General World Cultures

Chapter 14- Southern Africa

**vegetarian**- the main plant life of an area

**archaeologist**- a scientist who studies items that people made long ago in order to learn about how they lived

**apartheid**- a system of laws developed in South Africa to keep racial groups separate

**homeland**- a special reserve in South Africa where many black South Africans were forced to move

**sanction**- a step taken by several nations acting together to punish another nation for breaking international laws

**boycott**- an attempt to change the actions of a company or country by refusing to buy its products

**martial law**- a state of emergency in which a government suspends citizens’ rights and uses its army to control its people

**Southern Africa as a Region**

\* South Africa is one of many countries in the region of southern Africa. Countries north of South Africa are: Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique. Farther north are Malawi, Zambia, and Angola. Madagascar is considered to be part of southern Africa, too. No, we will not watch the movie by Disney…not exactly related to the curriculum. Lesotho and Swaziland round out the countries in southern Africa.

\* As a region, southern Africa has many resources. It has gold, diamonds, copper, iron ore, lead, and zinc. There is oil under the seafloor off the southern coast. Much of the soil is rich.

\* There are two large deserts in the region- the Namib and the Kalahari. The eastern coast of southern Africa receives plenty of rain. In addition, five large rivers provide water. The Zambezi, Africa’s fourth largest river, also provides hydroelectric power to the region.

\* South Africa is an industrialized country. Most of its people live in cities, such as Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Pretoria. The other countries are less developed. 75% of the people live in **rural** areas. Rural means in the countryside rather than the town.

**Ethnic Groups of Southern Africa**

\* The smallest ethnic group of southern Africa is made up of the earliest known people in the area- the San and the Khoikhoi. Most of the San live in the Kalahari Desert. They follow the ancient way of life by hunting wild animals and by gathering wild plants. The other group of people, the Khoikhoi, are herders by tradition. The numbers of both groups are shrinking, and soon they may die out.

\* Black Africans make up the majority population of southern Africa. The minority population is white. They are descended from the European colonists who at one time owned slaves and controlled the region. Only 14% of South Africa is white.

South Africa also has Asian immigrants who came from India.

**The Bantu Migrations**

\* A group of people called the Bantu arrived and spread through the region 2,500 years ago. In West Africa, the bantu based their way of life on fishing. They lived in small settlements along the Niger River and traveled in boats. As they migrated (away from the water), their life changed. They adapted to each new zone of climate and **vegetation**. On the northern savanna, they became herders. In the forests, they became hunters and farmers. When they went east, they began to herd again.

Why would the land, climate, etc. matter for a person’s way of life? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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\* The Bantu learned to make charcoal. They were also advanced at making axes, spears, and other tools of war. The iron they used also made farming tools. They merged and shared with all of the groups they crossed during their migration.

Is it good to share what you know (talents, secrets, etc.) for others? Can it be bad?

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**Archaeologists** are still exploring ancient cities and trying to find out about different cultures and their way of life.

Why is it important for an archaeologist to learn about the past? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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*Complete the Geographer’s Tool Kit Reading Vegetation Maps on page 196.*

**European Colonization in South Africa**

\* Europeans began to colonize South Africa about 350 years ago. At that time, they were setting up colonies all over Africa. These were not intended as home but just places to make money. Most made their money and went back to Europe. In South Africa, however, European families thought of themselves as Africans, not Europeans.

\* Portuguese sailors were the first Europeans to land in South Africa. They named the tip of the continent its name- the Cape of Good Hope. The British came to the Cape of Good Hope in the late 1700’s. They tried to end slavery. There was a long war that killed many locals. There are still bitter feelings about the war that divide the white South Africans.

\* The Afrikaners’ National Party (a group of whites that ruled for over 40 years) set up a system called **apartheid** in South Africa. This system forced white and nonwhite peoples to live separately. Under apartheid, a white person and a black person:

 1.) could not marry,

 2.) could not go to the same schools

 3.) could not mingle on buses

Black people were not allowed to hold skilled jobs. “Pass” laws prevented them from moving about freely. Every black person was forced to carry a card that showed where he/she had permission to go. The pass laws made South Africa essentially a prison for the black population.

\* People of mixed race, people from India, and people from Asia had the rules of apartheid applied to them.

**South Africa’s Homelands**

\* In 1959, the South African government created a separate **homeland** for each ethnic group This took up 13% of the land of the country. They were in poor, rural areas, with few resources. Most people who lived in a homeland tried to make a living as herders or farmers. It was tough to make a living.

\* In 1970, all black people were forced (by a law) to become citizens of a homeland. Many had never been to a homeland and did not intend on moving. Nonetheless, their pass was stamped with a homeland.

\* People around the world began calling for **sanctions** against South Africa because of apartheid. In the 1980’s, the U.S. joined the nations that had imposed sanctions limiting trade with South Africa. Many people also organized **boycotts**.

\* President de Klerk wanted to allow some change to prevent violence in the future. By 1994, the apartheid ended.

**The Arts in Southern Africa**

\* Music and dance are important in the traditional cultures of southern Africa. They are part of many religious rituals and are used by traditional healers. Southern Africans also enjoy music and dancing simply as arts and entertainment. Wedding celebrations always have music and dancing. Villages hold dance competitions Professional dance groups perform in the cities, and some dance groups tour other countries.

\* Southern Africa has exciting popular music. Both rhythm and melody are important to their music. The Western world knows some of the popular music of southern Africa.

\* Visual arts are also important. In Zimbabwe, for example, Shona artists work in stone. They make graceful, modern sculptures- often of animals.

It’s time for another Bizarre Foods…this time from Uganda.

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00C180J00