

AROUND THE WORLD



LWAZI'S HARD LESSON



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WELCOME TO SOUTH AFRICA





From green plateaus to stunning cliffs and beaches, South Africa is breathtaking.

It sits at the bottom of Africa, bordering the Atlantic Ocean to the south and west, and the Indian Ocean to the southeast. Five countries border South Africa to the north, but a small country called Lesotho sits fully inside it like an island.



Nicknamed the “Rainbow Nation,” South Africa stands out for its **ethnic diversity**. Most South Africans are black and come from the Zulu, Xhosa, and Khoisan tribes, along with many others. A sizeable minority are white **Afrikaner** or **mixed-race**. A main driver of this diversity has been the country’s fertile, resource-rich countryside, which has attracted people from all over. Long after the Zulus migrated there from central Africa, farmers from Europe and the Netherlands arrived in the 17th century and became known as the **Boer** people. But by 1806, Great Britain had effectively taken control. With the discovery of gold and diamonds, South Africa became one of the most developed regions on the African continent. After becoming an independent state in 1935, South Africa finally left the British Commonwealth in 1961.





A painful part of South Africa's history is racial **discrimination**—a problem every multiracial society has faced. While racial tensions still persist, one bright spot is the nation's love of a sport called rugby. When South Africa's multiracial team won its first World Cup in 1995, everyone swelled with pride.

Ethnic Diversity

The variety of cultural groups within a single area. Diverse populations include people with different origins, languages, traditions, and beliefs.

Afrikaner

An ethnic group descended from European farmers, especially Dutch, German, and French Huguenots who settled South Africa in the 17th and 18th centuries. Afrikaners have a distinct culture, accent, and language: "Afrikaans."

Mixed-Race

A person with more than one racial background.

Boer

Afrikaans word for "farmer." In South Africa, "Boer" refers to the historic white farmers who colonized the country.

Discrimination

The unfair treatment of people because they are different in some way, such as their race or religion.

Population size: over 62 million
(after Tanzania, South Africa is the second most populous country that is entirely below the equator).

South Africa is home to rare wildlife,
including the African elephant and the rhinoceros, which are among the world's largest land mammals.

Out of twelve official languages, English is the primary one used in politics. **Zulu is the most common first language.**

South Africa is 471,000 square miles
—as big as California, Texas, and Kentucky combined.

South Africa is the only country with three capital cities:
Pretoria (administrative capital), Cape Town (legislative), and Bloemfontein (judicial).

The world's largest diamond
was found in South Africa.

The former homes of two Nobel Prize Winners sit on the same street in Soweto township.

Those homes belonged to President Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.





Apartheid

From the Afrikaans words "apart" and "heid" meaning "separateness." Apartheid was an official South African policy that separated and treated people differently based on their race, with white people having more rights than others.

Segregation

Keeping people separate based on their race, religion, or other differences. Segregation often means unequal access to opportunities.

Nelson Mandela

A South African lawyer and activist who sought to end apartheid with acts of sabotage. After spending 27 years in jail, Mandela won the Nobel Peace Prize. As the country's first black president in 1994, he became a world icon for peace and racial equality.

African National Congress

A political group in South Africa that fought against unfair racial laws and helped Nelson Mandela become the country's first black president in 1994.

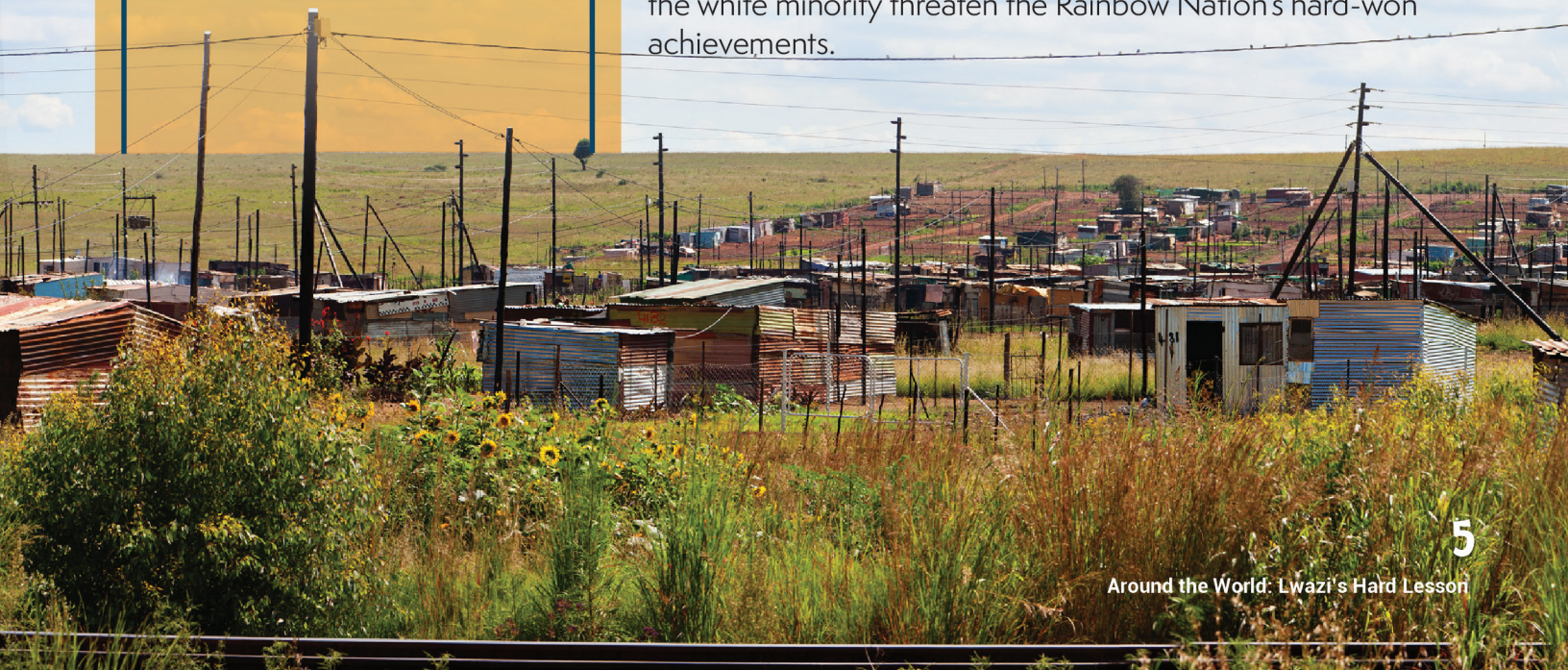
Truth and Reconciliation Commission

A government commission that invited both black and white people to testify about the human rights abuses that occurred during apartheid.

Old Scars, Fresh Wounds

South Africa's troubles with racial discrimination escalated in 1948, when a harsh system called **apartheid** became the law of the land. As a government policy, apartheid gave the minority white population power to control and **segregate** the majority black population. This system forced black South Africans to live, work, and go to school away from whites—in poor conditions and often on land that only whites could own. Under apartheid, the black population lost political power and civil rights. Meanwhile, white farmers came to own between 70 to 80% of the country's farmland. This tarnished South Africa's reputation internationally and brought worldwide pressure to end the practice.

Fortunately, South Africans voted to end apartheid in 1992. A few years later in 1994, South Africa's first universal elections brought activist **Nelson Mandela** and the **African National Congress** into power. One of Mandela's reforms was the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission**, which attempted to bring the races together. Those victories ended segregation and opened up more land ownership for black people, but they did not fully heal the nation's wounds. Over the last few decades, government policies favoring the black population over everyone else have made race relations even worse. Corruption, unemployment, and violence targeting the white minority threaten the Rainbow Nation's hard-won achievements.





Rugby

A game with an oval ball that players carry, kick, or pass sideways across a field, or “pitch.” Rugby originated in Great Britain and is popular in South Africa.

Born Free Generation

South Africans born after 1994, the year apartheid and legal segregation ended.

Race Quotas

A specific number or percentage of opportunities, like jobs or school admissions, that can only be given to people of a specific race.



Meet Lwazi

Lwazi is sixteen. He lives with his parents and his older brother, Aadan. They live near Durban, a city of 3.7 million people on South Africa’s southeast coast. Lwazi’s house is not impressive; it’s made of cement-brick walls and a cheap asphalt roof that leaks every winter. That’s normal in the neighborhoods where most black people live. But this year, Lwazi is excited. He’s captain of his school’s **rugby** team. All the same, his school and rugby pitch are both in terrible shape. Grass is patchy. Windows are broken and rusted. The wooden desks have decades of graffiti. Lwazi sees value in finishing school, but Aadan does not; he dropped out a few years ago.

Having been born after apartheid ended, both brothers are part of the “**Born Free Generation**” that now makes up 40% of South Africa’s population. But with nearly one out of every three South Africans unemployed, many who were *born free* feel hopeless. Aadan thinks every problem—from the lack of jobs to their crumbling school—came from apartheid. White oppression may have ended legally, but he thinks that it still holds black South Africans down.

At times, viewing life only through the lens of apartheid doesn’t make sense to Lwazi. He knows that black South Africans vote, many are rich, and the country has had several black presidents. He’s also heard his father mention the government’s **race quotas**, which require that a percentage of all jobs go to black people. Some of those things are clear improvements from apartheid... but when Lwazi looks around, he sees inequality everywhere. Life is difficult for most black people, and across town, most white people have new cars and nice-looking houses.

Sometimes, Lwazi suspects his brother is correct; discrimination against them and people with their skin color is still the biggest problem.

Family Challenges

Lwazi's father, Magala, is one of the many citizens struggling for a job. Magala was a young boy when apartheid ended. He still remembers the sharp fence that separated his township from a white neighborhood. He remembers the good news on the radio and the tears and rejoicing all around him. But thirty years later, the familiar problems strangling his community make him angry.

Magala hates the consequences of **racism**, but he's also wary of the government's attempts to make things better. Unemployment is very high in South Africa, and Magala knows that race quotas—where people are hired because of their skin color and not their ability, is likely the cause. He's seen too many young countrymen turn to crime or get involved with fiery political groups like the **Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF)**, who pin all the blame on their white countrymen. Despite black people having top positions in government, the private sector, and utility companies, Magala sees his country's infrastructure—things like streets, bridges, and the power grid—falling apart. So far, hiring people based on skin color does not seem to be improving anything.

Lwazi's mother, Desiree, earns the family income. During the day, she cleans houses in a white neighborhood. Desiree isn't angry, but she understands why black men feel the country's wounds so sharply. When they sit down for savory **lamb sosaties**—a family favorite—she encourages the other three to stay positive, not wallow in **victimhood**. Magala appreciates this, but Aadan just shakes his head. Unlike his parents, Lwazi knows his brother secretly supports the EFF.

Racism

The belief that one race is superior to others, which can lead to unfair treatment, discrimination, and conflict.

Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF)

A popular, far-left, black nationalist group led by Julius Malema, a former member of the African National Congress.

Lamb Sosaties

A popular South African barbeque meal served on skewers with cooked vegetables.

Victimhood

The real or imagined state of suffering from someone else's actions.

Recognizing genuine victimhood is important, but falling into a victim mentality can prevent people from taking positive steps forward.





A Stranger Named Ethan

Rugby is a rough sport—which is why Lwazi is so drawn to it. Running, tackling, and locking arms with teammates molds his aggression into something positive. But today, everyone is tense because a new player strolled onto the pitch. His name is Ethan, a white South African who just joined the team.

When Lwazi first saw the stranger jogging to the field, he was confused. Like his school and neighborhood, the team is entirely black. White teenagers go to private schools with other white people... so what is this stray **umlungu** up to? The team is hissing and laughing. But much to Lwazi's surprise, Ethan is very good. He's fast and tough, and the nasty insults seem to bounce off him like rubber.

When Aadan came to Lwazi's practice and saw Ethan playing, he scowled. "He's looking for trouble, **umfo**," he said, tapping Lwazi's arm. "You're captain, so watch out. If he won't quit the team, you need to handle it."

Umlungu

South African Xhosa slang for "white person."

Umfo

Slang for "umfowethu," which means "brother" in Zulu.

All About Rugby

Rugby is the second most popular sport in South Africa after soccer. A combination of football and soccer, it's very popular around the world. In 2023, South Africa won their fourth World Cup, giving it more titles than any other country. After the win, families took their kids out of school and brought them to Johannesburg to welcome the team home. South Africa's president even declared a national holiday to celebrate the victory.

Here are a few more facts about Lwazi's favorite sport.

- Legend has it that rugby began in Great Britain in 1823 when soccer player William Webb Ellis picked up the ball and ran it to the goal. Rugby's official rules were recorded in 1845.
- A rugby ball is an oval and a little larger than an American football.
- A rugby team can be anywhere from seven to 15 players.
- Like American football, a rugby pitch has a goal line and a goalpost at each end of the field.
- When a team runs the ball past the other team's goal line and touches it to the ground, they win five points. This is called a try.
- Some believe that rugby's tradition of touching the ball to the ground inspired the American tradition of spiking a football after a touchdown.
- Like American football, a rugby team can score points by kicking the ball through the goalpost. A successful kick wins three points.
- When a team scores five points, it gets a chance to kick the ball through the goalpost for another two points (seven total).
- Rugby players can kick a ball forward but can only pass it backward.
- Unlike American football, everyone plays offense and defense.





Looking for Answers

Lwazi is astonished. The crowd is so thick he can barely see his brother next to him. The old gymnasium is filled with hundreds of young black men, some wearing black or red T-shirts and beret caps that look European. It's a bit strange, but Lwazi is impressed; he had no idea the EFF was *this* popular. As Lwazi listens, the speaker at a podium seems to be saying what young men like him think and feel every day.

When a chant breaks out, the energy is contagious.

On their way home, Aadan is telling Lwazi about another EFF gathering—a protest at a large, white-owned farm that weekend. Lwazi is interested. Thinking about the **injustice** of apartheid, or the fact that people like his parents have to choose between being unemployed or working for white people makes him want to come along.

When they start talking about Ethan, the white rugby player who joined the team, Aadan grows angry. “Did you find out what he’s up to?”

Lwazi shakes his head.

While he shares Aadan’s suspicion, a question keeps bothering him. If all white people dislike black people, then why does Ethan keep playing with them?

Injustice

When someone is treated unfairly or denied rights, often because of their background, beliefs, or how they look.





The Land Was Everything

The end of apartheid marked a turning point, with new promises of equal land ownership. Historically, the most fertile farms were owned by white families. This made black families eager to benefit from **land redistribution** and cultivate new farms of their own. But producing crops that will sell for a profit takes experience, resources, and sophisticated technology—things newcomers often lack. A few years after redistribution began, many farms taken over by black citizens had tragically dried up.

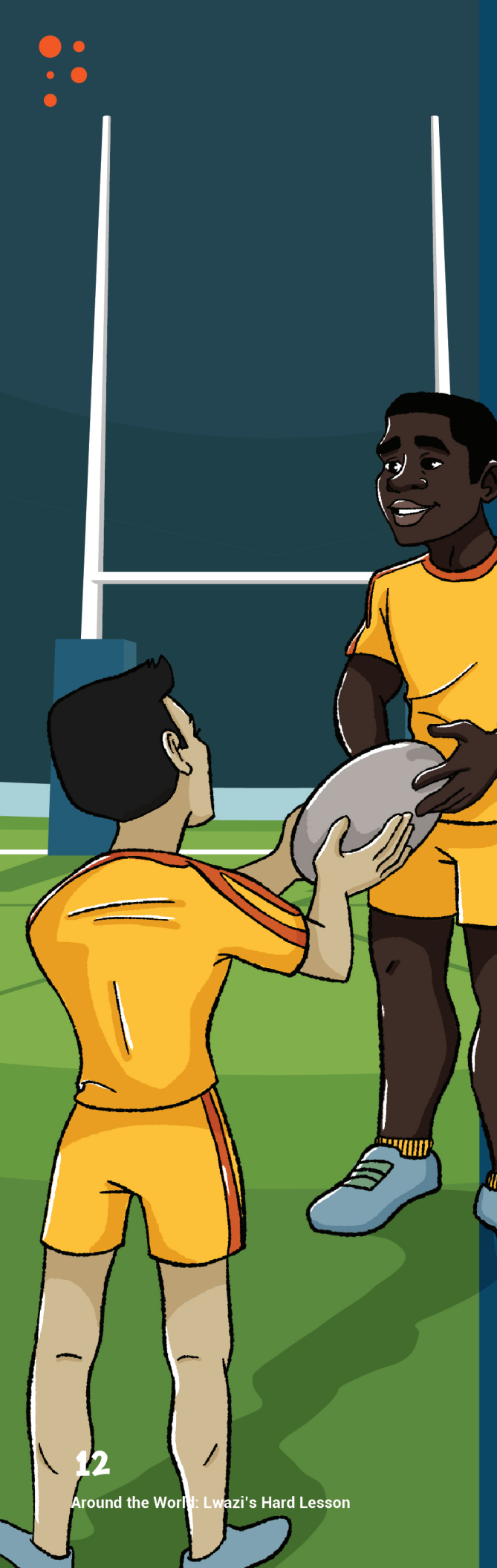
The government's other attempts to correct racial injustice have also run into hurdles. Financial problems, inflated prices, and administrative red tape all slow down efforts to purchase farmland from white owners and **reallocate** it to black families. In 2021, South Africa's parliament considered a constitutional amendment that would let the government seize land—likely from white landowners—without paying for it. This frightened South Africans, and many with business ties to the country. If the government can strip one group's property without compensating them, what's to stop it from taking another group's property in the future? Members of the EFF pushed hard for the amendment, but it failed to pass.

Land Redistribution

A government policy where land is purchased or confiscated from one group to give to another.

Reallocate

Taking an asset like land or property and distributing it to someone else.



After Practice

When Ethan stayed to help clear equipment off the field, Lwazi was surprised—but he did not mind. As captain, that duty normally falls to him. With the rest of the team gone, the two are talking, and Lwazi is finding out why a white teenager wants to play on a run-down field with people who don't like him.

Like many white South Africans, Ethan's parents feel pressure to leave the country. But unlike friends and even some family who have left already, they can't afford to yet. Since South Africa's World Cup win in 2019, Ethan has been obsessed with rugby, and an upside to staying has been his chance to play on a school team with his friends. But last year, so many families left that the athletic program at Ethan's school had to close down. Determined not to sit this season out, Ethan searched for permission to play somewhere else. In the end, Lwazi's school accepted.

Lwazi is surprised to hear that not every white family is as wealthy or as prejudiced against black people as he thought. When he asks Ethan why he puts up with jeers and insults, Ethan just grins.

"I don't care," he replies. "I knew it would happen because white people did terrible things to black people... but everyone wants to win, right? If I help us win, who cares if I look different?"

Lwazi agrees, but he knows the team accepting Ethan is an uphill battle. Fortunately, he sees his teammates slowly accepting the outsider. The more Ethan proves himself, the less hostile they are. So far, he's a game-changer, and everyone knows the team would be worse without him. Still, everyone in the neighborhood looks up to Lwazi's brother—and Aadan does *not* approve. What happens when he finds out the *umlungu* is still playing?



Failed Solutions

Three decades after the end of apartheid, South Africa's government is failing to deliver on its promises. When apartheid ended, improvements in infrastructure, education, housing, and job opportunities were all on the menu. But thirty years later, farms remain unused, electrical power is often shut off, and neighborhoods like Lwazi's have minimal police presence but frequent crime.

Lwazi's run-down school and rugby pitch are also sad examples. While apartheid left the black population poorly educated, many schools are still plagued with problems a decade later. Lwazi has cousins far away from the city who attend **mud schools**, without electricity or running water. Despite a constitutional guarantee to a "basic education," illiteracy is rising, and South Africa struggles with a teacher shortage.

Finally, the government's unfulfilled promises are prompting many black South Africans to take matters into their own hands. Worried by discrimination that favors black people, many white South Africans have fled the country—and those who stay are often the target of crime, protests, and violence. Since the end of apartheid, over 4,000 white farmers have been murdered. Meanwhile, political groups like the EFF lead chants of "*kill the boer; kill the white farmer.*" With social unrest and violence against white South Africans on the rise, prominent figures like Elon Musk—a native to South Africa and a worldwide business icon—have labeled the situation a potential **genocide** against white people.

Mud School

A crude schoolhouse made from mud and spare materials.

Genocide

The deliberate killing of a large number of people from an ethnic group or nation with the goal of destroying them completely.



Words Turn Violent

It's the weekend of the big protest. Looking around, Lwazi can see the crowd is all men—shouting, furious, determined men. Walking with them, Lwazi feels their frustration in his chest. Many are unemployed and struggling to support their families. For too long, *he thinks*, a system run by white people gave people like them no chance to improve their lives. Now, in **solidarity** against white landowners who once supported that system, they march.

With his fist raised, Aadan is smiling next to him. Aadan boasts that there are no police coming; this time they were careful and caught the white family off guard. "Now is our chance to send a message!" he shouts.

Lwazi feels the excitement, but when they reach the wooden fence that separates them from the farm, a sudden chant breaks out.

"Kill the boer!" everyone shouts, shaking the fence. *"Kill the white farmer!"*

Do they mean that? Lwazi wonders, bristling at the words changing the protest into something else. All of a sudden, he feels like he doesn't belong. Looking at the house where the white farmers are holed up, he imagines the fear and terror they must be feeling.

When a rock flies and breaks a window, the crowd cheers. Lwazi turns and sees that Aadan has another rock ready. Before he can shout "Stop!" a flurry of rocks pelt the house, followed by a flaming glass bottle filled with gasoline. With orange flames spreading along the roof, a scream rings out. The crowd is still chanting, but Lwazi can hear his heart pounding. Through the black, smoky air, he sees a white couple leaving the back of the house and running across the field. Right on cue, the wooden fence falls back. Like water breaching a dam, the crowd pours over it.

"Aadan!" Lwazi shouts, but it's no use. With smoke blurring his vision and each breath heavy in his lungs, none of this seems real. But he knows it is.



Solidarity

A term used by activists that means uniting together behind a cause.



Dire Consequences

Unlike South Africa's black population, the white population is declining in number. As an easy **scapegoat** for a failing government, more and more white South Africans are choosing to leave the country each year. A few years before apartheid ended, white South Africans made up 13% of the population. But by the end of 2022, (a year in which around 23,000 of them left the country), white people only made up 7.7%. With so many jobs earmarked for black people only, younger whites are finding better opportunities abroad, in places like Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

While **emigration** is common in many countries, so many skilled, educated people (both white and black) leaving South Africa is a huge problem. As Magala understands, when people are promoted or placed in positions because of their race and *not* because of their **competence**, others quickly understand that they won't be rewarded for their hard work. In South Africa, promoting one race over every other has triggered **brain drain**—a pattern of experienced, talented people leaving places where they don't feel safe, or where their skills are not valued. In South Africa, years of brain drain have left engineers, doctors, teachers, and entrepreneurs in short supply, and vital infrastructure on the brink of collapse.

Scapegoat

Someone who is unfairly blamed for problems or negative events, even when they are not the cause.

Emigration

The act of leaving one's own country to settle permanently in another.

Competence

The ability to do something well or perform a job to expectation.

Brain Drain

When a trend of talented, educated individuals fleeing a region affects that region's economic prospects.



Unrest Hits Home

Back on the pitch, Lwazi can barely focus. He has a headache, and the chant from yesterday's protest is still throbbing in his mind. When Ethan asked him what was wrong, Lwazi felt horrible, and he couldn't respond. Even more unsettling, Lwazi hasn't seen Aadan since the protest.

Later that day, Lwazi and his parents watched a news broadcast showing the protest's aftermath—a ravaged, looted farm and the charred remains of the white family's house. Lwazi could not stomach it. When his parents noticed his reaction, he sighed heavily. Then he told them everything that happened. For a while, Desiree hung her head. It's sad to hear that both of her sons participated in a protest where racist violence broke out.



No Place In Your Heart

Over some crunchy **tameletjie**, Lwazi and his parents are discussing the protest. It's been a long conversation, but Lwazi is finally feeling better.

"I'll never forget what happened," he says quietly. "I didn't know it would go that far."

"Now, you understand," Magala replies. "For many years, white people hurt us—so badly we are still recovering. Frustration is one thing. But giving up and blaming someone else for all your problems does not help... it leads to hate and violence."

"We know that's not what you want," Desiree says, rubbing Lwazi's back. "You're a natural leader. Hate and violence have no place in your heart."

Lwazi is relieved and a little surprised. For years, he's heard Magala grumble about white people and apartheid. There's no denying the past, but maybe the horrific consequences of **reverse discrimination** have softened his father's anger. They are still talking, and all three agree on one thing. Racism against black people, white people, or anyone else, is a blight on society. With such alarming problems, less focus on race and past wrongs would go a long way in helping their struggling country keep the lights on.

"What about Aadan?" Lwazi asks. They still have not seen him—and news outside has them worried. With more power outages coming and everyone furious that a popular former president is going to jail on **corruption** charges, the neighbors fear riots.

Tameletjie

A popular South African toffee made with brown sugar.

Reverse Discrimination

When members of a majority or more successful group are treated unfairly, (as in college admissions or employment). Supporters of reverse discrimination often claim that it's necessary to remedy earlier discrimination against minorities.

Corruption

Dishonest behavior by those in power, typically involving bribery and theft.





Chaos

"Hurry," Magala tells Lwazi, handing him a heavy flashlight. The power has been out for hours. In neighborhoods surrounding Durban, Pretoria, Johannesburg, and even Cape Town, stores, malls, and warehouses are being looted and destroyed. Police forces, and even South Africa's active army members, are overwhelmed. Lwazi is horrified by the unfolding lawlessness. He's ashamed to hear that young men like Aadan are the ones raiding stores, fighting police, and intentionally starting fires. Wherever he is, Lwazi hopes his brother comes to his senses.

Magala and Lwazi meet the group of men at a neighborhood church. Members of Lwazi's team are also there and eager to help. With looters searching for new places to ransack, they will form a security force on the main road and prevent people they don't know from entering the neighborhood.

An hour later, the group forces a caravan of unknown vehicles to turn back. Inside the vehicles, men wearing hoods and face masks glare at them. A lone police van stops on the road to check on the neighborhood, and everyone applauds. But when the policeman asks if some of the group will walk over and guard the entrance to the white neighborhood, nobody moves.

Lwazi cannot believe it. *That's where Ethan's family lives. Doesn't everyone know that white families are targets for violence?*

"What are we waiting for?" Lwazi says, raising his hand to volunteer. One at a time, the others join him.





Leave My Friend Alone

"Lwazi?" Ethan says, walking forward from the group standing near the road. When Lwazi's friend hugs him, he smiles.

Ethan's group is mostly white men. At first, they looked worried. Now they are passing out bottled water and thanking Lwazi's group for coming to protect them. But ten minutes later, the mood changes. A mob of thirty or more young men fill the road—they are black but not from Lwazi's neighborhood. Soon, Lwazi, his father, and a few of their neighbors are the only thing separating this mob of looters from the white neighborhood.

"What are we waiting for?" a familiar voice growls.

Lwazi freezes. He cannot believe it. "Aadan?"

Suddenly, the mob looks confused. Aadan steps forward, and Lwazi rushes to meet him. He stops short when he sees the cold look in his brother's eyes.

"What are you doing here?" Aadan says, pointing to Ethan. "Are you protecting *him*?"

Lwazi stiffens. The fierce looks of the men behind his brother fill him with dread. But with a nod from Magala, Lwazi faces Aadan and crosses his arms. "He's part of my team," he says. "You should go home, umfo. You're better than this."

"Look at yourself," Aadan snarls. "*They* won't help you. You know what they did to us in apartheid. It's time to take back what's ours."

When Aadan advances, Lwazi blocks him. Everyone tenses as they wrestle. His brother is bigger, but Lwazi feels the strength from hundreds of rugby tackles kicking in. "Back off!" he shouts. "Leave my friend alone!"

When the sirens blare, everyone scrambles. The last thing Lwazi sees is the mob scattering along the road. Once again, Aadan is gone.



A Different Vision

Discrimination is an ugly and unfortunate part of the human experience. Nearly every nation in history has struggled with overcoming it, and very few nations have put **colorblindness** into practice. Despite not always living up to her ideals, the United States has made strides, and great sacrifices, to establish a colorblind society.

Furthermore, traces of colorblindness can be seen in the founding documents which state that “all men are created equal.” The very motto of the United States is “**E pluribus unum**” (inscribed on every American coin), meaning “out of many, one.” This is the ideal of unity around shared values, goals, and freedom—not around racial identity. While every country faces challenges, America’s wealth, opportunity, and focus on character over color prove the unique potential of its founding vision. Most Americans believe liberty and achievement based on **merit** are a better recipe for social harmony than racial identity, or even government projects aiming for racial equality.

No country has perfect race relations, but countries that enforce laws equally and fairly, protect property, and let talented people of any race work hard and rise to the top, tend to prosper. As a model of these characteristics, the United States is a guide for nations seeking true unity through colorblindness and shared values. With growing social unrest, many see colorblindness as something the Rainbow Nation should strive for... if it’s not too late.





Colorblindness

One part of a system or society that does not allow someone's race to limit their social or economic opportunity.

E Pluribus Unum

Latin for "Out of many, one." This motto sits on America's national seal and appears on most of its currency; it was suggested to Congress by an artist who was helping design the national seal in 1776.

Merit

Deserving or earning something through hard work.



Lwazi's Hard Lesson

With the riots behind them, Lwazi and his teammates see their country's struggles differently. Watching towns and businesses burn showed them how far blaming another race for every problem can go. In a land torn by discrimination against black, and now white people, a hard lesson is clear enough—racial discrimination against *anyone* is a recipe for disaster.

Lwazi has only seen his brother once since the riots. Without saying much, Aadan returned to their house to collect some belongings and then left. Magala suspects he is working for the EFF, and this makes Lwazi sad. If only Aadan knew that Ethan and his family hate apartheid as much as he does.

With everyone's help, some good is coming out of the unrest. Touched by Lwazi's bravery, Ethan's family is encouraging the white neighborhood to help improve his run-down school. White and black neighborhoods are both fundraising for a new, regulation rugby pitch... and that's just a start.

Magala and Desiree are pleased with their son's new friendship. As Magala puts it: "Ethan proved himself on the field, and Lwazi proved himself on the street that night." In his mind, the two companions are a vision of what South Africa can and should be when more people pay attention to the things that really matter. Lwazi, meanwhile, dreams of the Rainbow Nation becoming prosperous, safe, and full of opportunity. When that happens, South Africa will be as irresistible as its gorgeous landscape—a place where friendship, hard work, and wanting to win matter more than the color of your skin.



Discover South African Languages



South Africa, the “Rainbow Nation,” is a country of many languages. In this fun word search, you'll get to discover how to say common words like “hello,” “thank you,” and “friend” in several of these beautiful languages.

It's a great way to travel across South Africa from the comfort of your home!

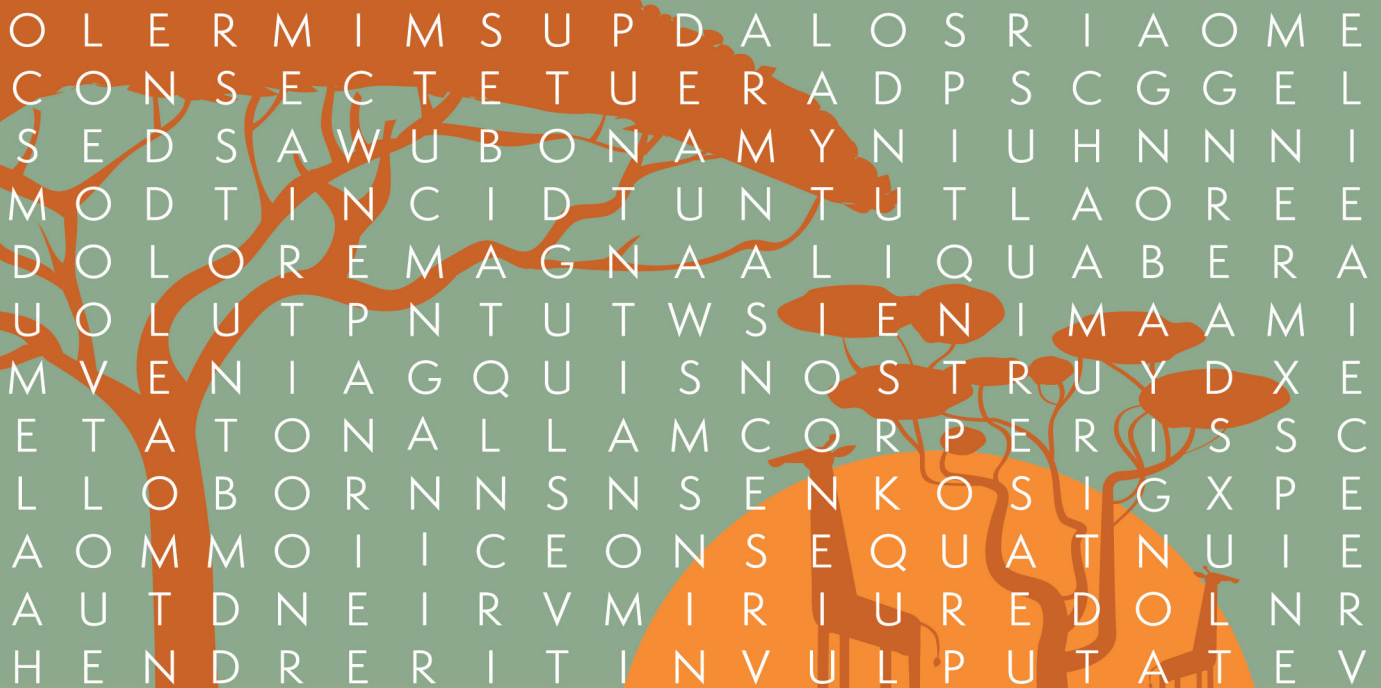
Instructions:

Look for the words hidden in the puzzle below. They can be vertical, horizontal, diagonal, and even backward.

Each word you find is how to say “hello,” “thank you,” or “friend” in one of South Africa's official languages.

Once you find a word, check it off the list provided.

Learn what each word means and which language it's from with the help of the key below.



Words to Find:

Sawubona (Hello in Zulu) • **Enkosi** (Thank you in Xhosa) • **Mngani** (Friend in Xhosa)
Vriend (Friend in Afrikaans) • **Dumela** (Hello in Tswana) • **Ngiyabonga** (Thank you in Zulu)

Language Key:

Zulu: Spoken by over 10 million people, Zulu is one of the most widely spoken languages in South Africa.

Xhosa: Known for its distinctive clicks, Xhosa is another major language, rich in history and culture.

Afrikaans: Originating from Dutch, Afrikaans is spoken by millions and has a unique South African flavor.

Tswana: Spoken in South Africa and Botswana, Tswana is known for its harmonious sounds.

Fun Fact:

Did you know that South Africa's constitution recognizes 12 official languages?

This makes it one of the most linguistically diverse countries in the world.



Writing Activity

Imagine you are Lwazi, living in post-apartheid South Africa. Write a letter to a friend in another country explaining how the history and current events of South Africa have shaped your experiences and hopes for the future. Include your thoughts on the significance of the “Born Free Generation” and how sports, like rugby, can play a role in bringing people together across divides.



Writing Activity

Think about a classroom where everyone comes from different places and has different ideas. How is this diversity a good thing and how can we all work together as a team? How can focusing only on race become a bad thing? What should we be focused on? The United States has a motto, "E Pluribus Unum," which means "Out of many, one." Write about how this motto makes America unique and can help us understand how to have unity in a diverse community.

South African Lamb Sosasies (Kebabs)

Prep Time: 30 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1 cup plain yogurt
- 1 tablespoon white sugar
- 1 large onion
- 2 ounces dried apricots
- 2 teaspoons curry powder
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 cup cubed lamb stew meat
- 8 kabob skewers

Preparation:

Step one - Mix the yogurt, curry powder, sugar, and oil in a small bowl.

Step two - With your parent's help, peel and cut the onion into 1-inch cubes.

Step three - Load up the skewers with lamb and onion cubes and dried apricot halves. Place them in a large resealable bag and pour in the sauce. Make sure the kabobs are evenly well coated.

Step four - The skewers need to marinate. Keep them in your refrigerator overnight or for at least 8 hours.

Step five - With your parent's help, preheat a grill or cooking pan to medium heat and lightly coat with vegetable oil.

Step six - Grill the kabobs over medium heat for 8 to 10 minutes on each side, or to your desired doneness.

Enjoy your savory treat!





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Did you find the words?

O L E R M I M S U P D A L O S R I A O M E
 C O N S E C T E T U E R A D P S C G G E L
 S E D S A W U B O N A M Y N I U H N N N I
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An illustration of five diverse cartoon characters standing in front of a stylized world map. From left to right: a man in a dark grey military uniform with a peaked cap and medals; a boy in a blue and white athletic jersey with the number 30, holding an orange basketball; a girl with long brown hair in a blue top and yellow skirt; a girl with dark skin and braided hair in a yellow tank top and patterned skirt; and a boy in an orange t-shirt and grey shorts. The background is a blue world map with white outlines of continents.

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