South Africa

1 Giving sources

These FAQs (= Frequently Asked Questions) are often asked by tourists planning a trip to South Africa. Find the answers on the internet. For each answer, note down your research method. Present the information in a grid, as in the example below. Then get together in groups. Compare your answers and how you found them. Why is it important to write down your sources?

1. How much is €1 in the local currency?
2. When is the best time to travel?
3. What are the five top things to see or do?
4. Do I need to take anything against malaria?
5. Do I need a visa and a return ticket in order to travel to South Africa?
6. How can I get from Cape Town to Johannesburg and how far is it in kilometres?

FAQ	Answer	Search engine	Keyword(s)	Source and URL (address on the web)	Updates	Accessed
1. How much is €1 in the local currency?	9.57 Rand	Google	Currency South Africa	XE.com (universal currency converter) http://www.xe.com/ucc/	no information	10 May 2011
2. When is the best time to travel?	…	…	…	…	…	…

2 Evaluating sources

Find statistics on South Africa from these three sources on the internet. Note down when the information was last updated. Then discuss in a group what features make a website a good source of information. Take notes and present your results in class.

	CIA world factbook	BBC country profiles	Wikipedia (English)
Population			
Female life expectancy			
Updated on			

3 Using search tools

Use different search tools and do the quiz below. How fast can you do it? Use a stop watch.

1. In South Africa, what does "ZAR" stand for?
2. Which fish travels north up the East African coastline during May and July in huge numbers?
   a) great white sharks
   b) sardines
   c) trout
   d) salmon
3. In what ways is a white rhino different from a black rhino? Name three details.
4. What connects Sol Kerzner, Bophuthatswana, Little Steven, "Artists United Against Apartheid" and 1985?
5. Give the common English words for these South African expressions.
   a) "I rocked up at the braai. The food was lekker!"
   b) "Put on your takkies. You might step on a boomslang!"
   c) "After I turned right at the robot, a bakkie forced me into the donga."

Your time: _____

Key

1 Giving sources

2. April–May, September–November; search engine: Google; key word(s): South Africa travel
3. visit Table Mountain, game safari, wine tasting, Bungee jumping, whale watching; search engine: ask.com, lonelyplanet.com; key word(s): things to do South Africa, destination South Africa
4. only in the north; search engine: Google; key word(s): travel South Africa Malaria
5. visa: no (< 90 days), return ticket: yes (or proof of sufficient funds; search engine: search.yahoo.com; key word(s): South Africa visa return ticket
6. 1,493 km; search engine: Google; key word(s): Michelin route planner

2 Evaluating sources

- The purpose is clear. You can quickly recognise that the website is there to give you information, not to sell you something or to entertain you.
- You can see who wrote the website, and that the author is likely to know the subject well.
- On a good website the information can be checked.
- It has been recently updated and has no "dead" links.
- The information is clearly presented (well-organised, easy to read, no mistakes).
- It offers the right amount of information (not too much, not too little).

3 Using search tools

1. Zuidafrikaanse Rand (South African Rand)
2. b) sardines
3. heavier, less aggressive, eats grass (not bushes), has a wide mouth, can see better
4. In 1985 Little Steven created a group called "Artists United Against Apartheid" and produced an album called *Sun City* to protest against the tourist area created by Sol Kerzner in the state of Bophuthatswana.
5. a) "I arrived uninvited at the barbecue. The food was delicious/really tasty!"
   b) "Put on your trainers. You might step on a tree snake!"
   c) "After I turned right at the traffic lights, a pickup forced me into the ditch/off the road."