

SOUTHERN AFRICA

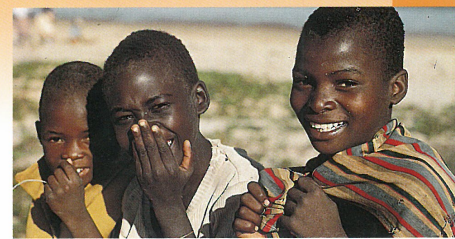
The **Republic of South Africa** is the wealthiest country in Africa. The world's largest diamond was found here. It has the world's richest gold mine and the world's deepest mine. People rushed to the area around Johannesburg when gold was found in the 1880s. Now it is South Africa's largest city.

Most of the people are still very poor. For many years, black people were kept apart from the rich white people who used to rule the country. In 1994 they gained the vote and now they govern the country.

Namibia and **Botswana** are dry areas, with small numbers of people. Some of the rivers in this area never reach the sea. The map on this page shows big swamps and 'salt pans': these are the places where the river water evaporates.

Lesotho is a small mountainous country, completely surrounded by the Republic of South Africa.

Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world. It is a long way from the rest of Africa. Most of its animals and plants are found nowhere else on Earth.



▲ **Children in Mozambique** hope for a better future. Their country is one of the poorest in Africa, and has also suffered from disastrous floods and drought.

from the air. The River falls into a narrow gorge. *si-oo-tunya* – 'the smoke that' – named after the English Queen *Victoria* and *Livingstone*. The falls are wide and over 100 metres high. *Livingstone* and *Zambia*, which at the bottom of the image.



▲ **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.



South Africa has two joint capital cities: most of the government offices are in **Pretoria**, but the parliament meets in **Cape Town**. So both cities are underlined.