

## Africa South of the Sahara

### Learn About It

In this unit, your child will learn:

- the geography and history of Africa south of the Sahara
- the history, government, political changes, economies, and cultures of Western, Central, Eastern, and Southern Africa

Here are some ways that you can help your child learn:

### Talk About It

Chapter 17: Africa South of the Sahara:  
Geography and History

**Protecting the Environment.** The spread of desert land is called desertification. It is a problem in the semiarid region south of the Sahara. Droughts cause fewer plants to grow, which leads to soil erosion and a dry, barren landscape. With your child, talk about conservation and ways to protect our environment. Decide on one way to help.

Chapter 18: Western and Central Africa

**Cultures and Customs.** Talk with your child about your family's culture and customs. Discuss your family's history. Talk about the language(s) your family speaks or those your ancestors spoke. Also discuss family traditions and celebrations. Find out which one your child enjoys the most and why.

Chapter 19: Eastern and Southern Africa

**Treating Everyone Fairly.** From 1948 to 1991, South Africa had an official policy of racial segregation that was known as apartheid. Talk with your child about the way discrimination makes people feel.

### Make It

**Create an Itinerary.** Tourism is an important industry for some African nations. Discuss places you would like to visit if you were to travel to Africa. Create an itinerary.

### Read to Learn More About It

*Out of Bounds: Seven Stories of Conflict and Hope* by Beverley Niadoo. Stories spanning seven decades of South African history show how seven different children experienced apartheid.

*The Royal Kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhay* by Patricia and Frederick McKissack. The authors explain the history and culture of the major kingdoms of medieval Africa.

*Safari Journal* by Hudson Talbott. This fictional journal provides many facts about Kenya's wildlife.



### Technology

Check out  
[www.eduplace.com/parents/hmss05/](http://www.eduplace.com/parents/hmss05/)  
for more information.