



RHODES UNIVERSITY

SOUTH AFRICA

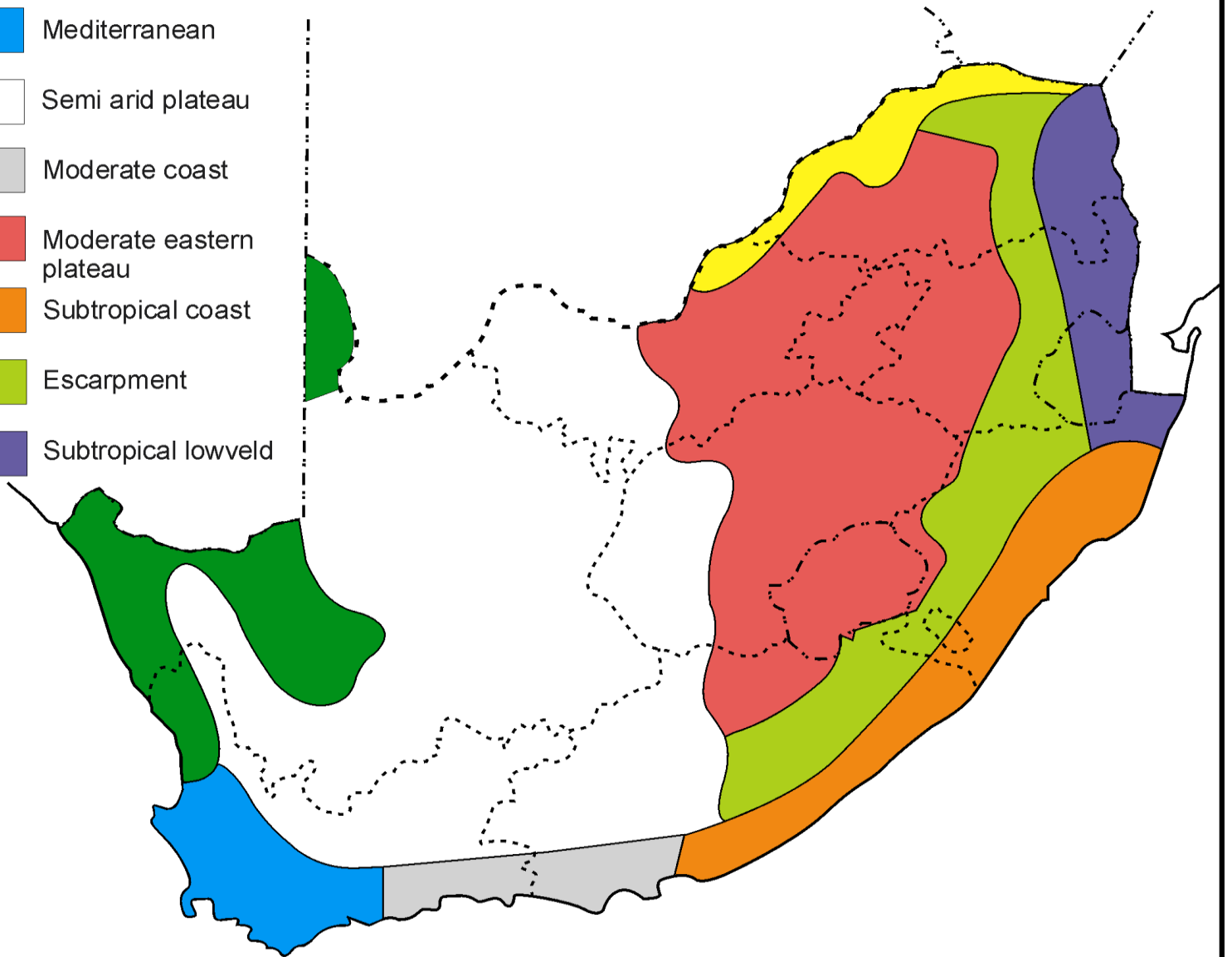
**“THE RAINBOW NATION”
PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OUTLOOK**

Geographic profile



- Situated at the southern tip of the African continent
- Borders Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and surrounds both Lesotho and Swaziland
- Atlantic ocean on the west coast and Indian ocean on the east coast
- Area = 4332468 square miles (3 times the size of Texas)

- Subtropical plateau
- Desert
- Mediterranean
- Semi arid plateau
- Moderate coast
- Moderate eastern plateau
- Subtropical coast
- Escarpment
- Subtropical lowveld



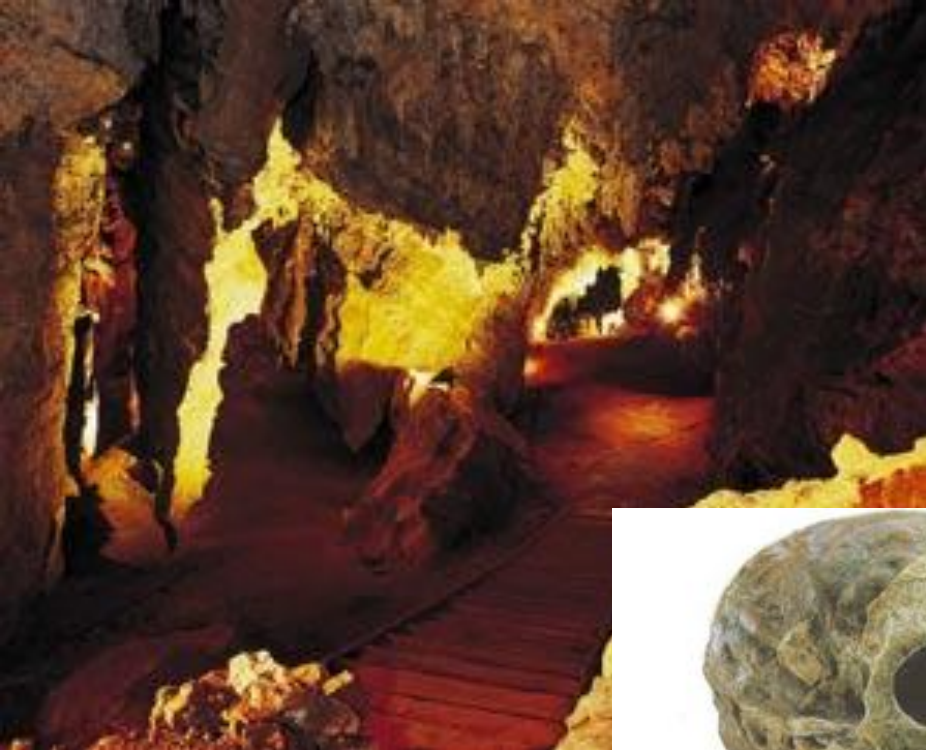
Our people

- Population of 50,586,757 (2011 census)
- 11 official languages
- Demographics: (English, Afrikaans, Zulu, Xhosa, siPedi, seSotho, Tswana, Ndebele, Swati, tshiVenda, Xitsonga)
- 79% black, 9% Caucasian, 9% Coloured (mixed race) and 2.5% asian
- 80% Christian, 20 % made up of Islam, Hinduism, Judaism and other

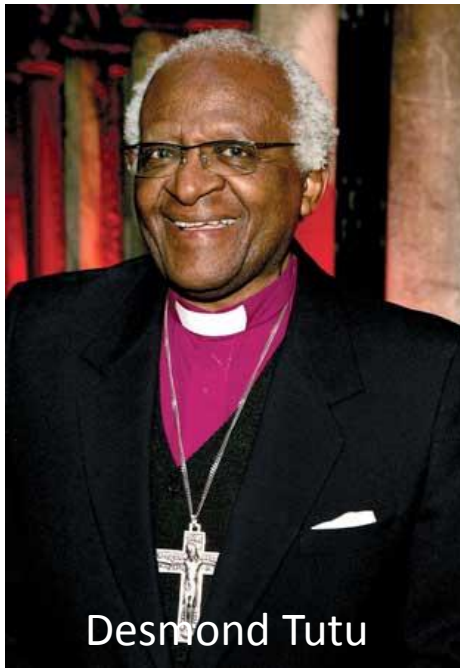
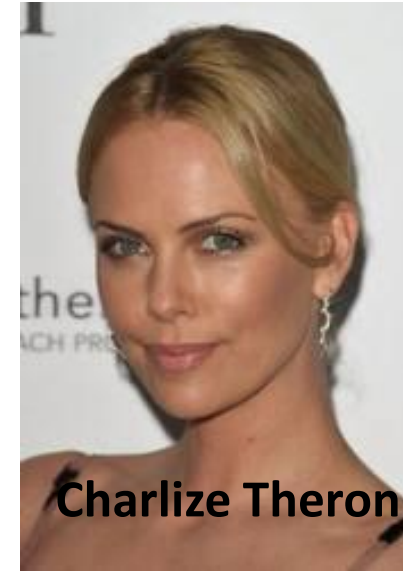
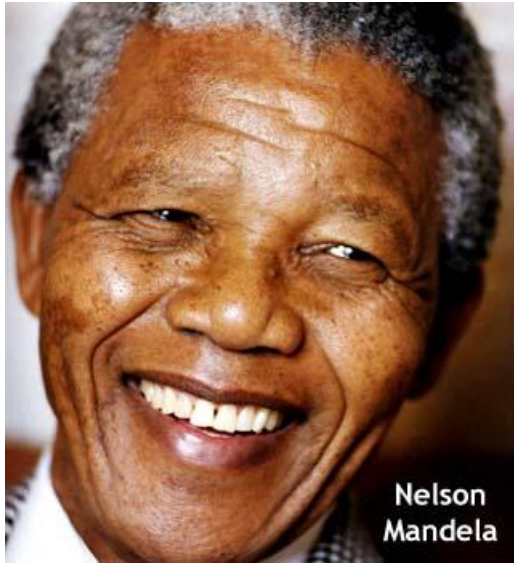


Archaeological finds

- first **australopithecine** to be discovered in the world. That was followed by some spectacular discoveries at [Sterkfontein](#), which is now part of the [Cradle of Humankind](#) in 1947. Since then, fossils – mostly also australopithecines – have been turning up at an impressive rate.
- [South Africa](#) also has the oldest evidence of the intentional use of fire.



SOME FAMOUS SOUTH AFRICANS



Brief History

- First inhabitants were the San and Khoi-Khoi people in the semi-arid Karoo region.
- Over time, the Nguni people migrated from Niger delta area to the east coast region stretching from Mozambique to the Eastern Cape region
- First European (Dutch) settlers arrived in 1652 – to establish a pit stop for ships along the Spice route to the East.

Brief History

- Slaves from Madagascar and Malaysia were introduced to provide labour for the Dutch farms established – They are the ancestors of the Coloured people of the country.
- British arrived at the Cape and seized control in 1806 (to prevent the French from doing so)
- British colonized the Eastern port of Natal and the Eastern Cape region (notably Grahamstown, Port Elizabeth, East London, King William's Town etc)

Brief History

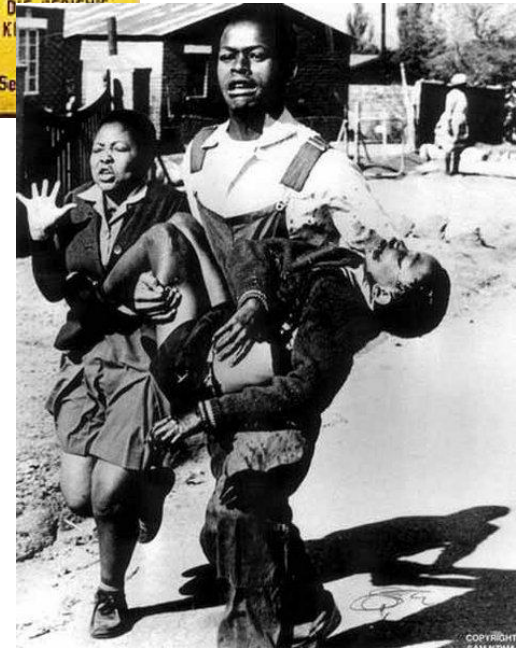
As the number of people increased, territories and resources became vital:

- Anglo-Boer war
- Anglo-Zulu war
- Frontier war
- Boer-Zulu war
- Great Trek
- Establishment of Union of South Africa



Apartheid Era

- Officially between 1948 and 1991 (but segregation had begun long before this)
- Different racial groups were separated and the White population was seen as elite
- A time of great injustice, pain and suffering for the non-white population
- Wounds are still evident today (even after Truth and Reconciliation Commission)



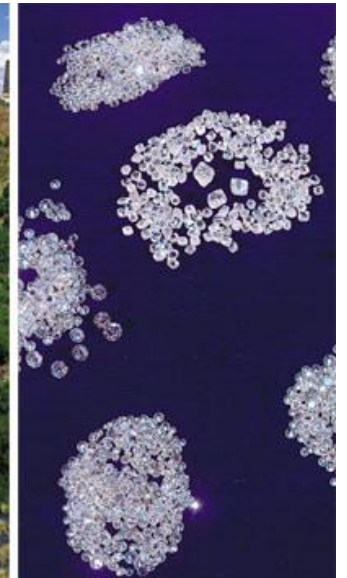
Reconciliation

- Apartheid ended officially in 1991
- 1994 were the first democratic elections where EVERYONE could vote.
- Nelson Mandela voted in as first democratic president
- It was a miracle that the country didn't erupt in civil war during this time



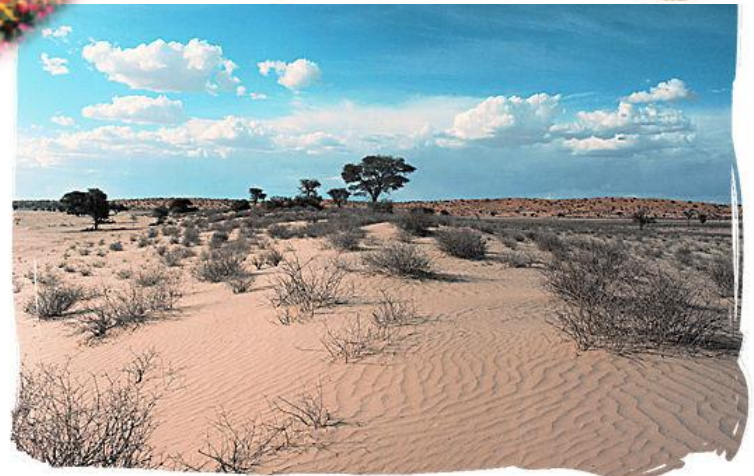
Economy

- Economic powerhouse of Africa
- Principal activity is mining
- GDP of \$555.134 billion
- Very high unemployment rate
- Growing manufacturing sector



Natural resources

- Cape floral region is the most diverse in the world with over 20% of the continents floral species



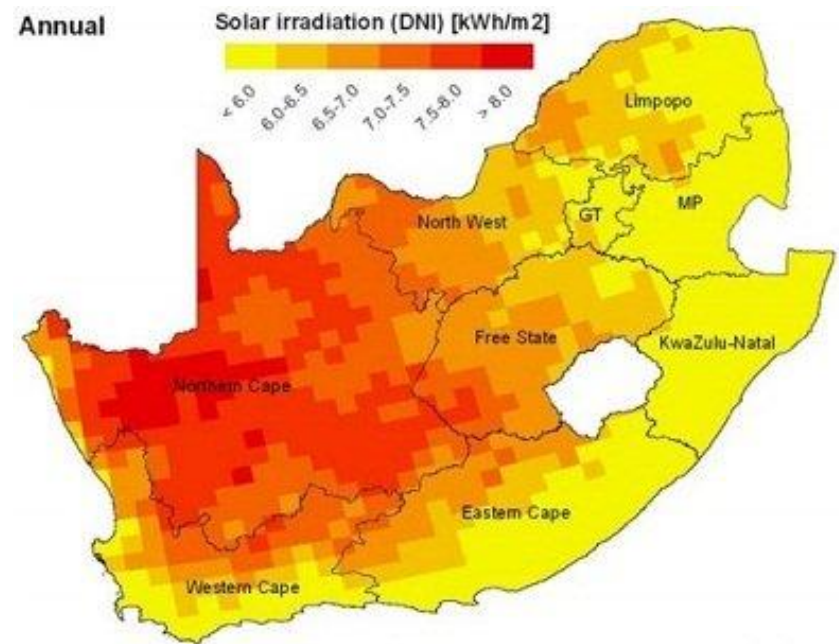
Power

- South Africa generates 80% of all electricity generated in Africa. Eskom is the power company
 - Coal burning
 - Hydroelectric power
 - Nuclear power
 - Alternative sources
- 70% of citizens have access to power



What about solar?

- Currently generates less than 1% of the National power supply
- South Africa has an extremely high potential for solar power generation, since the majority of the country receives large amounts of sunshine all year round as depicted in the map to the left.



Investing in solar

- At this stage, the government has announced plans to build one huge plant in the Northern Cape – it will be the biggest one in the world – which will produce 5GW, a tenth of the country's requirements.



Impact of solar power for people

- Will help provide power to the rural areas
- With the recent SKA project being announced, we need a cheap alternative to fossil power
- Will help to grow the economy and reduce poverty and unemployment





QUESTIONS?