

Past Shapes South Africa

Trace links between South Africa's history and present-day conditions.

6.1 "History. The student understands that historical events influence contemporary events. The student is expected to: trace characteristics of various contemporary societies in regions that resulted from historical events or factors such as..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline historical events or factors. Circle current characteristics, then write the same number beside each past factor and present condition that are connected.

South Africa: History in the Present

- ① South Africa sits at the southern tip of Africa, where sea routes linked Europe and Asia. In the 1600s, the Dutch East India Company created a supply station at Cape Town for ships. Dutch settlers, enslaved people brought from Africa and Asia, and later British settlers shaped the colony. Trade brought languages, foods, and religions together. English and Afrikaans became widely used, while many African languages continued to be spoken by communities across the region.
- ② In 1948, South Africa's government began enforcing apartheid, a system that separated people by race and gave white citizens far more political power, land, and resources. Many South Africans resisted through protests, strikes, organizing, and armed conflict. The government jailed leaders, including Nelson Mandela, and used force against protesters. These conflicts were not only disagreements about laws. They were struggles over who could vote, live in certain places, attend schools, and share in the country's wealth.
- ③ South Africa held its first national election open to all races in 1994, ending apartheid rule. Today, the country has a democratic constitution, eleven official languages, and people with many cultural traditions. Yet the past still affects current conditions. Apartheid-era limits on housing, schooling, and jobs helped create lasting differences in wealth and neighborhood services. South Africans continue to debate land, education, and economic opportunity while working to reduce these inequalities. Its society shows how colonization, migration, trade, and conflict can shape the present.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did sea trade and colonial settlement help create one present-day characteristic of South Africa?

2 Why does the passage describe resistance to apartheid as a struggle over more than laws?

3 Trace one relationship between apartheid-era limits and a current condition named in paragraph 3.

4 Name two historical factors, other than apartheid, that the passage says shaped South Africa today. Then name one present-day cultural characteristic connected to one of them.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one contemporary society not discussed in the passage. Complete both rows to show two ways a historical event or factor influences a current characteristic of that society.

SOCIETY	PAST EVENT OR FACTOR	CURRENT CHARACTERISTIC	HOW THE PAST AFFECTS THE PRESENT

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline historical events or factors. Circle current characteristics, then write the same number beside each past factor and present condition that are connected. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did sea trade and colonial settlement help create one present-day characteristic of South Africa?	Trade and settlement brought different groups together, helping create South Africa's many spoken languages, including English and Afrikaans.
2	Why does the passage describe resistance to apartheid as a struggle over more than laws?	Apartheid affected voting, where people could live, schooling, and access to wealth and resources.
3	Trace one relationship between apartheid-era limits and a current condition named in paragraph 3.	Limits on housing, schooling, and jobs helped create lasting differences in wealth and neighborhood services.
4	Name two historical factors, other than apartheid, that the passage says shaped South Africa today. Then name one present-day cultural characteristic connected to one of them.	Any two of colonization, migration, and trade. A connected present-day characteristic is the use of many languages or the presence of many cultural traditions.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

SOCIETY	PAST EVENT OR FACTOR	CURRENT CHARACTERISTIC	HOW THE PAST AFFECTS THE PRESENT
Canada	French and British colonization	French and English are official languages.	Colonial governments made both languages important in public life.
Canada	Immigration from many places	Cities include many cultural communities.	Migrants brought languages, religions, foods, and traditions.

Accept passage-based answers that clearly connect a past factor or conflict to a current condition. For the table, accept accurate examples from another society and a logical explanation of each historical connection.