Soccer is a popular sport all around the world. It is no surprise, then, that it is a favorite sport of people in the country of South Africa. But the fact that the sport is played there reveals more than just that South Africans love fun and recreation. It is proof of the changing political times in South Africa.

Soccer came to South Africa from Europe. As you will read in Chapter 7, Europeans settled in the region from the mid-1600s through the 1800s. After the country gained independence in 1910, the white minority of the population took charge of the government. As part of their rule, the white population denied other members of society certain basic rights. For example, black South Africans were not allowed to play on many of the nation’s sports teams.

In 1994, the South African government was restructured, and equal rights were extended to all. Today, when black and white soccer players run onto the field, all South Africans have reason to cheer.

Vocabulary Builder

Preview Key Terms

Pronounce each Key Term, then ask students to say the word or words with you. Provide a simple explanation such as, “A migrant worker does not have a permanent place of employment.”
Diversity in Southern Africa

Like the rest of Africa, Southern Africa has a great deal of cultural diversity. Most of the people of Southern Africa are black Africans. They belong to a variety of ethnic groups, many of which speak separate languages. In addition, there are certain ethnic groups that have greater numbers of members in Southern Africa than in other parts of Africa—for example, people of European descent.

European Influence

Southern Africa attracted Europeans for a variety of reasons. The Portuguese arrived in Mozambique in the 1500s and soon began transporting slaves out of Africa. In the 1600s, Dutch and British settlers moved to the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa. They grew wheat and herded cattle. Many of the Dutch eventually spread to the north to places such as Malawi, where they started up a mining industry and enlisted local people as laborers. The British also moved north, to Zimbabwe and Zambia.

European Ethnic Groups

Southern Africa is home to three main groups of people with European ancestry. One group is descended from the British settlers. These Africans speak English. Another group is Afrikaners (af ri KAHNZ), who are descendants of the Dutch settlers. They speak Afrikaans (af ri KAHNZ), a language related to Dutch. The third group, descended from the Portuguese settlers, speaks Portuguese.

Urbanization

The cultural diversity of Southern Africa extends beyond ethnic differences. It is also represented by the contrast between rural and urban lifestyles. For hundreds of years, people in the region lived in villages or small cities. European settlers started a process of urbanization in Southern Africa. The region now includes a number of cities inhabited by more than 1 million people. The largest are Cape Town and Johannesburg in South Africa and Maputo in Mozambique.
Industry in South Africa  South Africa is the richest, most urban, and most industrialized country in Africa. During the 1900s, South African industries created a great demand for labor. Hundreds of thousands of people came from nearby countries in Southern Africa to work on South African mines. They formed a large force of migrant workers, or laborers who travel away from where they live to find work. These migrant workers had to live together in compounds, or fenced-in groups of homes. They were far from their families, clans, and ethnic groups. They worked long hours in dangerous conditions for low wages.

New Roles for Women  The workers who migrated to South Africa for work were mostly men. While they were gone, the women had to take on the men’s responsibilities. Traditionally, women had raised the children and farmed the land. Men had cared for the animals, dealt with local matters, and headed the households. Once the men were gone for a year or two at a time, the women began to make the household and community decisions. For most women, this change was a challenge. For example, many of the women had no training for the new tasks. But the change was also rewarding for many women because they gained new rights, responsibilities, and skills.

**Reading Check**  Name two cities in Southern Africa that have a population of more than one million people.

Life in Central Africa  Like the people of Southern Africa and the rest of Africa, Central Africans went through many cultural changes in the 1900s. But many people in the region still follow old traditions as well.

**Economics and Culture**  In some ways, Central Africa’s cultural diversity is a result of sharp economic contrasts that exist in the region. On the Atlantic coast, the countries of Angola, Congo, Gabon, Cameroon, and Equatorial Guinea have large oil reserves. The cities in these coastal areas tend to benefit most from the oil wealth. People living near the coast also gain more exposure to cultures outside of Africa, allowing for the exchange of traditions and customs.

**Life in Central Africa**

**Guided Instruction**
- **Vocabulary Builder**  Clarify the high-use word *interior* before reading.
- **Read**  Life in Central Africa with students. As students read, circulate to make sure individuals can answer the Reading Check question.
- **Ask**  students Which areas of Central Africa are most exposed to other cultures? Why? (Coastal areas; people there mingle with cultures outside of Africa through work and trade.)
- **Discuss**  the patterns of economic contrasts in Central Africa. (People living near the coast tend to have more wealth, while living conditions get poorer as you move into the interior.)

**Independent Practice**  Have students complete the graphic organizer by filling in the details they have just learned about Central Africa.

**Monitor Progress**
- **Show**  Section Reading Support Transparency AF 44 and ask students to check their graphic organizers individually. Go over key concepts and clarify key vocabulary as needed.
- **Tell**  students to fill in the last column of the Reading Readiness Guide. Probe for what they learned that confirms or invalidates each statement.
- **Target Reading Skill**
  - **Compare and Contrast**  As a follow up, ask students to answer the Target Reading Skill question in the Student Edition. (Southern Africa is rich, urban, and industrialized, while Central Africa's coast benefit from oil wealth, and its interior areas are poorer. There are more differences than similarities between Southern Africa and Central Africa, though both have significant industrial activity.)

**Answer**  Possible answers: Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg, Harare
What are some examples of cultural diversity?

In contrast, living conditions get poorer as you move in from the coast to the interior areas of Angola, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Central African Republic. There, village societies are organized by kinship groups, and land is owned by clans. In less-populated rural areas, individual families live and work on their own land.

Diverse Ways of Life  

Like the rest of the continent, Central Africa contains great cultural diversity. The Democratic Republic of the Congo alone has about 200 ethnic groups.

Millions of people live in crowded shantytowns or cinder-block apartments in Kinshasa, the largest city in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They walk or take buses or trucks to work in factories, offices, and hotels. Millions of others live in rural areas. Some Central African people are Roman Catholic or Protestant. Others practice religions that blend Christian and traditional African beliefs. Still others are Muslim.

What one writer said about North Africa applies to Central and Southern Africa as well. To define the real North African, he said, “you have to define which one you mean: the rich or the poor, the Berber women of the mountains or the college girls on motorbikes….” Old, new, and mixtures of the two live on in all regions of Africa.

In the activity to South Africa’s history of apartheid.

In Africa Teaching Resources, Section Quiz, p. 220

If students need more instruction, have them read this section in the Reading and Vocabulary Study Guide.

Chapter 3, Section 4, Africa Reading and Vocabulary Study Guide, pp. 41–43

Ask students to complete The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. After answering the questions, have them relate the material in the activity to South Africa’s history of apartheid.

Answers

Possible answers: The Congo has about 200 ethnic groups; people practice a mixture of religions.

Section 4 Assessment

Key Terms

Students’ sentences should reflect knowledge of each Key Term.

Target Reading Skill

Possible answer: Alike—Both regions have diverse cultures and went through cultural changes in the 1990s. Different—The economy of coastal Central Africa depends heavily on oil reserves, while that of Southern Africa is focused on the industries in South Africa, such as mining. Also, the culture and history of Southern Africa have been more deeply affected by European influence than those of Central Africa have.

100 Africa

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

1. (a) when European settlers arrived (b) South Africa’s industry drew workers from other countries. (c) Women took on more responsibility at home when the men in their lives went to work in South Africa.

2. (a) the oil industry (b) People who live near the coast benefit from the oil wealth and are exposed to more cultures than people who live in the interior.

Writing Activity

Use the Rubric for Assessing a Report to evaluate students’ reports.

Go Online

For: Environmental and Global Issues: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Visit: PHSchool.com

Web Code: ngd-5305

Go Online

For: An activity on the region of South Africa

Visit: PHSchool.com

Web Code: ngd-5304

Writing Activity

Typing in the Web code when prompted will bring students directly to detailed instructions for this activity.