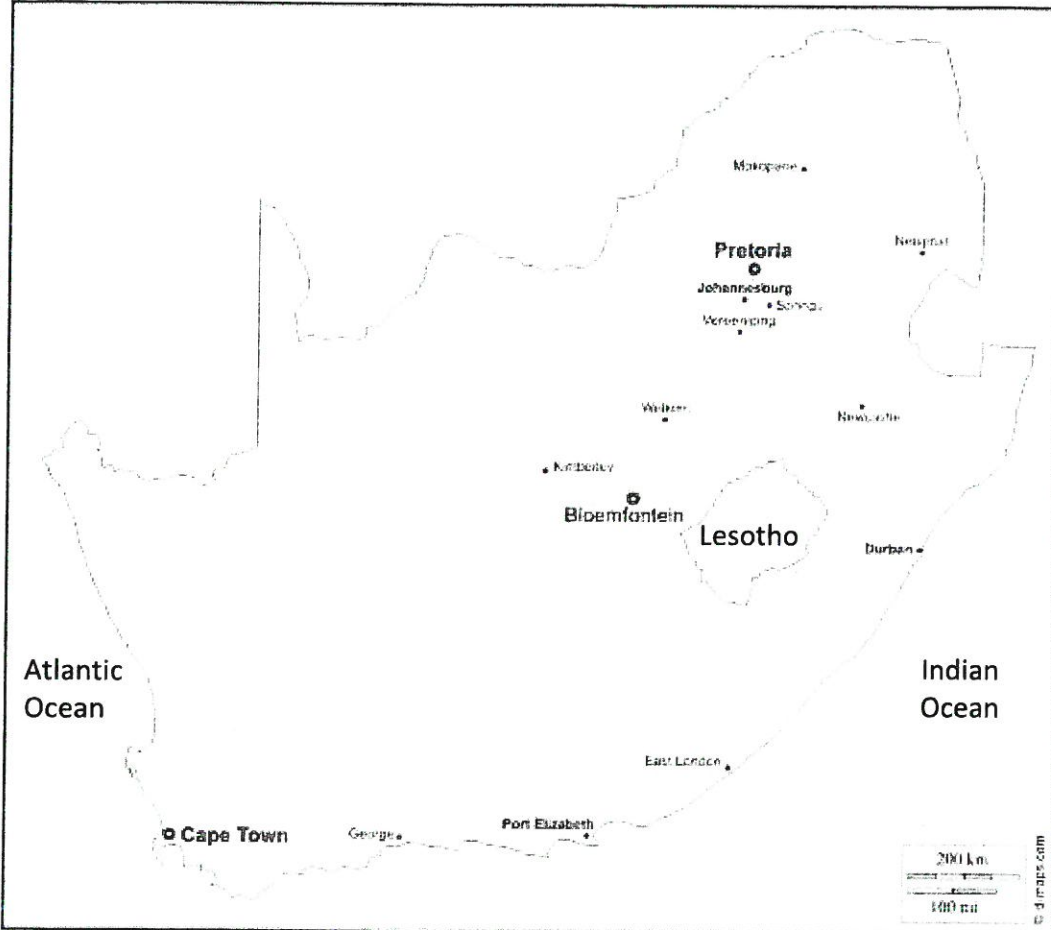


SOUTH AFRICA

Name: _____



1. If you traveled from Mokopane to Springs, which direction would you be going?

2. If you traveled from Kimberley to Newcastle, which direction would you be going?

3. Which two oceans border South Africa? _____

4. What is the name of the small country that is near the middle of South Africa?

5. South Africa is unusual in that it has three capitals. Name the capitals based on the first letter clue:

Administrative Capital: P _____

Legislative Capital: C _____

Judicial Capital: B _____

6. If you traveled from Cape Town to George, which direction would you be going?

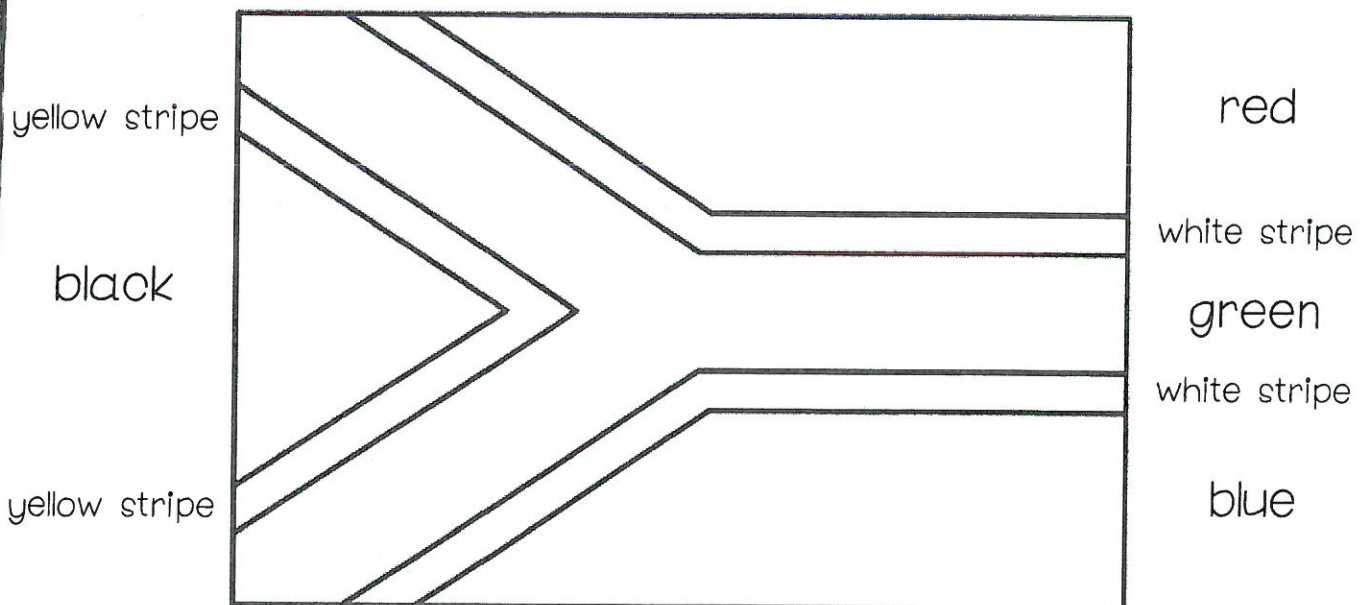
SOUTH AFRICA

Name: _____

Color South Africa on the World Map:



Color South Africa's Flag



Christmas Around the World: South Africa

Name: _____

South Africa is located on the southernmost tip of Africa. Since it is in the southern hemisphere, Christmas time is in the summer. Regardless, South Africans still enjoy celebrating. Traditions come from England, since South Africa used to be a British colony, as well as a mix of other countries, and traditions of their own.

School is closed during the Christmas season and lots of people enjoy going camping, spending time at the beach, or hiking on shaded mountain slopes.

Many South Africans spend time decorating their homes to make them look festive. Windows are draped with white cotton wool, to look like snow, reindeer and sleigh figurines are set on tables, kids make colorful paper chains to hang indoors, and nativity scenes are displayed as well. Although there aren't many pine trees in South Africa, Christmas trees, the artificial kind, are still popular, and are all decked out with pretty ornaments and tinsel. Some of these are even sprayed with fake snow!

Christmas Eve is an important day of celebration. Some people enjoy Christmas caroling on this night. Small groups travel from house to house and sing favorite songs. Christmas bands, made usually of men and boys, wear matching uniforms and play music into the late night. Christmas Eve is also a time for some families to attend a special holiday church service. These services are sometimes called Carols by Candlelight and take place in decorated churches, filled with the soft glow of candles.

At home on Christmas Eve, children hang up either stockings (an English tradition) or pillowcases (an Australian tradition) in the hopes that they will be filled by Santa. In South Africa, with eleven different official languages, Santa may be called Kersvader, meaning Father Christmas in Afrikaans, Sinterklaas from the Dutch language, or Father Christmas, from the British. Besides hanging up stockings or pillowcases, some families have a visit from Santa, when a family member dresses up in Santa's red suit. Kids have fun trying to guess who it is inside the costume.

Christmas Day starts with a church service in the morning, and perhaps some swimming or a drive to the countryside, where the flowers are in full bloom. The Christmas meal may be served at lunch or at dinner. There are two types of meals. One is similar to an English meal and may include roast turkey, duck, roast beef, pork with yellow rice and raisins, vegetables, mince pie, Christmas pudding (fruit cake), or malva pudding. The second type of meal is becoming more common and is a barbeque, called a braai, which takes place outside. Everything is thrown on the grill from meats, to vegetables, breads and even fruits (bananas).

1. Why do South Africans celebrate Christmas in the summer?

2. What types of decorations are used in South African homes?

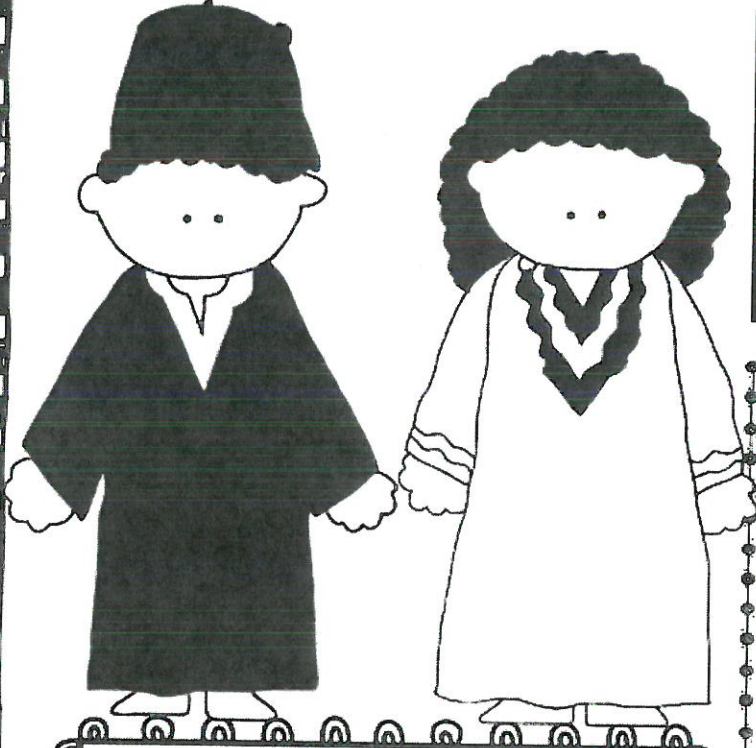
3. If you lived in South Africa, would you rather have a stocking or a pillowcase to hang up on Christmas Eve? Explain why.

4. In the fifth paragraph, the author describes how a family member dresses as Santa to visit the home. Make an inference. Do you think the kids know this isn't the real Santa? Why?

5. What is the difference between the two types of Christmas meals served in South Africa? _____

SOUTH AFRICA

Name: _____



how to say MERRY CHRISTMAS:

Geseënde Kersfees'

(guh SAY uhn dah KERS fays)

Afrikaans Language

Gift Giver:

A South African Tradition:

Traditional Holiday Food:

