



A trip to South Africa

Josh and Megan are on a visit to South Africa with their parents, who both come from there. Here are some extracts from their blog.



- 3 capital cities: Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Cape Town
- Population: 44 million
- Area: 1.2 million km²
- Money: rand
- Languages: English, Afrikaans





1

We started our trip round South Africa in Cape Town, where our dad was born. It's one of the three capital cities of South Africa and it's the most southern city in Africa. In 2010, it's going to host the Football World Cup. It's a big city in a beautiful place on the ocean with the famous Table Mountain nearby. The Khoi people have lived here for thousands of years. In the 17th century Dutch and German sailors stopped here and started to explore the country, then in the 18th century British explorers arrived. This is why the population is a mix of black Africans, Asians and the descendants of the European settlers. Because of its multi-cultural diversity Nelson Mandela once called his country **'The Rainbow Nation'**.





2

Next we went to the province of KwaZulu-Natal because mum and dad wanted us to see rural Africa. About 20 million Zulus live in this province, some in the big towns like Durban, others in small villages. We went past battlefields where the Zulus fought the British and the Boers (Dutch settlers). We drove round the beautiful hills of the North Coast where sugarcane is grown and along the Elephant Coast, where there are a lot of poor, rural communities. We saw how Zulus live today and their traditional way of life. There were displays of art, dancing and other things about Zulu culture.

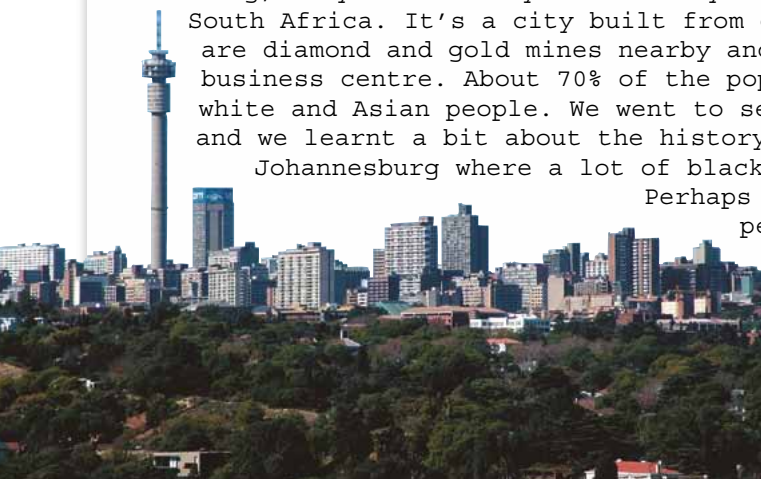
3

We wanted to see some wildlife in its natural environment, so we spent a few days in Kruger National Park, which is the largest game reserve in South Africa – it's as big as a small country! It's divided into 14 zones, each one with a different eco-system. Each day we went on a safari with a ranger: he was a local man and he told us so many things about the environment and the animals. He took us to see the Big Five: the lion, the African elephant, the African buffalo, the leopard and the black rhinoceros. One day, we went to see the water animals and birds along the Olifants River. There were some enormous crocodiles, hippos, elephants. This is how we imagined Africa!



4

After the wilderness and the animals, we flew to Johannesburg. What a shock! It's a big, busy modern city full of skyscrapers. In fact, it's the biggest city in South Africa. It's a city built from diamonds and gold – not really, but there are diamond and gold mines nearby and the city grew up as an industrial and business centre. About 70% of the population are black Africans, the rest are white and Asian people. We went to see the Nelson Mandela Museum in Soweto and we learnt a bit about the history of South Africa. Soweto is an area of Johannesburg where a lot of black Africans live. Parts of it are very poor. Perhaps you've seen the Soweto Gospel Choir performing, wearing their traditional, brightly coloured clothes.



New words

- host • settlers • diversity • rural • battlefields
- sugar-cane • wildlife • ranger • busy • brightly

Think

- 1 What do you know about the geography and history of South Africa?

Read

- 2 Read the texts quickly and write the titles of the paragraphs 1-4.

South Africa's biggest city
Africa's southern city
African countryside
African wildlife

- 3 Read again and answer the questions.

- 1 How long have the Khoi people lived in South Africa?
- 2 Why did Nelson Mandela call South Africa 'The Rainbow Nation'?
- 3 Why did they go to KwaZulu-Natal?
- 4 Which indigenous African people live in this province?

- 5 Where is sugar-cane grown?
- 6 How big is Kruger National Park?
- 7 Who are the Big Five?
- 8 Why was the ranger so interesting?
- 9 Why was Johannesburg a shock?
- 10 What did they visit in the city?

Speak

- 4 What do you think is the best way to see wild animals? On TV, in a zoo, in a safari park, at the circus? Why?

Write

- 5 Write about a visit to a place to see wild animals.

- Explain where you went
- Describe the place
- Did you find it interesting?
- Do you think the animals were happy?



Australia and New Zealand

People in the UK call Australia and New Zealand 'down-under' because the two countries are on the other side of the world.

Australia



- Capital city: Canberra
- Population: 20 million
- Area: 7.6 million km²
- Money: Australian dollar
- Language: English



Australia

“My name’s Joss Weston and I’m Australian. I live in Wollongong, a city on the east coast, in the state of New South Wales. Sydney is the state capital – perhaps you’ve heard of it. I’m part Aboriginal, but unfortunately I can’t speak an Aboriginal language. The Australian Aboriginals are one of the oldest races on the earth, they’ve lived here for over 45,000 years. There’s a lot of interest in Aboriginal music, art, poetry and legends now. A lot of people think Australia is a new country because Captain Cook discovered it just over two hundred years ago, but really, it’s a very old place. Australia is a member of the Commonwealth. When it was part of the British Empire, England used to send its criminals here instead of sending them to prison! My best friend Laura’s grandparents emigrated to Australia from Scotland in the 1960s.

Wollongong is a cool place to live because it’s a big city with lots to do and it’s on the coast, Laura and I often go to the beach with our friends.

Most of the main towns and cities are on the south coast because the centre is a desert – we call this the Outback. I’ve been to Sydney a few times and I went on holiday to Tasmania last year. Laura went to see the Great Barrier Reef two years ago and she’s been to Darwin, Perth and Melbourne.”

Joss Weston, 13



Aboriginal Rock Painting

New words

- criminals
- prison
- huge
- well-known
- ancestors
- arts and crafts



New Zealand



- Capital city: Wellington
- Population: 4 million
- Area: 268,675 km²
- Money: New Zealand dollar
- Languages: English, Maori



New Zealand

“Hi, my name's Joe Hana and I come from New Zealand or 'Aotearoa' in the Maori language. New Zealand is a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean. There are two big islands and some smaller ones. I live on the North Island in an area on the coast called Hawke's Bay. It's a beautiful place to live, with the ocean and the green hills. Napier is the nearest town – that's where I go to school. It's well-known because it's in a wine-producing area. Napier has an interesting history: it was an important Maori town called Ahuriri before the Europeans arrived. Captain Cook sailed to New Zealand in 1768 on one of his voyages of discovery.

I'm a Maori. I'm bi-lingual because I can speak Maori and English. My Maori ancestors were the original inhabitants of New Zealand. I'm proud to be a Maori. About a quarter of the people in the Hawke's Bay area are of Maori origin. We have festivals of singing, dancing, arts and crafts to celebrate our culture. There's one piece of Maori culture that's famous all over the world: the haka. The New Zealand rugby team, the All Blacks, do this traditional dance before international matches. Perhaps you've seen it! I'm a rugby fan – it's a great sport! ”

Joe Hana, 14



Think

- 1 What do you know about Australia and New Zealand? Do you know any famous people from these countries?

Read

- 2 Read the texts quickly and write Australia (A), New Zealand (NZ) or both.

- 1 This country has two big islands and some smaller islands.
- 2 The centre of this country is a desert.
- 3 The people in this country speak English.
- 4 Maoris are the indigenous people.
- 5 Aborigines are the indigenous people.

- 3 Read again and answer the questions.

- 1 Where is Wollongong?
- 2 Where does Laura's family come from?

- 3 Which places have Joss and Laura visited in Australia?
- 4 Where does Joe live?
- 5 What are the two pieces of information Joe gives about Napier?
- 6 What Maori festivals are there in Hawke's Bay?
- 7 What is a 'haka'?

Speak

- 4 Why do tourists come to Italy? Which towns do they visit? Which other places do they go to?

Write

- 5 Write about an Italian island. Include:

- Where it is and how to get there
- Its geography and history
- Why it's popular with tourists



Postcards from Canada

Canada is the second biggest country in the world but it only has a population of 33 million people. It's famous for its big open spaces and beautiful countryside.



- Capital city: Ottawa
- Population: 33 million
- Area: 9.9 million km²
- Money: Canadian dollar
- Languages: English, French



Montreal

Hi from Montreal, Canada's second city. It's in the French-speaking province of Quebec which was a French colony in the 18th century. Over 70% of people in Montreal speak French and only 18% speak English. Montreal is a city of contrast: 'Old Montreal' is a district of the city with narrow streets and old buildings from the 17th and 18th centuries. Other parts of the city have tall skyscrapers and modern architecture. Local

people say Montreal is 'two cities in one' because it has another city underground. There are 32 kilometres of tunnels with shopping malls, cinemas, theatres, banks, restaurants and offices. The Underground City is a good place to go in the freezing cold, snowy winters!



Nunavut

Greetings from Nunavut! Nunavut means 'our land' in the language of the Inuit people of northern Canada. The Inuit have lived in the territory for over 5,000 years. Nunavut is the same size as western Europe, but it has a population of only 30,000 and about 90% are Inuit. Today's Inuit don't live in igloos! Most of the year, they live in comfortable, modern houses. In the summer, some of them leave their homes in the towns and return to the wilderness – the land of their ancestors. They live

in traditional tents and go hunting and fishing. They sing songs and tell stories about their past as a way of passing their traditions on to the next generation. The Inuit have always had a lot of respect for their land. Look at the picture of some Inuit dressed in traditional clothes!



New words

- contrast
- narrow
- shopping malls
- wilderness
- chain
- glaciers
- chipmunks
- wildlife
- trails
- seals
- inland native



Vancouver Island

We're really enjoying Vancouver Island! It is the biggest island on the west coast of North America. It's about 450 kilometres long and 80 kilometres wide and it has the warmest climate in Canada. Vancouver Island is famous for its wildlife: we walked along one of the coastal nature trails and we saw seals, fish and whales. Inland, there are some ancient forests with

gigantic trees. We saw some which are over 2,000 years old! They are taller than a skyscraper and over 9 metres round!

Native tribes have lived on Vancouver Island since the end of the Ice Age. The logo for The 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver City is an example of native art.

Think

- 1 What do you know about the history and geography of Canada?

Read

- 2 Read the texts quickly and match up the information.

Montreal

Native tribes

traditional ways of living

Nunavut

French-Canadians

underground city

Vancouver Island

Inuit

big trees

- 3 Read again and write the name of the places.

- 1 It has the warmest climate in Canada.
- 2 Native people have lived in these places for thousands of years.

- 3 There are some very old buildings here.
- 4 The area is very big and the population very small.
- 5 This place is in the west of Canada.

Speak

- 4 Speak about the different ways you spend your free time in the different seasons.

Write

- 5 Write a paragraph about a group of people that lived in Italy in ancient times, for example Etruscans, Longobardi, Romans.

Explain:

- Where they lived
- What their houses/towns were like
- How they lived
- What remains you can see today