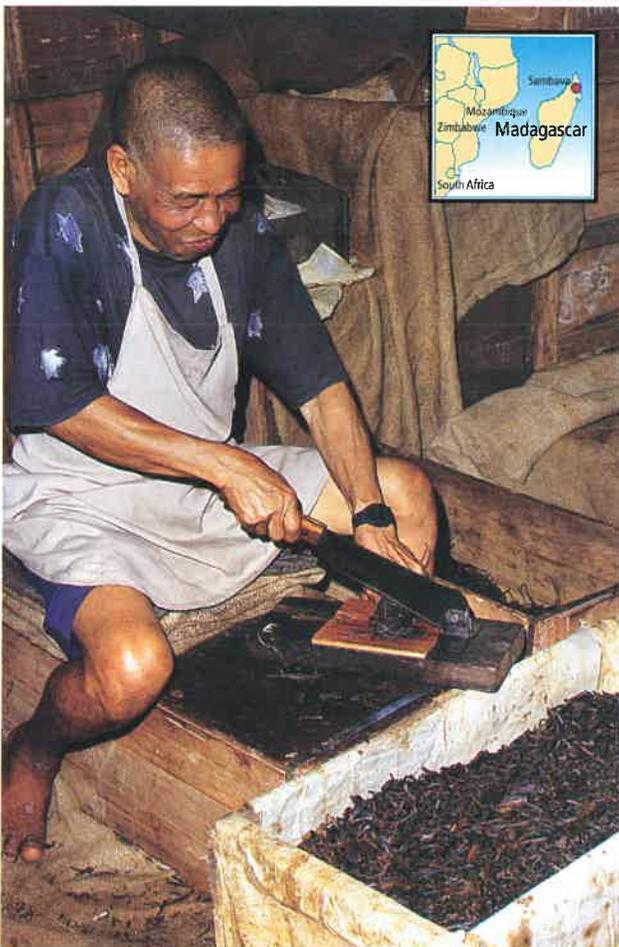
### DEFINE

informal sector

### LOCATE

Cabinda

Soweto



Vanilla is a major export of Madagascar and Comoros. Here, a worker in Madagascar prepares vanilla beans for processing. First the beans are dried and crushed. Then alcohol is used to draw out the vanilla flavor.

## Southern African Economies

All the countries in southern Africa are classified as developing countries. However, South Africa is sometimes considered a middle-income country. It has the most developed economy in Africa. South Africa's market economy includes agriculture, manufacturing, and mining industries. The country's economy is much larger than all of the other economies in the region combined. In contrast, Mozambique is one of the poorest countries in the world. Its mainly traditional economy relies on farming.

**Agriculture** Farming, whether market-oriented or subsistence, is the most common economic activity in southern Africa. Most farmers practice subsistence agriculture. They depend on their crops and livestock for their survival. Farmers may also sell some of their produce in local markets. In some parts of the region, market-oriented agriculture is important. These farms are generally large and rely on modern machinery. Commercial farmers either sell their products in cities or export them. In Zimbabwe, commercial farms produce the country's most important export crop, tobacco. Angola grows coffee, while Madagascar exports vanilla. South Africans grow corn, fruits, and wheat on modern, mechanized farms.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Human Systems* How does market-oriented agriculture differ from traditional subsistence agriculture in southern Africa?

**Business and Industry** Minerals and oil are increasingly important to the economies of southern Africa. The largest mineral exporter in the region is South Africa. It produces more gold than any other country. Some mines are as deep as 13,000 feet (3,962 m). The country also exports many other metals. Angola pumps oil from deposits located offshore and in the small exclave of Cabinda. An exclave is a part of a country that is separated by the territory of another country. Cabinda lies on the Atlantic coast north of the Congo River. It is separated from the rest of Angola by the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Botswana once had a small market economy that relied heavily on beef exports. Then diamonds were discovered in the late 1960s. Today Botswana is one of the world's largest producers of diamonds. The country's economy is also one of the fastest growing in Africa.

Being dependent on exports of a few primary products such as minerals can be risky. For example, copper is Zambia's most important export mineral. However, the price of copper on the world market goes up and down. When copper prices fall, Zambia's entire economy is hurt. On the other hand, South Africa has a more diversified economy. It exports a variety of agricultural, industrial, and mineral products. As a result, the country is less affected by world price changes of certain products.

Visitors to southern African cities often notice the many small businesses operating on street corners and empty lots. Some even operate in bus stations. Women sell fruit and cooked food from roadside stands. Small children sell souvenirs to tourists. Men use portable equipment to fix cars along the roadside. These businesses are part of the **informal sector** of the region's economy. This sector is made up of people who do not work for formal businesses. These people may not have set hours, employment benefits, or even contracts. In addition, their income is not taxed. The informal sector includes self-employed people and small family-owned businesses. People in such businesses usually work long hours, and their incomes are generally low. This is the only way that many poor people, particularly those in cities, can make a living.

Parts of southern Africa have become popular tourist destinations. On the mainland, wildlife attracts thousands of visitors each year. Tourists travel to the wild-game parks of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe to see African animals in their natural habitats. The tropical island countries of Comoros, Mauritius, and Seychelles attract visitors to their beaches and coral reefs. Partly as a result, the average income of the people of Mauritius is now among the highest in the region.

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Human Systems** In what ways do small businesses characterize the economies of the region?

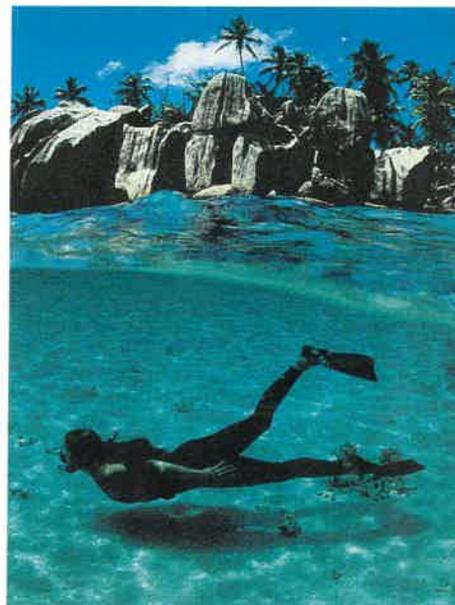
### Southern Africa's Major Imports (in selected countries)

<b>Angola</b>	machinery and electrical equipment, vehicles and spare parts, medicines, food, textiles, military goods
<b>Comoros</b>	rice and other foodstuffs, consumer goods, petroleum products, cement, transport equipment
<b>Mozambique</b>	machinery and equipment, mineral products, chemicals, metals, foodstuffs, textiles
<b>Namibia</b>	foodstuffs, petroleum products and fuel, machinery and equipment, chemicals
<b>South Africa</b>	machinery, foodstuffs and equipment, chemicals, petroleum products, scientific instruments
<b>Swaziland</b>	motor vehicles, machinery, transport equipment, foodstuffs, petroleum products, chemicals
<b>Zambia</b>	machinery, transportation equipment, fuels, petroleum products, electricity, fertilizer, foodstuffs, clothing

Source: Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook 2003*

**INTERPRETING THE CHART** *Southern Africa is dependent on imports to meet many of its basic needs. What does this trade pattern suggest about the economic development of these countries?*

*The clear waters of the Seychelles attract divers from around the world. Tourism accounts for more than half of the country's GDP.*



## Southern Africa: Transportation Network



**INTERPRETING THE MAP** Some of the governments of southern African countries have received international aid to build and improve transportation links in the region. How might better transportation help boost the region's economy?

## Urban Environments

Southern African cities are places of great contrasts. In the suburbs, wealthy businesspeople, foreigners, and government officials may live in large, comfortable houses. Downtown areas have tall buildings and well-stocked stores. In the poorer areas, many people are crowded into small homes. Others live in shantytowns—rough houses made of scrap wood, metal sheeting, or mud bricks. Although these shantytowns may look chaotic to outsiders, many are well-organized communities. In some shantytowns, elected councils run schools. They also set rules and present residents' concerns to the government.

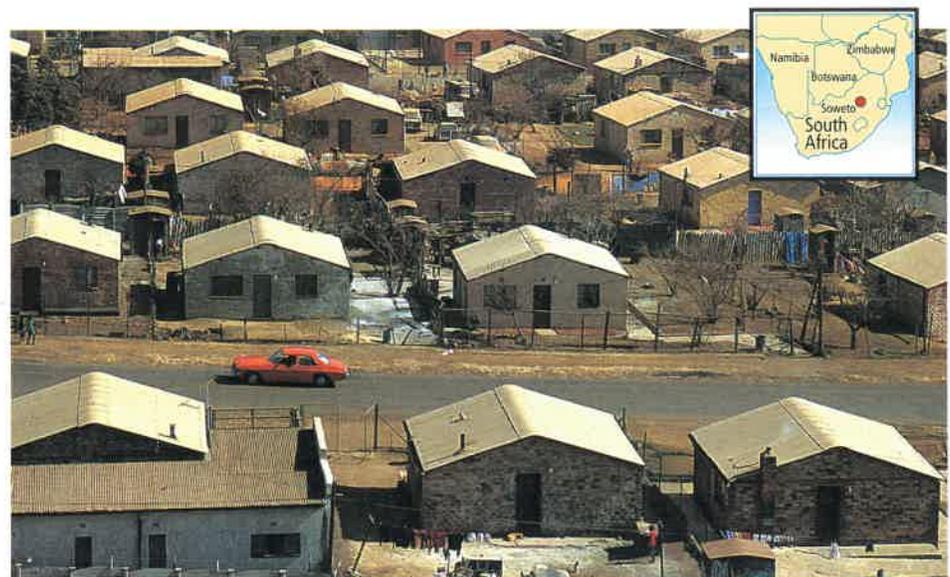
Greater Johannesburg is the largest urban area in southern Africa. It is home to some 4 million people and is in the center of South Africa's industrial heartland.

During the apartheid era, South Africa created residential areas for nonwhite workers. These settlements, called townships, kept the nonwhites separate from the whites. Soweto, which lies a few miles from Johannesburg, is the largest of these settlements. Soweto's name comes from the first

letters of the name *South Western Townships*. It covers some 40 square miles (100 sq km). Soweto has a few grand homes. However, most people live in small houses, shacks, and apartments built as dormitories for migrant workers. Soweto was at the forefront of the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. Many of its residents struggled against the government for the equality of all South Africans.

**READING CHECK: Human Systems** How did access to nearby Johannesburg contribute to the creation and growth of Soweto?

The township of Soweto is home to people from South Africa's many different indigenous groups.



# Challenges

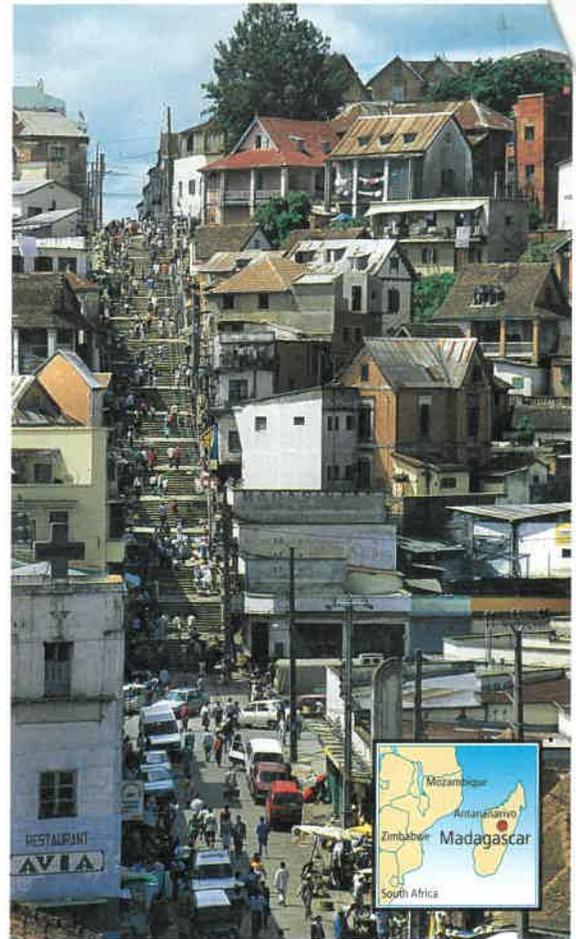
Poverty is the most serious problem facing southern Africa. Many people cannot afford to eat a balanced diet. As a result, they are more likely to get sick. Young children are particularly vulnerable. Moreover, many of southern Africa's poor are unemployed.

The region's cities are growing rapidly, mainly because people migrate from rural areas looking for work. The region's high birthrates also contribute to the rapid growth of cities and lead to a lack of suitable housing. In addition to housing shortages, the crowded cities face serious environmental problems. Smog from cars' exhaust fumes and smoke from coal and wood fires add to urban pollution problems.

Other environmental threats include the droughts and floods that often strike the region. In 1999, for example, major floods in Mozambique left some 200,000 people stranded. Even worse flooding in 2000 displaced more than 1 million people and devastated the country's economy. In addition, Madagascar's rain forests are being cut down, and soil erosion is increasing. (See Geography for Life: Biodiversity in Madagascar.)

Disease is also a major problem in southern Africa. In some countries, more than a quarter of the population is infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. For example, in Botswana some 36 percent of adults between the ages of 15 and 49 are infected with HIV. Because of HIV/AIDS, the average life expectancy of southern Africans is falling. Southern African governments are trying to educate their people about the disease in the hope of slowing its spread. (See Case Study: The Geography of Disease.) The region's governments have also called on Western drug companies to make expensive medicines more affordable for southern Africans.

**READING CHECK:** **Human Systems** What are the main challenges facing southern Africa? How are they interrelated?



**INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD** *The populations of the region's cities are growing rapidly. For example, Antananarivo, Madagascar, grew from a population of about 800,000 in 1990 to 1.5 million in 2000. How might increased crowding compound the region's existing problems?*

## Section 3

# Review

**go.hrw.com** **Homework Practice Online**  
Keyword: SW3 HP24

**Define** informal sector

**Working with Sketch Maps** On the map you created in Section 2, label Cabinda and Soweto. Why were townships like Soweto created?

**Reading for the Main Idea**

1. **Places and Regions** What makes South Africa the most economically developed country in the region?

2. **Human Systems** What are some of the main cash crops grown on commercial farms in southern Africa?

**Critical Thinking**

3. **Finding the Main Idea** Why might governments in the region want to pursue policies that encourage the development of a wide range of resources?

4. **Analyzing Information** How might the countries of southern Africa protect and develop their tourist industries?

**Organizing What You Know**

5. Copy the following graphic organizer. Use it to identify the causes of some challenges facing countries in southern Africa.

Challenge	Cause
Rapid urban growth	
Poor nutrition	
Pollution	
Environmental damage	

# CASE STUDY

## The Geography of Disease

**Environment and Society** One constant throughout human history has been the threat of disease. Many societies have suffered from epidemics—the outbreak and rapid spread of a disease. Medical geographers and other health experts track the diffusion of such epidemics.

A number of factors influence the diffusion of disease. One factor is the interaction of humans with their environment. For example, consider the creation of Lake Volta in the early 1960s. The West African country of Ghana created the lake by building a huge dam across the Volta River. This dam produces hydroelectricity, and the lake provides irrigation water for crops. However, many people who settled along the lakeshore became infected with a deadly parasite. Experts tracked the source of the parasite to snails that lived along the shore.

Location is another important factor in the spread of disease. Certain climates, for example, may encourage the growth of infectious microbes and the insects that carry them. The unsanitary living conditions often found in developing countries also make it easier for diseases to spread. Worse still, poor countries

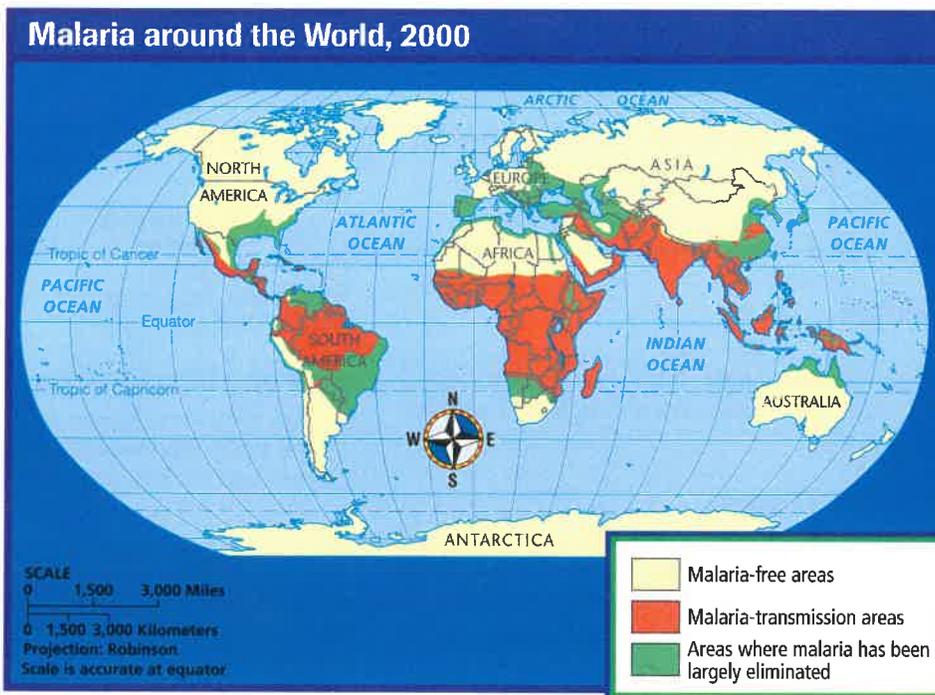
often do not have the health-care resources to fight epidemics. Another factor in the spread of disease is migration. War refugees and other migrants can carry infections with them.

Medical geographers see some of these factors at work in Africa today. Two of the most difficult health threats there are malaria and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, or AIDS.

### Malaria

Malaria is not a new disease. Researchers have uncovered records of ancient infections as far back as the 400s B.C. In fact, some researchers believe a malaria epidemic may have played a role in the fall of the Roman Empire. As early as the late 1400s, Europeans may have unknowingly carried the disease to the Americas.

Location and climate play important roles in the spread of malaria. Much of Africa lies in the tropics. Mosquitoes and other insects thrive in the humid tropical and subtropical climates there. One kind of mosquito that lives there carries the parasite that causes malaria. These mosquitoes are also found in



#### INTERPRETING THE MAP

*More cases of malaria are reported each year in Africa than anywhere else in the world. Yet, as this map shows, malaria is virtually unknown in the northern and far southern parts of the continent. What does this map suggest about the habitat of the mosquito that spreads malaria?*

other tropical and subtropical regions around the world. (See the map.)

Experts believe there are 300 to 500 million new malaria cases worldwide each year, mostly in Africa. The annual death toll from the disease in Africa alone may be about 1 million. In fact, as many as 30 percent of all hospital admissions in Africa may be for malaria. Patients who survive can develop immunity to the disease. In the meantime, however, workers lose time at their jobs, and children miss school, often for a week or more. The death of a working family member can cause even more financial problems.

The economic costs of the disease are great. Some experts point to the benefits that might have resulted if malaria had been eliminated 35 years ago. They say that the total GDP of Africa south of the Sahara might be more than 30 percent greater than it is today.

## AIDS

The movement of people has been an important factor in the diffusion of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. HIV may infect more than 40 million people around the world today. The vast majority of those infections have occurred in Africa. (See the graph.)

Researchers still debate the origin of AIDS. However, among the first identified cases of the disease were those around the lake district of the Great Rift Valley in eastern Africa. Many researchers believe HIV probably first spread from there along trade and transportation routes. Over time, modern means of

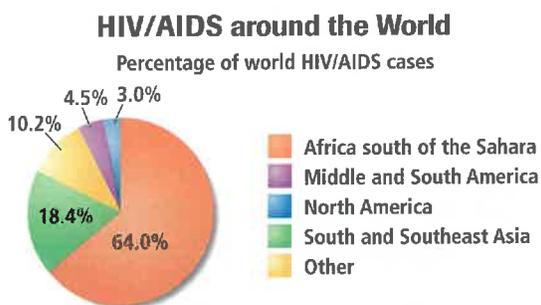
transportation, particularly air travel, helped spread HIV around the world.

AIDS has hit eastern and southern Africa particularly hard. In South Africa, for example, one in five adults is infected with HIV. In Botswana the figure is more than one in three. As a result, life expectancy has fallen dramatically. As with malaria, the economic costs of AIDS are staggering. These costs could multiply with the rapid spread of the disease in other regions, particularly Asia.

## Finding Solutions

The costs of treating malaria, AIDS, and other deadly diseases are often more than developing countries can pay. In addition, some diseases, such as AIDS, have no cure. Sometimes drugs may extend life, but they are very expensive. Some experts say that richer countries should play a bigger role in providing resources for the battle against these diseases. Education and prevention programs also help.

One success story is the battle against smallpox. As recently as 1967, smallpox was a dreaded disease that caused as many as 2 million deaths each year. However, world health officials started a massive prevention program. This program included widespread vaccination and other efforts. The last natural case of smallpox occurred in Somalia in 1977. In coming years medical geographers and other experts hope to add other diseases, including malaria and AIDS, to the list of success stories.



Source: UNAIDS: AIDS Epidemic Update, Dec. 2005

## Applying What You Know

- 1. Problem Solving** What are some factors that contribute to the diffusion of disease today? How do you think international efforts might help slow or stop the spread of diseases in developing regions such as Africa?
- 2. Analyzing** How have AIDS and malaria affected the economic development of Africa south of the Sahara? What demographic effects has AIDS had on southern Africa?



Review the video to answer the closing question:  
*What are some ways South Africans could continue working together?*

### Building Vocabulary

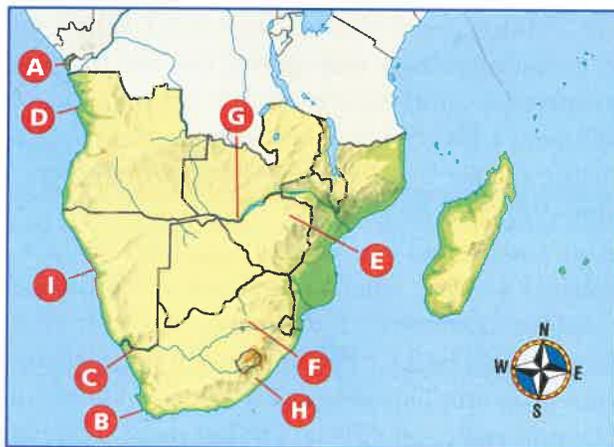
On a separate sheet of paper, explain the following terms by using them correctly in sentences.

escarpment	apartheid
biodiversity	sanctions
veld	African National Congress
Afrikaners	informal sector

### Locating Key Places

On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with their correct labels.

Drakensberg	Namib Desert	Johannesburg
Orange River	Cape of Good Hope	Harare
Zambezi River	Luanda	Cabinda



### Understanding the Main Ideas

#### Section 1

- Physical Systems** What are two reasons the western part of southern Africa is drier than eastern parts?

#### Section 2

- Places and Regions** Which Europeans settled in what is now South Africa? How did these peoples interact with each other?
- Human Systems** What was the apartheid system? When did it end?

#### Section 3

- Environment and Society** What are some features that attract tourists to southern Africa?
- Human Systems** Why has life expectancy in southern Africa dropped in recent years? How do you think such changes might affect future population growth in the region?

### Thinking Critically

- Analyzing** Why do you think European countries were so intent on colonizing all of southern Africa?
- Comparing** How do you think life in large cities of southern Africa compares to life in large cities in other developing countries? What political, economic, social, and environmental factors might account for similarities and differences?
- Comparing** In what world regions and kinds of societies do you think informal economic activities provide the most opportunities for women and religious minorities?

### Using the Geographer's Tools

- Analyzing Maps** Examine the map of transportation routes in Section 3. Which country seems to have the largest area not served by major transportation links? How do the region's landlocked countries seem to get their goods to seaports?
- Creating Maps** Use the unit atlas to create a map of Africa. Label each country. Then use a different color to shade the regions of North Africa, West and Central Africa, East Africa, and southern Africa.
- Creating Maps** Use the climate and land use maps to create a series of maps on tissue paper or other transparent material. One map may show arid and semiarid climate regions, while the other shows wetter climate regions. Then create maps for each type of land use common in the region. Using your maps as if they were layers in a geographic information system, make generalizations about the location of climate regions and particular economic activities.

### Writing about Geography

Imagine that you have moved from a small subsistence farm to a big city to find work. Will you work in industry or the informal sector? If you find work, how will your standard of living change? Write a letter to your family in which you compare your old way of life with life in the city.



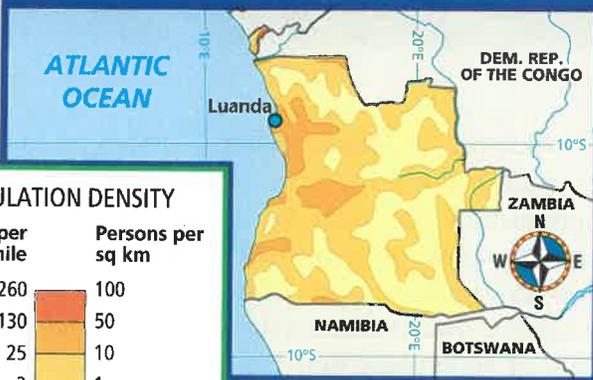
### SKILL BUILDING

## Geography for Life

### Summarizing Geographic Information

**Human Systems** Create an idea web in which you analyze South Africa's political, economic, social, and cultural characteristics. Note historical factors that are important in your analysis.

### Angola: Population Density



POPULATION DENSITY	
Persons per sq. mile	Persons per sq km
260	100
130	50
25	10
3	1
0	0

● Metropolitan areas with more than 1 million inhabitants

### Interpreting Maps

Study the population density map above. Then answer the questions that follow.

- Based on the map, which of the following statements is accurate?
  - Luanda is located in one of Angola's least densely populated regions.
  - Luanda is located in an area with between 25 and 130 people per square mile.
  - Land along the coast is uninhabited.
  - Angola has no cities with more than 1 million people.

- Which areas of Angola are most densely populated?

### Using Language

The following passage contains mistakes in grammar, punctuation, and usage. Read the passage and then answer the following questions. Mark your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

(1) Botswana is a large, landlocked and semiarid country. (2) Thanks to mineral resources and stable political conditions. (3) Botswana is one of Africa's success stories. (4) Cattle ranching and mining of copper and diamonds is the principal economic activities.

- Which sentence contains an error in subject-verb agreement?
  - 1
  - 2
  - 3
  - 4
- Combine word groups 2 and 3 to form one correct sentence.

## Alternative Assessment

### PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY

#### Learning about Your Local Geography

##### Individual Project: Research

You have read how mineral resources contribute to southern African economies. What mineral resources are mined in or near your area? Conduct research to learn where each resource is found, how it is processed, and how it is used. Create maps or graphic organizers to organize and present your findings.

#### Internet connect

**Internet Activity:** [go.hrw.com](http://go.hrw.com)  
KEYWORD: SW3 GT24

Choose a topic on southern Africa to:

- learn about the Namib Desert.
- investigate the history and legacy of apartheid.
- create a brochure of the animal and plant life on a South African safari.

