

15 unusual facts about our planet

South Africa

- The Tugela Falls in the Drakensberg is the second highest waterfall in the world, falling 948m. The highest is Angel Falls in Venezuela.
- Vredefort Dome is the world's oldest meteor scar. The meteorite hit earth over 2 000 million years ago and made a crater 300km wide.
- The world's largest diamond was the Cullinan Diamond, which was found in 1905 near Pretoria. It weighed 3 106,75 carats. The diamond was cut into a number of smaller diamonds, including the Great Star of Africa and Lesser Star of Africa, which are now part of the Crown Jewels.
- At over 4km long, the Cango Caves are one of the longest underground cave systems in the world.
- South Africa has three capital cities. The executive capital is in Pretoria, Cape Town is the legislative capital and Bloemfontein is the judicial capital.



other places

- Lesotho is a landlocked country. Being surrounded by South Africa, it is one of only three countries in the world to be completely surrounded by one country. The Vatican City and San Marino are the other two, both of which are inside Italy.
- The Vatican City is the smallest country in the world, at just over three square kilometres.
- The Sahara Desert is the world's second largest desert, and it is still expanding to the south. The Antarctic is also considered a desert as it gets very little rain throughout the year, and it is a lot bigger than the Sahara.
- Nepal is the only country that doesn't have a square or rectangular flag. Its flag is shaped like two overlapping triangles.
- The Dead Sea, which is actually considered a lake, is the saltiest lake in the world. As it has no outlets, the water evaporates and leaves minerals behind. Because there is so much salt in the water, it is possible to float in The Dead Sea.

the earth

- The deepest place on earth is the Marianas Trench in the Western Pacific Ocean. The trench is over 2 500km long and at its deepest, it is over 10km deep.
- Cumulonimbus clouds often appear mushroom shaped because they grow up, instead of across. Their bases can stretch for several kilometres, and they normally reach heights of about six kilometres, but they can exceed heights of 15 kilometres.
- Seventy to 80 percent of the world's fresh water is stored in glaciers.
- Before molten rock erupts from the earth it is called magma. After it erupts it is called lava.
- Pumice is a type of volcanic rock, and is usually light in colour and full of small holes. It is the only stone that floats. Once waterlogged, however, it starts to sink.



useful websites:

- weatherwizkids.com
- kids-world-travel-guide.com
- sciencekids.co.nz

childmag.co.za

SOUTH AFRICA'S BEST GUIDE FOR PARENTS