

THE BIG PICTURE

SOUTH AFRICA AT A GLANCE

South Africa is a vast and diverse land that has made significant contributions to history and science, from the origin of humans, to gold and diamond exploration, to the first human heart transplant and more, as you'll see on this episode of FRONTIERS.

- ▼ **POPULATION:** 45,095,459 people, or about 1/5 the population of the U.S.
- ▼ **AREA:** 472,281 sq. mi. (slightly larger than Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma put together).
- ▼ **CURRENCY:** Rand (exchange rate 1.00 = \$.28 U.S.).
- ▼ **LANGUAGES:** There are 11 official languages: English, Afrikaans, Ndebele, Northern Sotho, Southern Sotho, Swati, Tsonga, Tswana, Venda, Xhosa and Zulu.
- ▼ **ETHNIC GROUPS:** Blacks: 74%, whites: 14%, mixed race: 9%, Asian: 3%.
- ▼ **LAND:** Less than 12% is arable; most is semi-desert. Topography varies and includes mountains, deserts, farmlands, savannah and coastal areas.
- ▼ **CLIMATE:** Average summer temperature: low 68°, high 89°; average winter temperature: low 34°, high 62°. Average annual rainfall: 18 inches.
- ▼ **TIME ZONE:** 7 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time.
- ▼ **GOVERNMENT:** Federal republic (since the repeal of apartheid in 1994, the nation has undergone historic change).
- ▼ **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES:** Gold (South Africa is the world's largest producer), diamonds, other minerals; tourism.

