

Grade 7 History

Term 3

Colonisation of the Cape 17th – 18th centuries

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Section A: Revision

Indigenous inhabitants of the Cape in the 17th century

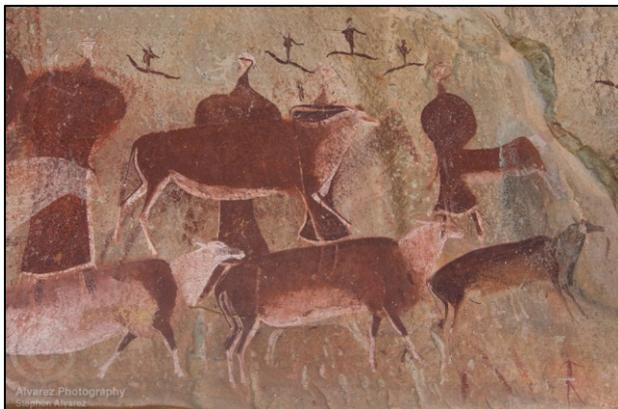
San hunter-gatherers

The word 'San' means 'people different from ourselves'. The San, who were hunter-gatherers, were the first people to live at the Cape. They got their food by hunting wild animals and gathering plant foods like fruits, nuts, berries, mushrooms and roots.

Hunter-gatherers lived in small groups. They were **nomadic** which means that they did not settle in one place. They moved around to find different plant foods at different times of the year, as well as good water resources. They believed that all the land belonged to the community.

They hunted using arrows coated in poisons obtained from snakes, plants, beetles and scorpions. They made tools and musical instruments from wood and stone and clothing from animal skins.

For thousands of years, hunter-gatherers lived all over southern Africa. We know this because of the San's rock paintings and engravings which show us how they lived. When the Dutch colonised the Cape in the 17th century there were San hunter-gatherers living at the Cape and in the rest of southern Africa. The San were called Bushmen by the Dutch, because they made their homes in the bush.



San rock art



San trance dance

Khoikhoi herders

Vocabulary

Pastoralists: people who raise livestock for food

Status: position

Indigenous: the first people on the land

The word 'Khoikhoi' means 'Men among Men'. The Khoikhoi were similar to the San in appearance, only a little taller. They were **pastoralists** who lived along the coastal regions of the Cape. They measured their **status** and wealth in sheep and cattle. Some of their clan names were Gamtoos, Chainoqua and Hessequa. Their lives revolved around water, animals and land. They made tools, weapons and ornaments from copper and iron which they obtained by trading with Africans from the North. The San and Khoikhoi had many conflicts over cattle and land.

Strandlopers were part of the Khoikhoi family but they lived in caves on the beaches. They lived off fish and shellfish. Archaeologists have found mounds of shells in caves, together with animal bones and stone tools. The Dutch settlers referred to the Khoikhoi as Hottentots, because of the sound of the language. This word is now considered to be insulting and is no longer used.



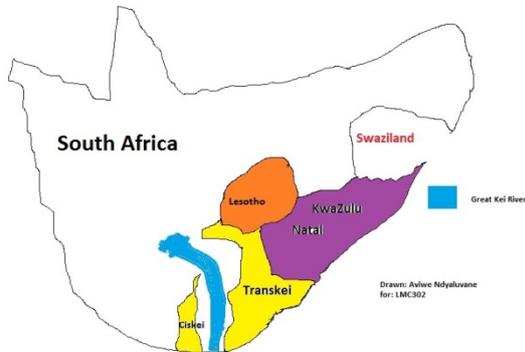
Activity 1- Informal Assessment

1. What were the Khoikhoi who lived from the sea called? (1)
2. Explain why land was so important to the indigenous people? (1)
3. Complete the following sentence: 'The San ate wild animals, berries...' (4)
4. Who were the Gamtoos, Chainoqua and Hessequa? (1)
5. How do we know the San were creative people? (3)
6. What have archaeologists dug up that taught us about the Strandlopers? (3)
7. Tabulate the differences between the San and the Khoikhoi. (4)

Total: 17

Where African farmers were settled

The Xhosa tribes came from Central Africa and settled in the Eastern Cape where the Transkei and Ciskei are today.



Traditional Xhosa women smoking their pipes

African farmers planted and ate sorghum and millet. This region was suitable for their crops as it received about 500mm of rain during the summer growing season.



The Xhosa loved drinking sour milk and sorghum beer. Millet is one of Africa's staple grains. It is highly nutritious, tasty and easy to digest. African farmers also owned large herds of cattle. This was a form of wealth. When European farmers came into this region, they clashed over the use of land with each of the groups living there.



Sour milk - Amazi



Sorghum Beer

Section B: Dutch Settlement

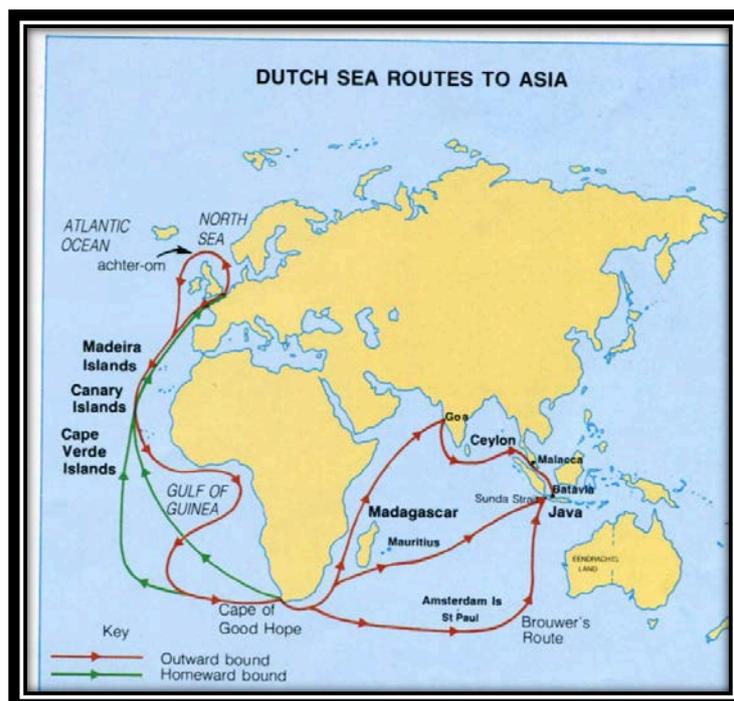
Reasons: DEIC permanent settlement at the Cape 1652

The DEIC (Dutch East India Company) in the Netherlands was set up in 1602 to trade. In 1647, the Haerlem, a Dutch trading ship, was shipwrecked in Table Bay. When the sailors eventually got back to Holland they gave the DEIC or VOC (Vereenigde Oost Indische Compagnie) wonderful reports about what they had seen at the Cape – plenty of water, fertile land and lots of wild animals.



The VOC was the wealthiest and most powerful trading company in the world at that time. They traded for spices and other interesting goods from India. They had to sail for months to get from Europe to the East and months to sail back home.

On these voyages, many of the sailors died from a disease called scurvy. Scurvy is caused by a lack of vitamin C. The VOC decided it would be a good idea to set up a half-way station at the Cape so that fresh fruit and vegetables could be grown for the sailors.

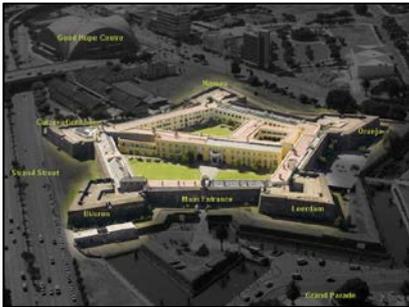


Activity 2

1. What causes scurvy? (1)
2. Name 3 good things that the sailors from the Haerlem said that they had found at the Cape. (3)
3. What does DEIC stand for? (1)

Total: 5

In April 1652, Jan van Riebeeck arrived at the Cape with 100 men and women, including his wife Maria de la Quellerie. The first thing the men did was to build a fort for protection. The original fort, built of mud, clay and timber, no longer exists, but a more permanent brick, stone and cement castle was built near to the fort some years later. The building, known as the Castle, still stands today.



An aerial view of the Castle in Cape Town



The entrance to the Castle

The Dutch also started a large garden to produce fresh fruit and vegetables for themselves and the ships stopping at the refreshment station. This was known as the Company gardens. It still exists today, but is no longer a vegetable garden. In time, the settlers built a harbour and workshops for ship repairs.

After some time, medical centres were built and doctors were brought over from Europe. Van Riebeeck's men kept sheep and rabbits on Robben Island. They hunted seals, penguins and wild animals.



Cape Town

Robben Island

Robben Island lies 12 km away from Cape Town. It has been used in various ways over the last 400 years: it has served as a hospital for lepers as well as for insane and very ill patients. It was used for military purposes during the Second World War. From 1961 to 1991 it was used as a maximum security prison. The most famous prisoner during that time was Nelson Mandela. Today it is a famous World Heritage Site.

Vocabulary

Blacksmiths: people who make horseshoes and other objects from metal

Indigenous: belonging naturally

The VOC realised that the company could not produce enough food for the passing ships so they allowed some of their people to set up their own farms. These people were called 'Boers', the Dutch word for 'farmer'. The VOC wanted more settlers to leave Holland and settle at the Cape. By the early 1700s, there were about 1000 Dutch settlers living in the Cape. The settlers built houses, shops, taverns and offices and a new town grew. People became carpenters, bricklayers, inn keepers, bankers, officials and **blacksmiths**. There were also farmers outside the town. They produced food for the growing settlement. As the settlement grew, the settlers needed more and more land for farming. This situation led to conflict with the **indigenous** people. This began the process of **colonization** of the Cape, Natal and eventually the whole of South Africa.



Goldsmiths



Bricklayer



Carpenter

Activity 3

1. List the names of the 5 bastions (projecting parts) of the Castle. (5)
2. Why do you think these bastions were built? (1)
3. Explain the difference between the fort and the Castle. (1)
4. What was Robben Island used for during World War 2? (1)
5. What was Robben Island used for by Van Riebeeck's men? (2)

Total: 10

Results of the Dutch arrival and settlement

Slaves at the Cape: Why slaves were brought to the Cape

Vocabulary

Stowaways: *people who hide in ships to travel without paying*

Settlements: *small communities especially in their early stages*

When Jan van Riebeeck arrived at the Cape, he was forbidden by the Dutch to enslave any of the local people. So, for the first five years at the Cape, the only slaves were **stowaways**.

As more Dutch settlers arrived at the Cape, they needed more workers to plant gardens, build houses and run the refreshment station. At first, the local Khoikhoi were prepared to work from time to time, helping in the gardens and doing other manual (physical) work. However, they did not want to leave their cattle and so were not always available. Later, they did not trust the Dutch and did not want to work for them at all. The DEIC already used slaves in other **settlements** so the Dutch decided to bring them to the Cape as well.

In the early years of slavery, only the DEIC owned slaves. They were housed in the Slave Lodge in Adderley Street. This is the second-oldest building in Cape Town and is now a museum. Later, free citizens of the town and farmers in the countryside were also granted the right to own slaves. In 1658 there were only 11 slaves at the Cape.



Slave Lodge museum
in Adderley Street

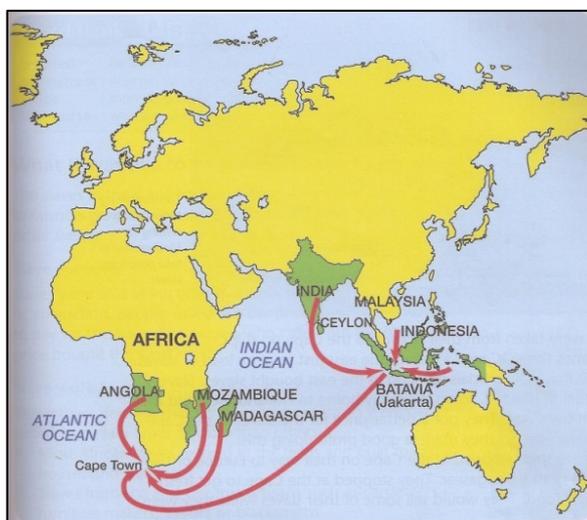
Jan Van Riebeeck wrote the following in his diary:



"I don't want to use our soldiers and sailors for agricultural work and seal-catching. It's too expensive. The locals don't want to work for us. It would be much better for slaves to be brought here."

Where the slaves came from

The first slaves to arrive at the Cape came from Angola. Later, slaves came mainly from countries along the Indian Ocean trade route because the Dutch East India Company was, by then, allowed to trade only along the East Coast of Africa and with countries in the East. These countries included India, the East Indies, Mozambique, Madagascar, Japan, Guinea and Angola. Many slaves were talented and skilful people in their home countries and were forced to move away from families and friends. The slaves had to learn Dutch. Afrikaans first developed as a slave language that emerged from the mixture of Dutch, English, and other European and Malay languages.



A map showing where slaves came from

Activity 4

1. Name 6 places from which slaves were captured and brought to the Cape. (6)
2. Give your opinion as to why slaves were not brought overland from Mozambique to the Cape. (1)

Total: 7

Timeline of slaves at the Cape

1660-1720	Slaves brought to Cape mainly from Madagascar and India.
1730-1834	Slaves brought to Cape mainly from Madagascar and East Africa.
1770	Slaves from Africa became the biggest group.
By 1808	About 63 000 slaves had been brought to the Cape.
1834	Emancipation (freeing) of the slaves.

People became slaves in different ways:

- Some were sold into slavery by their families, if the family was poor and could not afford to survive.
- Some could not afford to pay a debt, so they were enslaved as a payment of the debt.
- Some were born to parents who were slaves, and so would become slaves themselves.
- Most people who became slaves were captured in war and then sold to slave traders. People could make a lot of money from this, so some groups of people started wars just so that they could take slaves.



Slaves were tied to each other so that they could not escape while being transported.

How slaves were brought to the Cape

The slaves were taken from their homes, to the Cape, on ships.

- Sometimes the VOC sent a ship to the east just to get a load of slaves.
- Some Dutch VOC officials working in the east bought slaves. Slavery was illegal in Holland; so on their way home to Holland they sold their slaves at the Cape. They got a better price for the slaves in the Cape than in the east, so they made a good profit doing this.
- Some slave ships stopped at the Cape on their way to Europe or the Americas from Madagascar. They stopped at the Cape to get fresh water and food. They would sell some of their slaves while they were there.
- Some slaves were carried by ships that were carrying other goods for trade. Traders bought the goods and the slaves in the east and took them all to Europe or the Americas to trade.

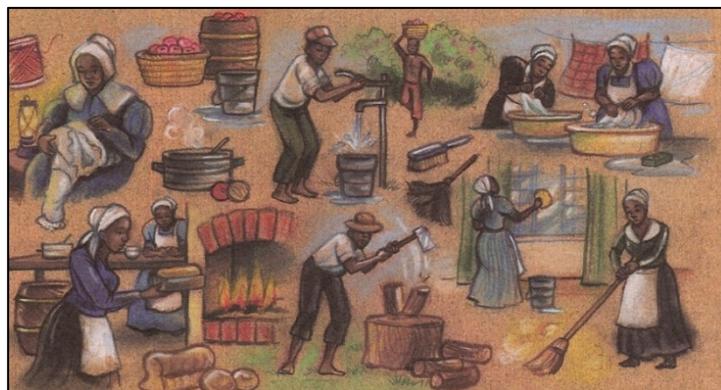
Vocabulary

Viticulture: making wine

Chaff: the cover of seeds, usually regarded as useless

Winnowing: the process of separating grain from chaff by throwing it into the air or blowing air through it

Farm workers



Some of the work activities that slaves did in the home

Wheat farming, **viticulture** and breeding animals were the main activities in the Cape. Many farms produced both wheat and grapes. The largest farms, which produced grain or wine, rarely employed more than 50 slaves.

Slave work on the farms included:

- working in the gardens
- watering the plants
- weeding
- looking after livestock
- ploughing and harvesting wheat, using hand tools such as sickles
- sieving the grain to remove the **chaff**, gathering the wheat into piles (slave children often did this)
- **winnowing**

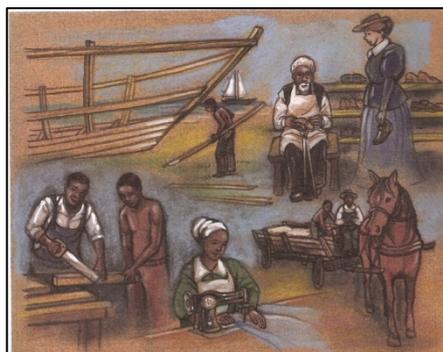


Only the larger farms had special slave lodges. Otherwise, slaves slept in kitchens or outside when it was warm. It was common for farmers to send their slaves to work on other farms where slaves then worked as hired labour. The farmers earned extra money in this way.

Other slave activities

Some slave owners rented out their slaves to do unskilled work such as working in the docks. In the city, slaves did almost all skilled work. Some learnt new skills or used those they had learnt in their own countries and worked as cart drivers, bricklayers, builders, painters, carpenters, shoemakers, tailors and boat builders.

Sometimes slaves sold and bartered goods for their masters in the town. Many others were fishermen. They had to pay any wages they earned to their owners. Some kinder and fairer owners allowed their slaves to keep some of the money earned.



Activity 5

Add 3 activities done by slaves under each heading. Give your table a suitable heading.

	Domestic	Farm	Other
1.	Cleaning and dusting	Ploughing wheat fields	Boat builders
2.			
3.			
4.			

Total: 10

Causes and effects of slave resistance

Cape slave owners controlled their slaves very strictly. Slave owners could use harsh punishments like whipping, starving and forcing slaves to work very long hours. If slaves ever tried to run away, they would be caught and put in chains to stop them from doing it again. As well as being cruelly punished, slaves were forced to live by some very strict rules. Here are some of them:

- All slaves had to be indoors by 10 pm and if they were not, they had to carry a light if they were on the streets.
- They were not allowed to ride on wagons and horses in the street. Slaves were not allowed to gather outside the entrances of church buildings during services.
- They were also not allowed to stop and talk to other slaves when out on the streets.

It was very difficult for slaves in the Cape to lead normal family lives. Just as in the American South, slaves were not allowed to marry. Slave traders often separated partners.

Slaves were bought and sold at DEIC slave auctions (sales) and private auctions. They were also bought, sold and hired out through advertisements placed in newspapers in the same way as in the American South. Any children born to slaves were owned by the slave owners. They faced lives as miserable as their parents', with very little hope of escape.

Sometimes, the slaves resisted or fought back against their harsh owners as they did in

the American South, but it was difficult to get together in groups in order to do this. Two organised but small uprisings of slaves took place in the early 1800s, when the Cape was under British rule.

Slavery was abolished in 1834. Some slaves heard that this was going to happen, and rebelled because they believed that they would be given their freedom earlier.

Case study 1: The 1808 rebellion

In 1808, a slave called Lois led a rebellion. He was very light-skinned, and many people thought he was white. He led a group of slaves and Khoikhoi people to Cape Town, where they planned to take over the store of weapons. Then they planned to talk to the authorities about peace and freedom for all slaves. They marched to Cape Town, gathering over 300 slaves and Khoikhoi servants along the way. When they got close to Cape Town, they were met by a group of soldiers. The soldiers were armed and they defeated the slave group. They captured 327 of the rebels and put 47 of them on trial. Altogether, 20 rebels were sentenced to death. Others were put into prison for taking part in the rebellion.

Case study 2: The story of Galant's rebellion

Galant was a slave owned by a cruel farmer named Van der Merwe who beat his slaves and treated them very badly. In 1825, 25-year-old Galant and the other slaves heard that the colony might abolish slavery. They thought that they might be freed. But, Galant overheard Van der Merwe saying that he would never give his slaves their freedom. Galant realised that he might be a slave for the rest of his life. He organised the slaves on nearby farms to rebel against their masters. Galant and the other slaves killed Van der Merwe and two other white people. Then they fled into the mountains nearby.

A group of soldiers came from Cape Town and caught Galant and the other slaves. They went on trial for murder. At the trial, Galant and the other slaves told the court how Van der Merwe had treated them. He told them that he had complained to the authorities about the cruelty three times but nothing had been done. The court found Galant guilty of murder and he and two other slaves were executed.

Activity 6

Read through the Case Study 1 and 2. Answer the following questions:

1. Why did the slaves in each rebellion rise up against the slave owners? (2)
2. What was the aim of each rebellion? (2)
3. Explain why the rebellions failed. (2)

Total: 6

Slave legacy at the Cape

Slaves were in the Cape for 180 years. Many slaves came from the East. In this time, slaves and their descendants made an enormous cultural contribution to Cape Town and the area around it. Many slaves were skilled builders, cabinet-makers, plasterers, dressmakers, bricklayers and carpenters. Evidence of these skills can still be seen in the Cape Dutch buildings and architecture built at that time.



Cape Dutch architecture



Cape Minstrel Carnival

The slaves brought, to Cape Town, their own music, language and design (clothes and art), which was rich in colour and different to the 'Cape Dutch' style. Cape Malay music originated from these slaves and the Cape Malay musical tradition is continued by the Cape Minstrel Carnival held on 2 January (Tweede Nuwe Jaar) every year. The style and flavour of 'Cape Malay' dishes is very distinctive.

Traditional Cape Malay foods and recipes such as bobotie, bredies and samoosas have become part of South African culture and tradition.



Bobotie



Bredie



Samoosas

Religion of Islam

Those slaves who came from the East brought the religion of Islam to the Cape. The European settlers were Christian while the Khoikhoi and Xhosa people originally followed traditional African religions.

In time, as a result of the work of missionaries, most indigenous people became Christians. Islam arrived with slaves from Islamic countries and spread throughout South Africa. For the slaves, their religion, Islam, was a way of life. They practised their religion, which was a great part of their identity.

Today, Islam remains a vibrant, flourishing religion that has had a significant social, cultural and political influence in South Africa. The largest group of South African Muslims (followers of Islam) is still found in the Western Cape. This can be seen by the number of mosques that have been built in the region.



A Muslim Mosque



Symbol for Islam

Development of the Afrikaans language

The slaves came from many different places and did not have one common language. They all learnt Dutch in order to communicate with each other and with the slave owners. The slaves added words from their own languages. In time, this language became Afrikaans. Many words in Afrikaans were influenced by the languages the slaves spoke. For example: *baie*- a lot; *piesang*- banana; *blatjang*- chutney; *sjambok*- whip

Activity 7

1. List four things that the slaves contributed to the Cape. (4)
2. Write down four Dutch or Afrikaans surnames, which show our heritage as South Africans. (Use a telephone directory if you need to.) (4)

Total: 8

Free burghers: The Dutch and French Huguenot immigration to the Cape

The Dutch and Free Burghers

The DEIC offered work at the Cape to both Dutch and French citizens. Those who completed their three-year contract could apply to become free from the DEIC. Such people were known as Free Burghers. They could own land and slaves, and these people played an important role in the development of the Cape.

The French Huguenots

In 1685, the DEIC wanted to develop farming more, and so decided to send a number of new people to the Cape. It hoped that the French would be part of this group. But, only three French people came to the Cape that year. They were Huguenots, who were French Protestants who had been persecuted (treated cruelly and unfairly) by the Catholic government of France.

The Dutch were also Protestant, and they offered the Huguenots a new home where they could be safe. Between 1688 and 1689, about 175 Huguenots settled at the Cape. By 1729, there were 279 French Huguenots and their descendants at the Cape.



French Huguenots arriving at the Cape

Expanding European frontiers

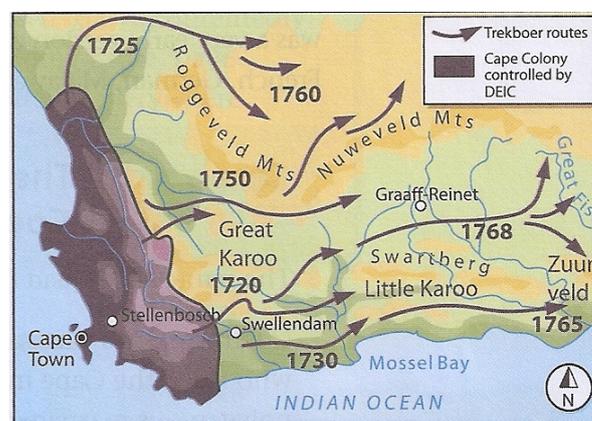
The Trek Boers, with their servants and slaves, move inland

From the late 1600s and into the 1700s, the Cape settlers moved further north and east from Cape Town. This movement was led by the Trek Boers, who were looking for fresh grazing land for their cattle.

The Trek Boers preferred the freedom of their ox wagons and tents to living under the rule of the DEIC. Their trek brought them into constant conflict with the local people.

First they met up with the Khoikhoi, who fought them off when the Boers tried to settle on Khoikhoi land. Later, in the East, they met up with the Xhosa, who also fought against the loss of their lands. Some of the Trek Boers owned slaves, and they took their slaves along with them. They also employed some Khoikhoi people as servants and they moved together, further into the interior of South Africa.

The Hottentots Holland Mountains can be seen as a natural boundary of the original Cape settlements. The Trek Boers moved beyond them and deep into the interior of what is now the Western Cape and beyond, into what are now the Eastern Cape and the Free State. As the map below shows, the various groups took widely different routes and spread all over the land beyond the original Dutch-controlled territory. Most of the land into which they moved is in the Karoo. This large region has soil that is not very fertile, and the area does not get much rain. From a farming point of view, the Karoo is much better suited to livestock (cattle and sheep) farming than to growing crops, which was ideal for the Trek Boers with their livestock.



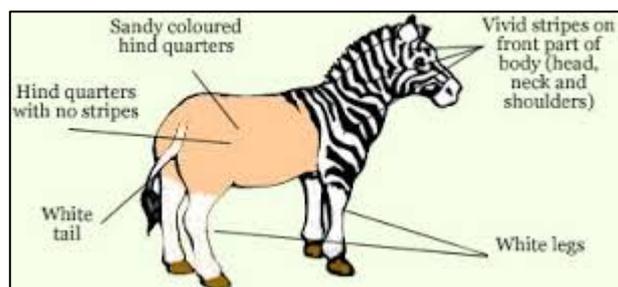
Movement of the Trek Boers 1720-1770

Conflicts happened as white settlement increased. In the 1730s, the Trek Boers and Khoikhoi clashed in the Piketberg district, not far from Cape Town. Local KhoiKhoi people raided the cattle farms in the area. The local farmers fought back and were helped by soldiers, and the KhoiKhoi were beaten.

The Trek Boers' way of life had some destructive effects. They hunted and killed wild animals, causing the extinction of the blaubok and quagga populations. According to some reports, they captured and enslaved local women and children.



A blaubok



A quagga

Lifestyles and stories of Trek Boers

Vocabulary

Isolated: far away from other places

The Trek Boers enjoyed living in small, **isolated** groups. When they made a rare trip to Cape Town, they usually felt uncomfortable. They liked the freedom and independence that came with living away from direct DEIC control. They saw the DEIC as oppressors who taxed them without giving much in return and who interfered with their hunting and trading with local tribes.

The Trek Boers were keen on hunting and enjoyed the freedom of moving around. They called this '**trek gees**', meaning the 'spirit of moving'. They were tough adventurers, poorly educated but very religious. They called themselves 'Afrikanders' at first but were later known as the 'Afrikaners'. The Trek Boers spoke a language they called simply 'die taal' ('the language'). This was a very early version of Afrikaans, and was based mainly on Dutch, but also on French, German, Malay and Frisian (a language related to Dutch and German).

Land dispossession and consequences for the indigenous population

Vocabulary

Dispossession: when someone takes away something that is yours

Land **dispossession** has been South Africa's story since its earliest days.

When the Trek Boers moved inland they began competing with the San, Khoikhoi and Xhosa for grazing land and water. Each group of people needed land to make a living, or even just to survive. There were many fights and raids between the groups during the 1600s. The Trek Boers had better weapons which resulted in hundreds of Khoikhoi being killed and dispossessed of their traditional grazing lands.



Some Khoikhoi were forced to become labourers and servants for the Europeans. Others fled further inland to join the San on less fertile land in mountainous areas. Many Khoikhoi also died during three major outbreaks of smallpox and measles. Within 60 years of the Dutch landing at the Cape, the traditional economic, social and political order of the Khoikhoi had almost been destroyed.

Activity 8: Informal Assessment

1. Why did the Trek Boers often clash with the indigenous people? (2)
2. What advantage did the Trek Boers have over the Khoikhoi? (1)
3. What was the reason for the first French Huguenots coming to the Cape? (2)
4. Which mountains formed the natural boundary of the original Cape settlements? (1)
5. Why is the Karoo not a good region for growing crops? (2)
6. Which two animals became extinct due to the Trek Boers' way of life? (2)
7. True or false: The Trek Boers enjoyed going to Cape Town occasionally. (2)
8. Name the 5 languages that the early version of Afrikaans was based on. (5)
9. Which two diseases caused many Khoikhoi to die? (2)
10. What was the meaning of 'trek gees' which the Trek Boers referred to? (1)

Total: 20

Genadendal: the first mission station in southern Africa 1738

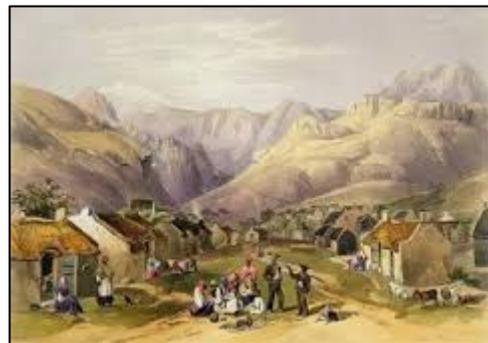
Genadendal ('Valley of Grace') is a town in the Western Cape province of South Africa, built on the site of the oldest mission station in the country.

Georg Schmidt, an early worker of the Moravian Missionary Society, founded this mission station. There were 13 farms in the vicinity, and Schmidt taught the Khoikhoi people to read and write. Although he eventually had a small congregation, he was not an ordained minister. The Cape Dutch Reformed clergy were not happy when he baptised his converts. After seven years, he had to end his work and leave the country, in 1745.

The Moravians were only given permission again to carry on with Schmidt's work in 1792. At one stage, Genadendal was the largest settlement in the colony after Cape Town. A self-sufficient community came about. Home industries flourished, such as the forging of knives (still to be seen today).

Genadendal also became an important educational centre. The first Teachers' Training College in South Africa, now the museum building, was erected in 1838. This training college is now closed.

A painting of Genadendal
Mission Station (1849)



Genadendal, today



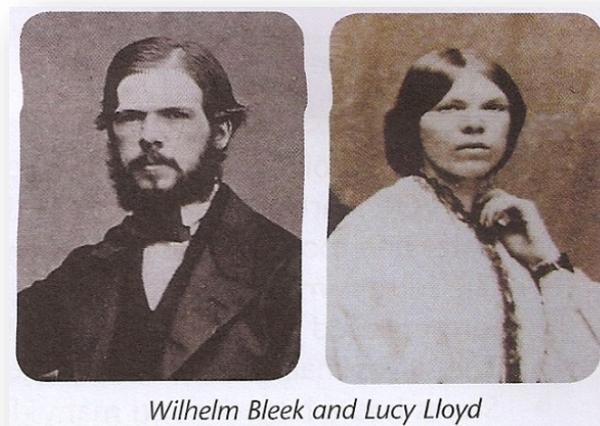
The work of Lucy Lloyd and Wilhelm Bleek

Lucy Catherine Lloyd (7 November 1834 - 31 August 1914), along with Wilhelm Bleek, was the creator of the 19th century archive or historical collection of *Ixam* and *!kun* (Khoisan languages) texts.

She was born in England but moved to Durban when she was 14. (Her father became Archdeacon of the Anglican Church in Durban.) Her sister, Jemima, later married Wilhelm Bleek, in 1862. Bleek was a **philologist** (a person who studies languages in historical documents). He was put in charge of an archive (a collection of important historical documents), the Grey Collection, at the South African Library in Cape Town.

Their collection, started in 1870, consists of more than 13 000 documents (some just scraps of paper) that preserve the memory of the now 'lost' languages of *Ixam* and *!kun*.

Lucy Lloyd took charge of this collection after Bleek died. It was very unusual for a woman at that time to take this type of position. She was paid only half Bleek's salary. Their remarkable work has ensured that the heritage of the original inhabitants of the Cape has been kept forever.



Sources:

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