

Freedom DAY

27
**APRIL
FREEDOM
DAY**



Every year we celebrate the anniversary of South Africa's first democratic elections when, for the first time, people of all races voted. It took place on 27 April 1994.



Former president Nelson Mandela casting his vote in the 1994 elections. It was the first time he had voted in his life.

Did you know?

South Africa is called the **Rainbow Nation**. This is because people of many cultures live here.



THE COAT OF ARMS ON A FIVE RAND COIN

OUR FLAG

The South African flag was used for the first time on Freedom Day, 27 April 1994. It has six colours: red, white, green, yellow, black and blue. It's the only national flag in the world that has six colours.

The red must always be at the top.

The National Coat of Arms



Our coat of arms was first used on Freedom Day in the year 2000. It is also called the state emblem and is used on coins and all official documents, like birth certificates, school certificates and so on. »



SOUTH AFRICA'S NATIONAL SYMBOLS



FLOWER

King protea

This flower has beautiful pink and red colours. It blooms in late spring.



DID YOU KNOW?

Our national cricket team is called the Proteas.



TREE

Real yellowwood

The real yellowwood tree is a protected species in South Africa. That means you may not cut or uproot them.



FISH

Galjoen

The galjoen lives in shallow waters near to the shore. It's also called the black bream or blackfish. That's because of its colour – near rocks, the colour of the galjoen is almost completely black, and in sandy areas it looks silver-bronze.

ANIMAL

Springbok

These graceful animals are super-fast, have a white face with a dark stripe and are vegetarian, which means they don't eat meat.



DID YOU KNOW?

Our rugby team is called the Springboks.



BIRD

Blue crane

This light blue-grey bird is only found in Southern Africa. It has a long neck and long legs.

THE BIG 5

These animals are called South Africa's Big 5. You can see them on our banknotes.



Buffaloes graze in massive herds. They're good swimmers and can cross deep water.



Elephants live up to 60 years and are led by the oldest female in the group.



Leopards hunt at night and stay in sheltered spots during the day.



Lions are called the kings of the jungle. They're strong and fast and live in large prides.



Rhinos don't see very well, but can smell and hear an intruder coming from far away.



HELLO, CURIOUS KIDS!



Shone Nyanandwe from Zeerust made a rocket from an old can and some paper.

Shone asked:

What are stars made of?

Our expert says: Stars are actually big exploding balls of gas, mostly hydrogen and helium.

Do you have a question you'd like answered?

Ask an adult to WhatsApp your photo* and question to 076 127 6608 and we may publish it here. Unfortunately we are unable to reply to all questions.