



SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA



AREA 1,246,700 sq km
POPULATION 13,339,000
MONEY Kwanza

ZAMBIA



AREA 752,618 sq km
POPULATION 13,881,000
MONEY Zambian kwacha

SOUTH AFRICA



AREA 1,221,037 sq km
POPULATION 49,004,000
MONEY Rand

MOST of southern Africa is a high, flat plateau. The rivers cannot be used by ships because of big waterfalls like the Victoria Falls (see photograph right). But the rivers can be useful. Two huge dams have been built on the River Zambezi – at Kariba (in Zambia) and at Cabora Bassa (in Mozambique). The map shows the lakes behind each dam. The power of the falling water is used to make electricity.


Angola and Mozambique used to be Portuguese colonies, and Portuguese is still their official language – though many different African languages are spoken, too. Most of the other countries shown on the map have English as their official language.

Look at the map to find six countries of Southern Africa that have no coastline. It is more difficult and expensive for them to bring goods in and export their products. Railways and roads leading to ports in neighbouring countries are very important. Zambia has large copper mines and Botswana has the world's richest diamond mine.



▲ *The Victoria Falls from the air. The River Zambezi plunges over the falls into a narrow gorge. Africans call the falls Mosi-oa-tunya – ‘the smoke that thunders’. They were named after the English Queen Victoria by the explorer David Livingstone. The falls are more than a kilometre wide and over 100 metres high. This is the border of Zimbabwe and Zambia, which are linked by the bridge at the bottom of the image.*

MOZAMBIQUE



AREA 801,590 sq km
POPULATION 22,949,000
MONEY Metical



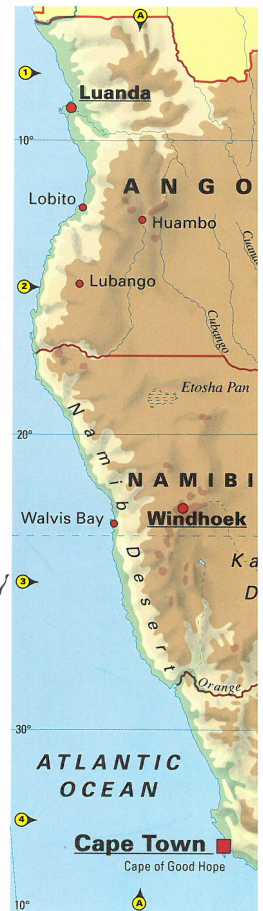
▲ *Ring-tailed Lemur, Madagascar. The island of Madagascar has wonderful forests and some of its wildlife is unique. But several species are under threat of extinction.*

A VILLAGE IN ZAMBIA

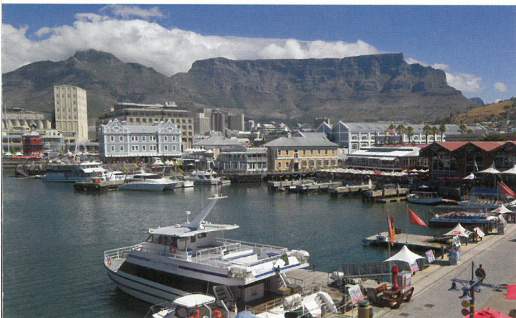
A Zambian girl drew this picture of her village during a lesson at her school. Her village is close to the River Zambezi in the west of Zambia. Look for a well, a man hoeing, a fisherman and a man looking after cattle. On the road there is a bus, a car and a van.

The Republic of South Africa is the wealthiest country in the world's largest diamond mine. It has the world's richest gold mine. To the area around Johannesburg, South Africa's largest city.

Most of the people are black. For many years, black people were ruled by white people. Black people gained the vote and now they rule the country.



South Africa has two capitals: Pretoria, but the parliament is in Cape Town.



▲ *Cape Town, South Africa. There are tall buildings in the city centre. The flat-topped mountain in the distance is ‘Table Mountain’. It looks as flat as a table. When cloud covers it, it is called ‘the tablecloth’. Cape Town is near the Cape of Good Hope, in the far south of Africa.*