

KS3 Geography. Africa.

4. Johannesburg and urbanisation.

[INTRODUCTION]	All this noise, and bustle, and life...is Johannesburg. Or 'Joburg' as it's known. The most populated city in South Africa. The city's estimated to be home to over 6 million people - and that number's growing all the time!
[URBAN MIGRATION]	<p>Rural to urban migration is happening from within South Africa, and from neighbouring countries like Zimbabwe and Mozambique too.</p> <p>Many urban areas have been seeing the same kind of growth. In fact, since 1990, more than 500 million people have moved to cities across Africa!</p> <p>And it's not hard to see why. For so many people, moving to a city means the chance to earn more money, as the growing economies create more and more jobs. And there are many other benefits: cities have more schools, more doctors clinics and hospitals, and lots of entertainment!</p>
[URBAN EXPANSION]	Joburg is one of the fastest growing urban areas ever. But, of course, that speed of growth has created challenges. How can enough homes be built to house all of the people arriving? How can so many people move around a city, without overwhelming transport networks? How can waste disposal be managed, and pollution be kept at acceptable levels?
[ELECTRICITY SUPPLY]	Electricity supply is a particular problem. Here in South Africa, the supply of electricity doesn't keep up with the demand. Which means we sometimes have 'load shedding': where a whole area has its electricity supply cut off. This is done to make sure the system isn't overloaded.
['LOAD SHEDDING']	Different areas are scheduled to be switched off at different times. And when this happens, residents have to use their own sources of power, if they can afford them; or just wait until the electricity comes back on again. So this can be very difficult for businesses and for households.

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- [LIVING STANDARDS] One thing that's easy to notice in South Africa is the contrast in living standards between different areas. Standing here, I'm in a Sowetan township: it's densely populated, with a lot of self-built houses. But not too far from here is Sandton: a residential and business area full of grand and expensive houses!
- [APARTHEID ERA] These differences are directly linked to South Africa's past. And here at this museum, in Cape Town, that past is explored. During the apartheid era - from 1948 to 1994 - racist laws meant that only white South Africans could work most jobs, or own most properties.
- Black South Africans were forced to live in segregated townships, which lacked basic services and facilities.
- The effects of that time can still clearly be seen today. Many people living in township areas still don't have running water, or electricity, in their homes. And it's usually harder for them to get into city centres, where they could find better paying jobs.
- [POST-APARTHEID ERA] Since the end of apartheid, there are no more segregation laws. But, even though the country is changing in many ways, there's still extreme inequality. And that's a problem that our leaders have to try and find solutions to.
- [SOLUTIONS] One solution is the 'Corridors of Freedom' project, which is linking neighbourhoods together, with homes, shops and offices that are being built close to major public transport routes.
- [JOBURG'S TREES] Cities don't just have to be masses of concrete! Joburg is a place for trees. They provide the city with shade, reduce pollution, and make people happier! And as the city's grown, we've carried on planting more and more of them. In fact, before the city was founded, this whole area was natural grassland, no trees. Today, there's around ten million of them - making this a kind of man-made forest!