

# South African and Ethnic Groups & Apartheid

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## Part One: South African Ethnic Groups

### Instructions:

1. Read and annotate
2. On the left draw a large circle. Use the information in paragraph one to create a pie chart of the ethnic groups in South Africa. Be sure you include a title and proper headings on your pie chart.
3. Use information in paragraphs 2-5 to fill in each slice of the pie chart with details and characteristics of each group. You should have at least **FOUR** details for each group's slice. Make your own decisions about what four details you will put into each slice.
4. Below your pie chart, use paragraphs six and seven to answer the following questions in complete sentences:
  - a. What are two ways apartheid used ethnic differences to pit groups against each other?
  - b. How did the system of apartheid favor the whites?
  - c. Describe 3 effects of apartheid.

1. Until 1991, South African law divided the population into four major racial categories: (1.) The Black Africans who account for 75% of the South Africa's entire population. (2.) The Whites who account for about 13% of the population. (3.) The Indians/Asians who account for around 3 % and (4.) the Coloreds who are mixed White and Black descent and account for 9% of the population. Although the South African law of racial categories has been abolished, many South Africans still view themselves according to these categories.
2. Black Africans:

The black population consists of several groups: Khoi-San, Xhosa, Zulu, Ndebele, Sotho, Shangaan and Venda, just to name a few. The biggest groups are Zulus (21 %), Xhosas (17 %) and the Sotho (15%). Next smaller minorities are the Tswana, Venda, Ndebele, Swasi, and Pedi, among others. The Khoi-Sans are originally hunter-gatherers who have inhabited the land for a long time. Many political leaders, Nelson Mandela among them, come from the Xhosa. Most of the Blacks used to live in the countryside following a traditional way of life, but a class of progressive farmers also formed. Many of these became CHRISTIANS and had some education from Missionaries. In the towns many Blacks worked as labourers. A small class of professional newspaper editors, lawyers and teachers emerged.
3. Whites:

The first Europeans to reach the Cape of Good Hope were Portuguese, arriving in 1488. However, permanent white settlement did not begin until 1652, when the Dutch East India Company established a provisioning station on the Cape. In subsequent decades, French Huguenot refugees, the Dutch, and Germans began to settle in the Cape. Thus, The Whites are primarily descendants of Dutch, French, English, and German settlers who arrived at the Cape in the late 17th. They are called Afrikaners and speak Afrikaans, a language closely related to the Dutch language.
4. Indians/Asians:

The province of Natal is also home to about one million Indians (from India), whose forefathers came to South Africa to work on the sugarcane plantations. The British people brought them in the 19th century. Indians were among the exploited and among the exploiters. Most were poor, having come as indentured laborers under a brutal system that

was very close to slavery. When their terms of indenture expired, many stayed on as laborers or small farmers. A smaller, but more prominent group of Indians, came voluntarily to engage in trade. They opened up shops and warehouses and some of them were quite rich.

5. Coloureds:

Among the non-White peoples, the second largest group is the Coloured community, 89% of whom lived in the Cape Colony. Generally thought of as a mixed-race group, it loosely included some Indians, Malays and native Africans. Like the Indians, the Coloured are neither Black nor White, and their intermediate position generated fears of being reduced to the status of the Blacks. So-called coloureds, people of mixed race are mainly still living in the Cape region. They originate from Dutch sailors inter-marrying with the Khoi-San in the 17th century. They are also descendants of the first Dutch settlers and the native population of the Cape (Khoikhoi) or the Malays, who were taken to South Africa as slaves from East India in the 18th century.

6. Apartheid, an Afrikaans word which means "separate" or "apartness" in English, was the law of the land in South Africa from 1948 to 1990. During the apartheid era all residents of South Africa found themselves placed into one of four racial categories: African, Asian, Coloured or white. This system kept each group separate from each other in every way—all schools, housing, jobs and transportation were segregated. The apartheid regime over-emphasized the differences among the various ethnic group, mainly between whites and non-whites, but also between black groups (i.e. Xhosas and Zulus), and turned them against each other rather than against the government. The policy of racial segregation favored the political and economic power for the white minority. Until today, South Africa has to deal with the consequences of this disastrous policy. Large part of the fast growing black majority lives in oppressive poverty in the outer districts of the cities lacking sufficient sanitation, electricity and water. Many of the residents are illiterate. The enormous poverty problem in South Africa is the major reason for the high crime rates.

7. Despite the many ethnic groups, South Africa is still far from the ideal of a multi-cultural society. There is still a deep trench going through the population. Black and white people lead largely separate lives with few points of contact. Nevertheless, the society's democratization is steadily progressing. A national commission attempts to make people conscious about the crimes of apartheid by letting them be publicly confessed with the aim of forgiveness. South Africa is, in respect of overcoming racism, in the spotlight of the world like no other country. The future of the state largely depends upon its ability to create equal opportunities for all people.

## Part Two: Apartheid

**Instructions: Analyze documents 1-3. Answer each question in complete sentences.**

### Document 1 – A timeline of South African history

1651: Dutch settlers arrive in South Africa. In 1756, they import slaves from West Africa, Malaysia, and India, establishing the dominance of whites over non-whites in the region.

1867: Diamond mining begins in South Africa. Africans are given the most dangerous jobs, are paid far less than white workers, and are housed in fenced, patrolled barracks. Oppressive conditions and constant surveillance keep Africans from organizing for better wages and working conditions.

1910: The Union of South Africa is formed. English and Dutch are made official languages. The all-white government decides that blacks can vote but cannot hold office.

1912: The African National Congress is formed. This political party aims to organize Africans in the struggle for civil rights.

1913: The Native Lands Act gives 7.3% of the country's land to Africans, who make up 80% of the population. Africans are prohibited from owning land outside their region. Africans are allowed to be on white land only if they are working for whites.

1946: African mine workers are paid twelve times less than their white counterparts and are forced to do the most dangerous jobs. Over 75,000 Africans go on strike in support of higher wages. Police use violence to force the unarmed workers back to their jobs. Over 1000 workers are injured or killed.

1948: The Afrikaner National Party wins elections on a platform of strict racial segregation. Apartheid becomes the law of the land.

1. What are two ways that Africans were discriminated against by the white government?

2. What happened when Africans tried to protest poor working conditions?

Document 2 – Statistical Comparison (1978)

<b>Apartheid and the People of South Africa</b>		
	<i>Blacks</i>	<i>Whites</i>
Population	19 million	4.5 million
Land Allocation	13 percent	87 percent
Share of National Income	< 20 percent	75 percent
Ratio of average earnings	1	14
Minimum taxable income	360 rands	750 rands
Doctors/population	1/44,000	1/400
Infant mortality rate	20% (urban) 40% (rural)	2.7%
Annual expenditure on education per pupil	\$45	\$696
Teacher/pupil ratio	1/60	1/22

Figure 1: Disproportionate Treatment circa 1978. Source: [Leo80]

1. According to the table, what are three ways that whites had better living conditions than blacks in South Africa in 1978?

Document 3 – The Apartheid Laws of South Africa

**Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act, of 1949**

Prohibited (made illegal) marriages between white people and people of other races.

**Immorality Amendment Act, of 1950**

Prohibited adultery, attempted adultery or related immoral acts (extra-marital sex) between white and black people

**Group Areas Act, of 1950**

Forced physical separation between races by creating different townships (neighborhoods) for different races

**Pass Laws, of 1952**

Forced black people to carry identification with them at all times. It was a criminal offence to be unable to produce a pass when required to do so by police. No black person could leave his/her township unless going to work, and must show pass upon entering the white township.

**Reservation of Separate Amenities Act, of 1953**

Forced segregation of all public building and public transportation with the goal of ending contact between whites and other races. "White Only" and "Non-Whites Only" signs were put up.

**Terrorism Act, of 1967**

Any person who uses violence to protest against the government of South Africa may be put in jail without trial. White men who encourage Africans to disobey the apartheid laws may be fined, jailed, or both.

1. In what ways did the apartheid laws help whites maintain control over non-whites?
2. Which law do you think was the most unjust? Why?