

The Great Trek

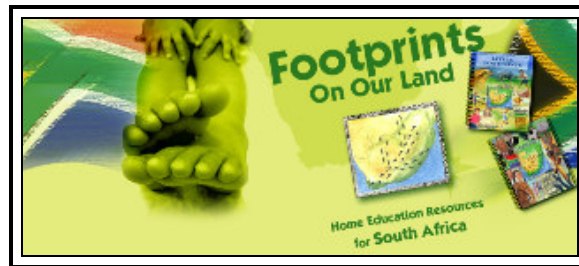


Footprints
on Our Land

A South African History File Folder Project

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Introduction

As homeschooling mothers/teachers, we have discovered that our children take great pleasure in creating something about what they are learning. We do a lot of literature-based learning in our homes, so for them it is special to have something tangible to show for their efforts.

We enjoy using a combination of 'living books' and appropriate reference books when learning about any topic. By reading carefully selected fiction, our children pick up a lot of 'general knowledge' on any given personality, event or era and we enjoy presenting that knowledge in various ways.

We mainly use narrations and notebooking pages to record our work, but to break the monotony we have created various other projects – posters, theme books and these project packs consisting of a collection of mini-booklets.

For free printable notebooking pages on South African themes, visit the Footprints On Our Land site at www.south-african-homeschool-curriculum.com.

Traditionally, school children create theme books about the various people groups of southern Africa, but we realized that for younger children, even with help and supervision, this can be quite an overwhelming task.

However, a mini-book project enables children to work with small bits of information at a time and this is not as overwhelming as having to write a project from scratch.

This project pack is aimed at children aged 7-11 and can be adapted for multiple age levels, commonly found in the homeschooling situation.

Adapting a project

If the suggested activities are too difficult for your student, here are some ways to adapt them:

1. Let your child dictate the written answers to you.
2. Write words that your child can copy.
3. Allow your child to draw her narration.
4. Shorten the questions or requirements to suit your child.

Likewise, for **more advanced** students, you can adapt a project as follows:

1. Help them to research the topic further using the internet, library or other resources that you may have.
2. Let them write longer narrations. You could add a pocket or an extra flap to the folder and store additional work there.



File folder with pocket

Be creative

Use this file folder as the basic starting point of your project.

- If you study a topic in depth, you could add photos of crafts or hands on projects that your students did, outings and field trips relating to the topic, photos of relevant places of interest or historical objects.
- Add brochures or souvenirs you may have from places you visited.
- Add book reviews of relevant books, fiction or reference that you have read about the topic.
- Add any drawings your student may have done.
- Decorate your file folder with glitter, gel pens, stickers, ribbons, embellishments, just about anything!
- If you find out that there is something extra that you wish to add to the file, then do it! Add another flap. Flaps can be hinged to the top edge or the bottom edge. Be creative here also!
- Feel free to re-arrange the booklets if necessary.

The benefits of using a file folder project pack

- A file folder project will enable your children to work on and review key information about the topic being studied.
- It will develop auditory and comprehension skills as well as the ability to search, sift and find answers in a written text.
- The hands-on activities are fun and develop fine motor skills.
- Children love to learn by doing!
- The creative possibilities are endless. Children can be creative and add their unique touch to their projects.
- File folder projects are ideal for multi-level learning.
- Project packs can be incorporated into unit studies, supplement topics of study or stand alone.
- A project gives the children a reason for writing and drawing.
- File folder projects are compact, easy to store and retrieve again later.
- A file folder project can become part of a child's portfolio of work and are a great tool for reviewing completed work.

You will need:

1. Two file folders per student
2. Safety scissors
3. Printing paper and card preferably in various colours
4. Glue
5. Stapler
6. Sticky tape
7. Pencils
8. Brads

Places to visit

- Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria
- The Voortrekker Museum in Pietermaritzburg

Websites

<http://www.south-africa-tours-and-travel.com/history-of-south-africa.html>

<http://www.petanque.co.za/jukskei.htm>

<http://www.debruinfamily.com/DieGrootTrek/DieGrootTrek.htm>

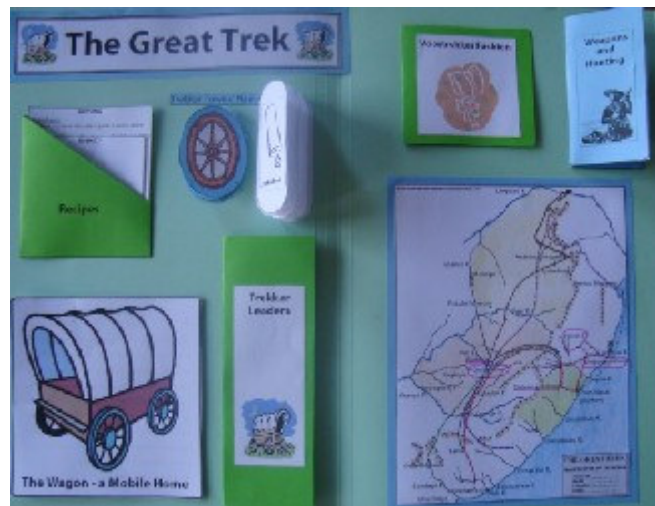
South African History Timeline:

<http://www.sahistory.org.za/pages/chronology/general/1800.htm>

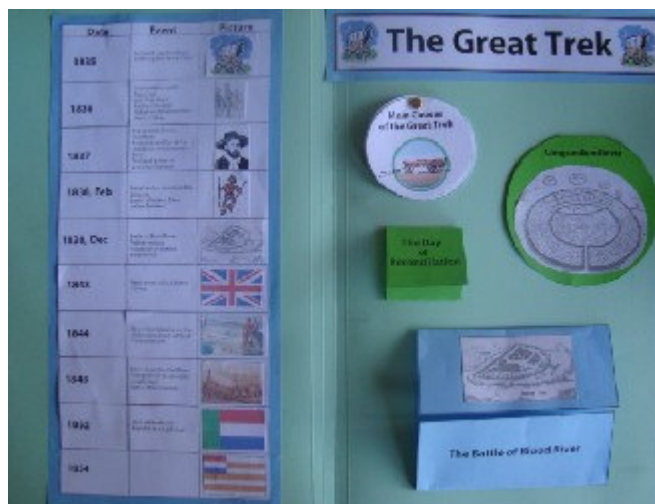
Sample pictures of the completed file folder project.



Completed file folder



Folder 1 – The Voortrekker Lifestyle



Folder 2 – The Events of the Great Trek
A layout plan is provided on page 29.

The Great Trek

Reasons for the Great Trek

During 1836 and 1837 large numbers of Dutch families packed up their belongings, loaded them on ox-wagons and set off in parties to find a new life elsewhere in the interior of South Africa.

They became known as the Voortrekkers and this migration of about 12 000 pioneers is known as The Great Trek. It had significant consequences in the history of South Africa in both the short term and the long term.

In time, these Voortrekkers started to build a unique identity and started calling themselves Afrikaners. Their language was a hybrid language, Afrikaans, which stemmed from high Dutch but was also influenced considerably by French, Malay, German and African languages.

The Voortrekkers had many reasons for packing up and leaving their homes and farms in the Cape Colony and venturing into an unknown land.

Some of the main reasons were:

1. Trouble on the eastern frontier

For many years, there had been constant unrest and war on the border of the Eastern Cape between the white farmers and the Xhosas. The Xhosas raided the white farmers' cattle and the farmers in turn had occupied territory that had traditionally belonged to the Xhosa. The British government did not seem to understand the problems and the farmers were blamed for the wars.

Many felt there was no solution to the problem but to trek.

2. The emancipation of the slaves

In 1834 a law was passed by which all slaves became free. However, the owners of the slaves were not happy about the manner in which this law was implemented. Slaves had been bought at high prices and although the British government offered to pay compensation, this could only be claimed in London, which

was impossible for colonists. Many farmers had mortgaged their farms to pay for their slave labourers and when they were called upon to pay back their loans, they were bankrupted. Once again, unhappiness with the British government led them to pack up and trek.



Lord Somerset

3. The policy of Anglicization

Lord Charles Somerset, the governor, tried to anglicize the Cape Colony and as a result, the Dutch-speaking colonists felt that their cultural identity was being threatened. A series of laws proclaimed between 1823 and 1828 enabled the government to substitute the official use of Dutch with English.

English replaced Dutch in churches and schools and when the institutions of *landdrost* and *heemraden* were abolished, the Dutch colonists had no further say in their local affairs and their desire for self-government increased.

These are the main causes of the Great Trek and each one is related to the others. It was a culmination of all these and various others, which led to a general dissatisfaction with conditions in the colony that made the Trekkers decide to leave.

On 2 February 1837, a Dutch colonist, Piet Retief, published his Manifesto in the *Graham's Town Journal*. In it, he gave ten reasons why the Voortrekkers had decided to leave the Cape Colony. He stated that the trekkers wanted "to live a peaceful and ordered life, where they, under God's protection, would treat the surrounding clans with justice." This manifesto was considered by some to be the declaration of independence of the Voortrekker movement.

NOTE:

The remainder of this project has been divided into two parts:

1. **The Voortrekker Lifestyle** – for younger and older students
2. **The Events of the Great Trek** – for the target age group and older

The two parts of the file folder have been arranged accordingly too.

Part 1: The Voortrekker Lifestyle

The wagon – a mobile home

The Voortrekkers prepared carefully for their journeys, loading their wagons carefully with the most essential items:

- rusks
- biltong
- clothing
- small wooden chests
- medicine chests
- beds
- stools
- ammunition and guns for hunting and protection
- pots, pans and chicken pens hung under the wagons.



Ox wagon

A wagon was drawn by about 8-16 oxen, usually led by a young servant boy called a *voorloper*, who carried a whip or *sjambok*. The driver sat on a chest or *wakis*.

When on the move, two or three wagons would travel abreast along with large herds of sheep, goats and cattle belonging to the trekkers. Thus progress was slow and only about 10km were covered in a day.

When rivers or mountain ranges had to be crossed or there was thick bush to be hacked through, then the pace would be even slower. At times, wagons even tumbled down steep cliffs!

The trekker wagon was known as a *kakebeenwa* (jawbone wagon) because it was shaped like an ox's jawbone.

It consisted of three parts: the chassis (*onderstel*), the bottom boards and the body (*buikplanke*) and the hooped canvas canopy.

A wooden yoke (*juk*), linked by a pin (*jukskei*) was attached to the necks of each pair of oxen.

When the oxen were outspanned the jukskei was used for the game that is now a traditional sport – jukskei.

After a day's trek, the animals would be outspanned and kept in a kraal ringed by thorn tree branches to protect the animals from predators. The wagons would be arranged in a laager for protection.

Weapons and hunting

Every Voortrekker man had rifles and pistols and Gerrit Maritz even had two cannon. The rifles, or voorlaaiers, were muzzle loaders. Although they required some skill to load, some trekkers could do it on horseback.

Women and children helped with reloading in times of battle.

Elephant guns were used for hunting big animals.

The women would help cast round lead bullets in home-made moulds.

Boys were taught how to hunt and the Voortrekkers became skilled marksmen. They seldom slaughtered their own cattle for meat, but hunted wildlife for their food.

No part of an animal was wasted. The hide would be cut into long strips called riems, which were used for rope, animal tethers, whips or the seats of 'riempie' stools. Horns were hollowed out and used as storage containers for gunpowder.

Animal fat was used for candles and soap was also home-made.



Did you know? Jukskei is a throwing game, originating from about 1743.

Transport riders would throw the wooden pins of the yokes at a stick planted into the ground. It was also played by the Voortrekkers and farmers and became an organized sport in 1939.

The aim is to knock over a peg that is planted in a sandpit between 11-16 m away (depending on age and gender of the players).

Teams of four take turns to throw their skeis. Points are awarded each time a team member knocks over the peg. The team to get exactly 23 points first wins the game.

For more information and rules: <http://www.petanque.co.za/jukskei.htm>

Women and children



Voortrekker women¹

Women prepared the meals for the Voortrekkers over open fires. Meals often consisted of meat and roosterkoek.

Besides cooking and washing, the women also sewed all their family's clothes. Men's jackets and trousers were often made of animal hides.

The woman also nursed the sick with their supply of medicines in their medicine chest or used herbal remedies from the veld.

After morning prayers, Bible reading and breakfast, the children would have lessons in reading and writing from the Bible. Boys would also help herd animals while the girls helped their mothers with their womanly duties.

Biltong and 'beskuit'

When out in the veld on reconnaissance trips, the Voortrekkers would load their saddle bags with rusks and biltong, their food for the trip. To this day, these remain as favourite traditional foods in South Africa.



Biltong

Biltong is meat that is cured and dried out.

Rusks make a delicious snack when served with a mug of coffee in which they are dunked before eating.



Rusks

¹ Taken from <http://mysite.mweb.co.za/residents/dugeot/grootrek.html>
"VROUWE KLEREDRAG IN DIE VOORTREK." 'n Voorstelling uit die geroemde Voortrekkermense van Gustav S. Preller, in 1920 uitgegee deur De Nationale Pers, Beperkt.

Part 2: The Events of the Great Trek

The emigration of the Voortrekkers from the Cape Colony did not take place simultaneously but in stages, over the period 1835-1836.

The Trichardt and Van Rensburg treks

Of the various parties that set out, certain individuals, by strength of character emerged as leaders. Andries Hendrik Potgieter, a farmer from the Tarka district in the Eastern Cape, was one such dominant figure. As he and his friends discussed the idea of moving away, they decided that advance parties should go and explore ahead.



Painting of Great Trek river crossing

Their mission was to find out the strength and position of any indigenous tribes and establish whether they could open a trade route with the Portuguese settlements on the east coast of Africa, in order to ship out their produce and bring them necessary supplies, such as clothing, weapons, sugar, coffee and medicines.

Two of Potgieter's friends, Johannes van Rensburg and Louis Trichardt led advance trekker parties consisting of 9 wagons each, which left in early 1836.

Both parties crossed the Vaal River. Van Rensburg then went ahead and reached the Soutpansberg and turned eastward.

When Trichardt and his men tried to follow them, they found no further trace of Van Rensburg's party. Later it was discovered that they were massacred by a warring tribe near the Limpopo River.

Louis Trichardt moved on to the area where the town of Louis Trichardt is situated today. After being there about a year, waiting for Hendrik Potgieter's trek to arrive, he then moved on towards Lourenco Marques (now Maputo) following a most treacherous route crossing rivers and high mountains. By the time Trichardt reached Maputo, on 13 April 1838, many of his cattle had been killed by tsetse flies and nearly half of his group had died of malaria. It was a sad ending for

such a courageous journey. The 26 survivors were taken by boat to sympathizers in (Kwa-Zulu) Natal.

Potgieter's trek

Andries Hendrik Potgieter left from the Tarka district in 1835 with a party of about 200 people. They also wanted to reach Lourenco Marques for trading purposes. He trekked as far as Thaba Nchu. He then did a reconnaissance trip to the Soutpansberg where he found Trichardt.

While he was away, there were clashes between his party and the Matabele warriors in the area between the Vet and Vaal Rivers.

At the battle of Vegkop in 1836 the trekkers overcame the Matabele, but lost all their cattle to the enemy tribe. Moroko, the chief of the Baralong people helped Potgieter and his people to get back to Thaba Nchu.

The arrival of the Maritz party

Gerrit Maritz, a relatively affluent colonist from Graaff-Reinet had also arrived at Thaba Nchu with a party of over 700 people.

Since there were so many people, it was decided to elect a governing body or burgher council of 7 men. They would make the first laws of the Voortrekkers and act as a court of law.



Wagon train, Voortrekker Monument

Maritz was pointed chairman of the council and Potgieter was appointed commandant of the laager. As military leader he then set out to recover their stolen cattle in so-doing defeated the Matabele at Mosega.

The arrival of Piet Retief

Piet Retief left the Cape in March 1837, together with 400 people. When he joined the Voortrekkers at Thaba Nchu, they numbered about 5 000 in total.

Retief was elected governor and military leader at a convention held at Winburg.

At the same convention Maritz was elected president of the Volksraad.

Potgieter was not elected to any post, which left him feeling rather dissatisfied.

The arrival of Piet Uys

Piet Uys and his followers were the last to leave the Cape.

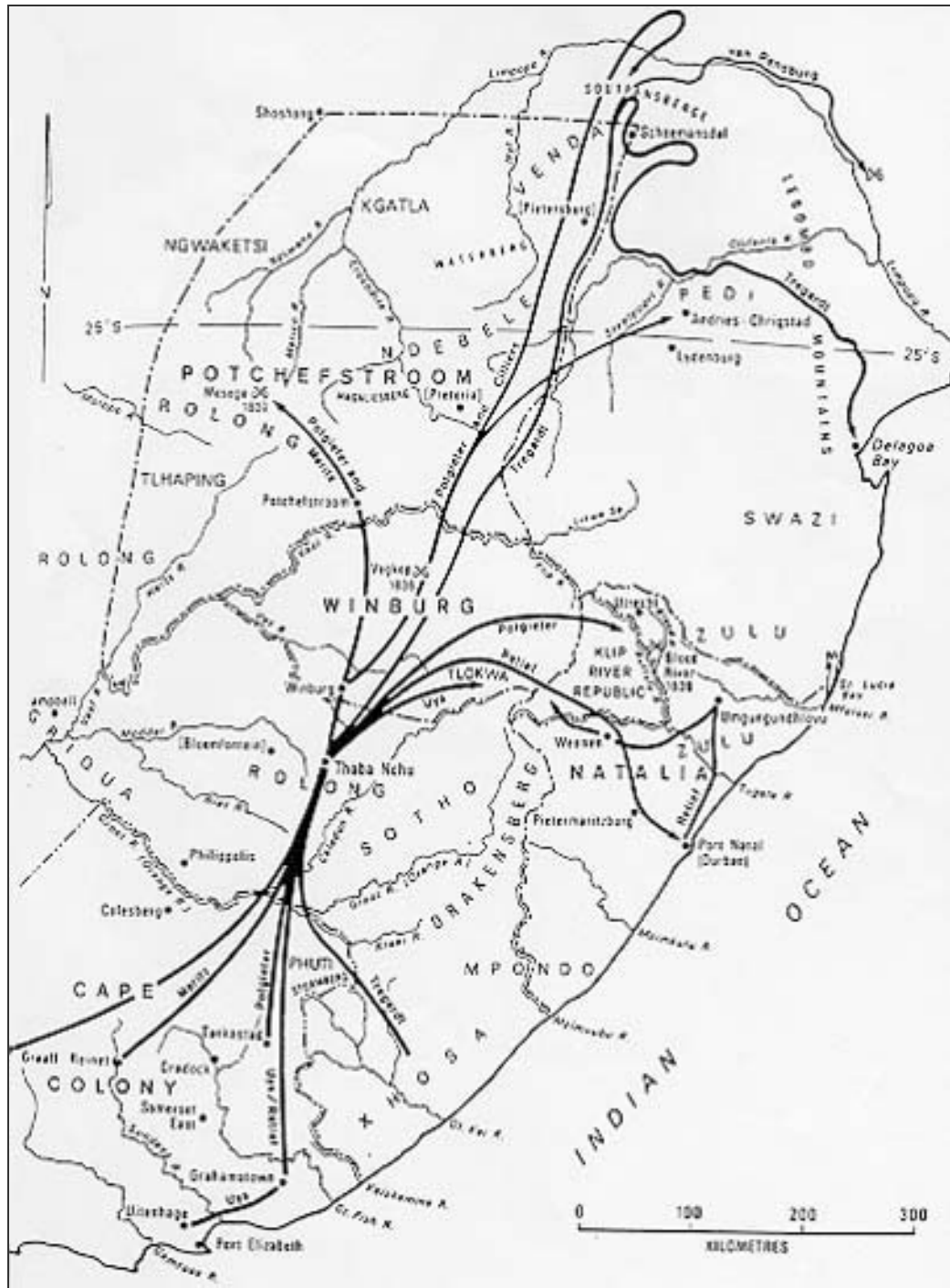
His party of about 100 departed from the district of Uitenhage in April 1837 and arrived at Thaba Nchu in August of the same year.

Due to their late arrival, none of his parties served on the burgher council.



Piet Retief was born in Wagenmakersvallei (now Wellington) and later moved to the Eastern Cape. He was a jack-of-all-trades and suffered heavy financial losses when he contracted to build the military barracks and drostdy house in Grahamstown. He was a hard worker, however and also tried his hand as a baker, butcher, general dealer, miller, timber merchant, food supplier and farmer.

During the Sixth Frontier War of 1834 he was in charge of the Winterberg commando and was later appointed Field Commandant. He constantly voiced his dissatisfaction with British policies in the colony and on 2 February 1837, he published his famous *Manifesto* in the local newspaper, the *Graham's Town Journal*. As a result, he was dismissed from his post as Commandant, so he packed up his belongings and started moving north with a party of about 300 people and one hundred wagons. On his arrival at Thaba Nchu he was appointed Governor.



The Great Trek showing main routes of the Trekkers.

Disputes

There were differences of opinion as to which route to take from Thaba Nchu and various meetings were held to discuss the matter.

Potgieter was in favour of trekking north across the Vaal River to escape British jurisdiction. He feared that the British might annex Natal and they would once again find themselves under British rule. He and his followers planned to settle in the Transvaal and use Lourenco Marques as a harbour for trade.

Retief, Uys and Maritz preferred to settle in Natal and use Port Natal as a harbour. Since the British traders at Port Natal were in favour of this, they began their trek to Natal.

The Voortrekkers in Natal



When the Voortrekkers reached Natal, a large part of this area was ruled by the Zulu chief, Dingaan (or Dingane) who lived at his head-quarters, called Umgungundlovu.

After visiting the traders at Port Natal, Retief met with Dingaan who agreed to give a large piece of land to the Voortrekkers provided that Retief returned cattle to him that had been stolen by a rival chief, Sikonyela.

Having made this arrangement, Retief sent word to the rest of the party to start moving into Natal. Dingaan, however, felt threatened by the influx of the trekkers with their guns and horses.

Statue of Retief, Voortrekker Monument

A month later Retief visited Chief Sikyonela and recovered Dingaan's cattle, horses and guns, taking more than was stolen as punishment. However, Dingaan heard that Retief planned to keep the extra livestock for himself and became wary of the trekkers.

Retief on the other hand, was warned that Dingaan was not to be trusted, but he believed that the final conclusion of the transaction agreement with Dingaan was critical.

On his arrival at Umgungundlovu, Dingaan kept Retief and his company of 67 waiting for several days, entertaining them with displays of dancing and mock battles. He then signed the treaty ceding

agreed land, between the Tugela and Umzimvubu rivers to the Voortrekkers. Retief and his companions were invited to a farewell celebration on 6 February 1838.

To show their respect, they were asked not to bring their weapons, but at the height of the festivities, consisting mainly of dance performances by Zulu warriors, Dingaan leapt up and gave the order, "Bamabani abathakathi!" (Kill the wizards!). Retief and everybody with him were overpowered and executed at KwaMatiwane hill.

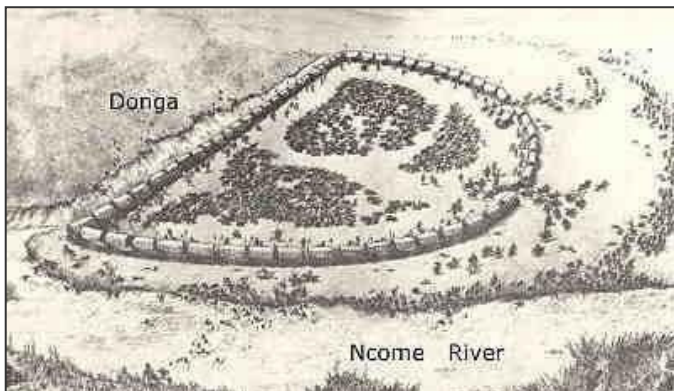
The Zulu impi then set out on a military expedition against the Voortrekker laagers along the Bloukrans and Bushman rivers and killed many, including women and children at Weenen, Bloukrans and Moordplaats. They also captured much of the Voortrekkers' cattle.

On 5 April 1838, Uys and Potgieter retaliated by launching a counter-attack against the Zulus. They were defeated by the Zulus at Italení. The Zulus attacked again on 13 August and in December 1838, the last remaining Voortrekker leader, Maritz, died.

Since the Voortrekkers needed a new leader, they sent for Andries Pretorius, who arrived in November 1838.

The Battle of Blood River

On the 15th of December 1838, the Voortrekkers crossed the Buffalo River knowing that the Zulu warriors were on their way.



The laager formation of the Battle of Blood River

They set up camp and awaited the attack. Pretorius chose a position with the Ncome river protecting the laager from the east and a fairly deep donga (ravine) to the south. This would force the Zulus to attack across open plain terrain from the north and the west.

In the early morning of the 16th December, the Trekkers saw approximately 10 000 Zulu warriors amassed around the laager. The

Trekkers then made another vow that if God would bring them the victory, they would keep this day as a Holy Day.

The first wave of Zulu warriors sent to attack the Boer laager was mowed down with rifle fire. They were also at a disadvantage due to the change in spear length under Dingaan's rule. This new spear was useful for close combat not for long distance throwing.

Women, children and black servants helped the Voortrekker men to reload their rifles within the protection of the laager formation. After two hours and four waves of attack some of the Trekkers set out on horseback to engage with the Zulus in closer combat. Many of the Zulus fled, which provided the break in ranks that the Trekkers needed.

3 000 Zulu warriors were killed that day and the Ncome River ran red with blood, hence the name 'Battle of Blood River'.

Day of Reconciliation

From that time, 16 December was known as Dingaan's day. In 1910 it became known as the Day of the Vow and was celebrated as a day of thanksgiving for the victory. However, with the advent of democracy in South Africa, this public holiday has been retained, but renamed the Day of Reconciliation, with the purpose of fostering reconciliation and national unity in the new South Africa.

The Republic of Natal

After the Voortrekker victory at Blood River, Dingaan fled from Umgungundlovu. He was later defeated by Mpande, who became the new chief of the Zulus.

Did you know? The Voortrekkers had to cross the Drakensberg to descend into Natal. The Drakensberg is South Africa's mightiest range of mountains, extending over a thousand kilometers from the Eastern Cape through Kwa-Zulu Natal to the Limpopo province. The highest peak, Thaba Ntlenyana is 3 482 metres high and is the highest mountain in Africa, south of the equator.

The Drakensberg range was thrust up by volcanic action to form this formidable dragon-like formation of rock. The Zulu name for the Drakensberg refers to it as a barrier of spears or assegais. In the winter the mountain peaks are often capped with snow.

The skeletons of Retief and his men were found, together with a leather bag containing the treaty between Dingaan and the Voortrekkers. The Voortrekkers believed they were now the owners of the land bordered by the Drakensberg Mountains, the Tugela River, the Umzimvubu River and the sea.

Andries Pretorius proclaimed Natal a Voortrekker republic with the capital at Pietermaritzburg. The Republic of Natal existed for only 5 years, before the governor of the Cape, Sir George Napier, sent Sir Harry Smith and his men to annex Natal.

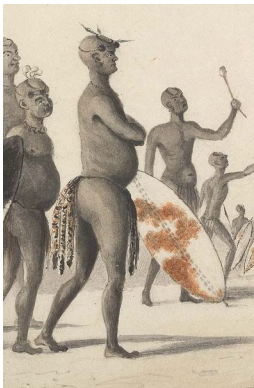
A struggle followed, but the British sent reinforcements and the Voortrekkers were forced to retreat to Pietermaritzburg. On 12 May 1843, Natal became a British colony and most of the Voortrekkers chose to return to the Free State and the Transvaal.



The file folder project, **The Zulu**, covers the history of the Zulu nation in more detail.

Go to <http://www.south-african-homeschool-curriculum.com/zulu-people.html>

The Voortrekkers in the Transvaal



Mzilikazi, Matabele chief

After defeating the Matabele in two attacks, Potgieter and his followers settled in the Transvaal area. He soon gave into pressure and moved to Natal, but then returned to the Transvaal again, where he founded the town of Potchefstroom. He proclaimed the district as the Republic of Winburg-Potchefstroom. Since he and his followers wanted to move as far away from British rule as possible, they established other towns such as Marico, Rustenburg, Ohrigstad and Lydenburg.

Later this area was named the Zuid Afrikaanse Republiek (ZAR or South African Republic). Britain did not recognize the independence of the ZAR, but neither did they attempt to annex the area. At this stage, the mineral wealth of the area was still undiscovered and the authorities were dealing with clashes with African tribes in other areas.

However, in 1852 at the Sand River Convention, an agreement was signed between the British and the Voortrekkers or Boers, as the citizens of the ZAR were known, and their independence was officially recognized.

Voortrekkers in the Free State



Trekboers

The area between the Orange and the Vet Rivers became known as Trans Orangia. Many of the Trek boers settled in the Phillippolis area, where Adam Kok rented land to them.

The trek boers considered themselves British subjects but, when the Voortrekkers passed through the area, some of them joined the Trek, while other chose to stay behind.

When the Potgieter trek arrived at Thaba Nchu in 1836, he made an arrangement with Makwana, chief of the Bataung, that in exchange for cattle and protection against the Matabele tribe, Potgieter would be

As early as the 17th and 18th centuries, long before the Great Trek started, the "trek boers", who were nomadic white farmers, had already moved into the area that would come to be known as the Free State.

At the time of the Great Trek, there were also various African tribes living in the area.

Did you know? For the Voortrekkers, the Orange River symbolized freedom, as it was the border into the unknown land which they planned to inhabit. The Orange River is South Africa's largest river with a length of 2 188km.

It rises in the Maluti Mountains of Lesotho and flows westward into the Atlantic Ocean. It passes mostly through arid countryside providing water for much needed irrigation along its banks. Closer to the sea it flows through sands rich in semi-precious stones and diamonds are found at the river mouth and in the sea near the mouth.

given land in the area between the Vet and Vaal Rivers. This area became known as Winburg.

After his return from Natal, after the battle of Italeni against the Zulu, Potgieter established the Winburg-Potchefstroom Republic.

In this way, the Vet River divided Trans-Orangia and the Winburg-Potchefstroom Republic.

In Trans-Orangia, the Trek boers, under the leadership of Machiel Oberholzer were in favour of remaining under British rule, even though there were many others in the area who were not.

Oberholzer informed the judge at Colesberg of the plans to establish a republic in the northern region and the judge annexed the area. However, the British government ignored the annexation. However, in 1847, Sir Harry Smith became governor of the Cape Colony and he annexed the area as far as the Vaal River. The citizens of Winburg revolted but were defeated at Boomplaats. Potgieter then moved further north, into the Transvaal district.

The British were experiencing clashes with Moshoeshe, the chief of the Basothos in the area and the conflict was costing a lot of money. Britain was also involved in the Crimean War in Europe and so did not want to spend money on maintaining law and order in the interior of South Africa. Thus it was decided that Britain should withdraw from this area. In 1854 the Bloemfontein Convention was held and the Republic of the Orange Free State was granted independence.

This was the dream-come-true for the Voortrekkers – with the establishment of the two independent republics came the fulfillment of their dreams of freedom, independence and self-government...but it had come at the price of bloodshed on the land!

Many were not prepared to share this land, which they felt they had bought, with the blood of their fellowmen.

The Voortrekker monument

The 80m high Voortrekker monument, situated in Pretoria, was unveiled in 1949. It was designed by Gerard Moerdijk and took 11 years to build.



The Voortrekker Monument

The inside houses a Hall of Heroes depicting scenes from the Great Trek carved in marble.

It is designed in such a way that at noon on 16 December, the sun shines through an opening in the ceiling of the great hall onto the engraved words "Ons vir jou, Suid-Afrika" (We are for you, South Africa")

It is surrounded by a symbolic laager of 64 stone oxen wagons, which make up its perimeter wall.



The laager formation of the perimeter wall²

² Photo courtesy of N. Esterhuizen

Date Summary of the Great Trek

1834

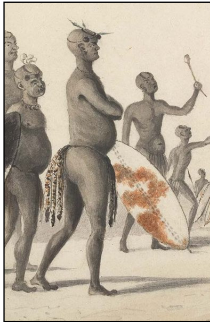
- Official emancipation of slaves

1835-36

- Louis Trichardt, Johannes van Rensburg and Andries Potgieter leave the Cape Colony and trek north.



1836



- Voortrekkers reach the Transvaal and the Free State areas.
- Potgieter's trekkers defeat Ndebele at the Battle of Vegkop.
- Voortrekker leaders Andries Potgieter and Pieter Uys, with the aid of the Griqua, Barolong, Koranna and BaTlokwa, seize the stronghold of Mzilikazi in Mosega and drive him and his people out of the region towards the Marico Valley in the north.

1837



- Piet Retief publishes his Manifesto in the *Graham's Town Journal*.
- Piet Retief and his followers leave the Cape Colony (**28 March 1837**)
- Andries Potgieter and Piet Uys, helped by Baralong and Griqua tribes, defeat Matabele under chief Mzilikazi at Mosega. The forces of Potgieter and Uys attack Mzilikazi anew. They drive him and his people beyond the Limpopo River.
- Louis Trichardt arrives in Lourenco Marques.

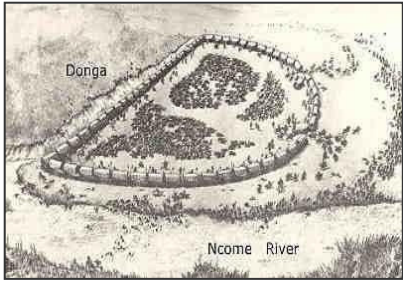
February 1838



- Piet Retief and his party are murdered by Dingaan's warriors at Umgungundlovu and also at Weenen.

April 1838 - Battle of Italeni, the Zulus repulse the Voortrekkers

December 1838



- Battle of Blood River fought between Zulus and Voortrekkers (**16 December 1838**)
- Voortrekkers establish the Republiek Natalia. Pietermaritzburg founded.
- The British colonial government does not recognise the Republic of Natalia and occupy Port Natal, denying the newly founded republic access to the harbour for trade.
- Potchefstroom founded. (22 December 1838)

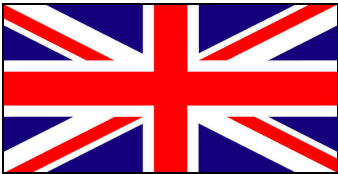
October 1840

- Potchefstroom, Winburg and Natalia unifies as a single Boer republic.

1842-1843

- War between the British and the Boers in Natal.

1843



- Natal annexed as a British Colony.

April 1844



- Boers from Natal cross the Drakensburg and settle at Potchefstroom.

1848

- Boers cross the Vaal River.
- Orange River Sovereignty established.
- Battle of Boomplaats.



1852

- Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek established in Transvaal on 17 January, after the signing of the Sand River Convention.

1854

- Orange Free State Republic established on 23 February at the Bloemfontein Convention.

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2. Lambrechts et al. *History 8, New Syllabus 1985*
3. Clack, J. *All about South Africa*
4. <http://www.south-africa-tours-and-travel.com/history-of-south-africa.html>

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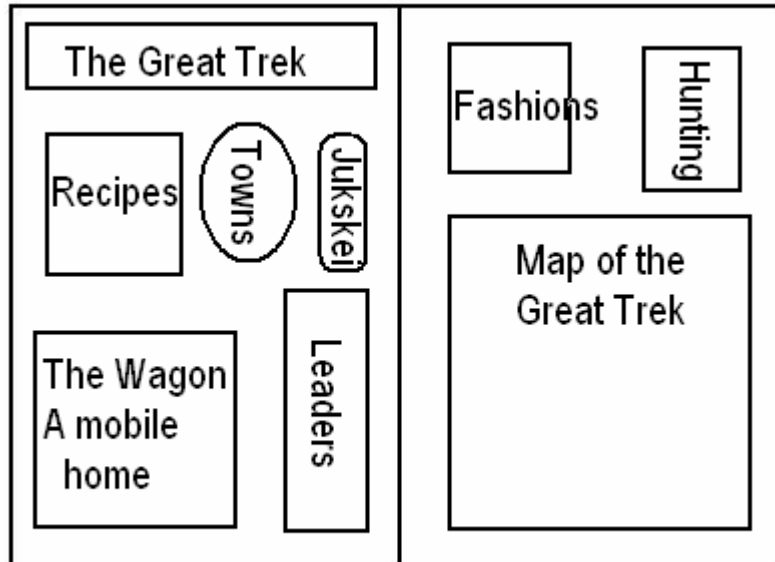
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FUN – CONVENIENT – CREATIVE – VISUAL – MULTI-LEVEL

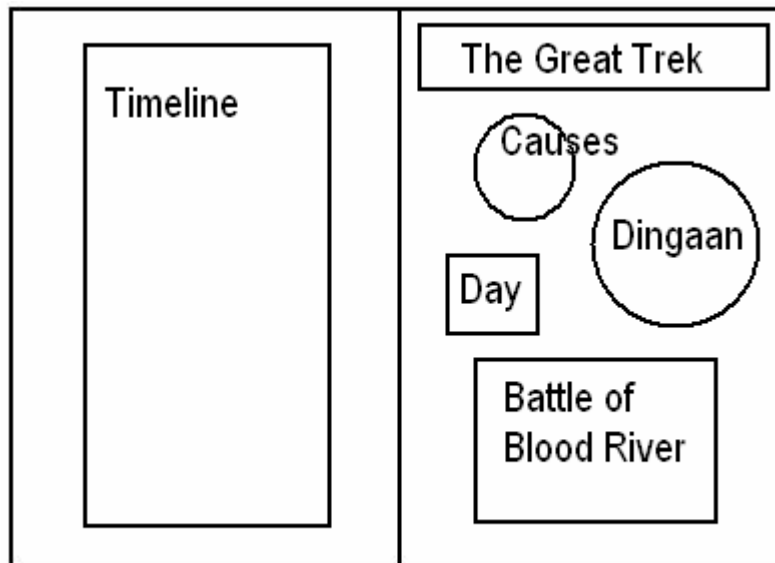
Instructions

Make your file folder

1. Open your files and lay them flat.
2. Using broad parcel tape, join two folders together at the side edges, as shown on page 8.



Folder 1 - The Voortrekker Lifestyle



Folder 2 - The Events of the Great Trek

Make your booklets

1. Write about how the ox wagon was a mobile home for the trekkers. How did the trekkers use the wagons for protection in battle? Print as many of the lined page as you need. Colour the wagon picture, place the cover on top and staple them together to make a booklet.
2. Cut and paste the picture and label on the Voortrekker fashion card fold book. On one side, paste the clothing that was worn **THEN** in the 1800's by the Voortrekkers. On the other side paste the word **NOW** and the clothing worn today.
3. Write the name of 6 Voortrekker leaders in the card fold booklet. Cut and paste the cover picture on the front.
4. List the names of South African towns named after famous trekker leaders. Write more than one per page in the wagon-wheel concertina booklet, if necessary. Use an atlas to help you.
5. On the tri-fold booklet, write about Voortrekker weapons and hunting. Cut and paste the picture and label on the front cover.
6. Cut out the recipe pocket and glue the small flap onto the back surface. Glue or staple the bottom edges together before gluing the pocket down on the file folder. Insert the recipe cards for making biltong³ and rusks.
7. List in each circle, one of the three main reasons why the Voortrekkers left the Cape Colony. Paste the label below the circles. Place the circles on top of each other to make a fan booklet and fasten them with a brad.
8. Draw a picture of the layout of Umgungundlovu on the front of the circle booklet and write about Dingaan and Retief inside.
9. Write about the battle of Blood River on the shutter-fold booklet.
10. Inside the cross-fold booklet, write about the Day of Reconciliation. What date is it celebrated and why?

³ Biltong recipe courtesy of www.biltongmakers.com

11. On the map of the Great Trek colour it as follows:
 - a. Plot the path of Trichardt in a purple marker or pencil.
 - b. Plot the route of Maritz in green.
 - c. Plot the travels of Potgieter in dark brown.
 - d. Plot the trek of Retief in red.
 - e. Trace the following rivers with a sharp blue pencil or marker:
Orange River, Vet River, Vaal River, Limpopo River
 - f. Colour in the mountain ranges a light brown. Older children can label the mountain ranges, using an atlas.
 - g. Circle the town of Thaba Nchu where the trek parties met.
 - h. Underline the towns of Winburg and Pietermaritzburg.
 - i. Circle Umgungundlovu, Dingaan's head-quarters.
 - j. Circle the tributary of the Tugela, the Blood River.
 - k. Lightly colour in orange, the area between the Drakensberg Mountains, the Orange River and the Vaal River which became the Republic of the Orange Free State. (Don't worry about accurate boundaries.)
 - l. Lightly colour in yellow the area between the Vaal and the Limpopo Rivers that became the South African Republic. (Don't worry about accurate boundaries.)
 - m. Colour in green the area between the Tugela and the Umzimvubu Rivers that was the Republic of Natal.
12. Fold the concertina booklet on the lines of each segment. Across the side that has no lines, write about the origins of the sport, Jukskei. Cut and paste the label on the front of the concertina booklet and glue the last segment to the file folder.
13. Cut out the date summary templates and glue the bottom one onto the last block of the top one. Cut out the events cards, arrange them next to the correct dates and glue them in place. Match the corresponding pictures or flags and glue them too. Clues to help you:
 - Republic of the Orange Free State - orange/white striped flag
 - South African Republic – red, white, blue and green flag
 - British flag – red, white and blue crosses
14. Complete the crossword puzzle and store it in a pocket on the back of your file folder.
15. Complete the word search. Make sure you know the meaning all words. Store it in the back pocket of your file folder

A large rectangular box with rounded corners, containing ten horizontal lines for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across most of the width of the box.

Write about how the ox wagon was a mobile home for the trekkers. How did the trekkers use the wagons for protection in battle? Print as many copies of this lined page as you need. Colour the wagon picture, place the cover on top and staple them together to make a booklet.



Cut and paste the picture and label on the Voortrekker fashion card fold book. On one side, paste the clothing that was worn THEN in the 1800's by the Voortrekkers. On the other side paste the word NOW and the clothing worn today.

THEN

NOW

Bonnets

Felt hats

Baseball caps

Jeans

Full dresses

Leather pants

T-shirts

Mini skirts

Button-up shirts

Leather waist-coats

Veldskoene

Trainers/tackies

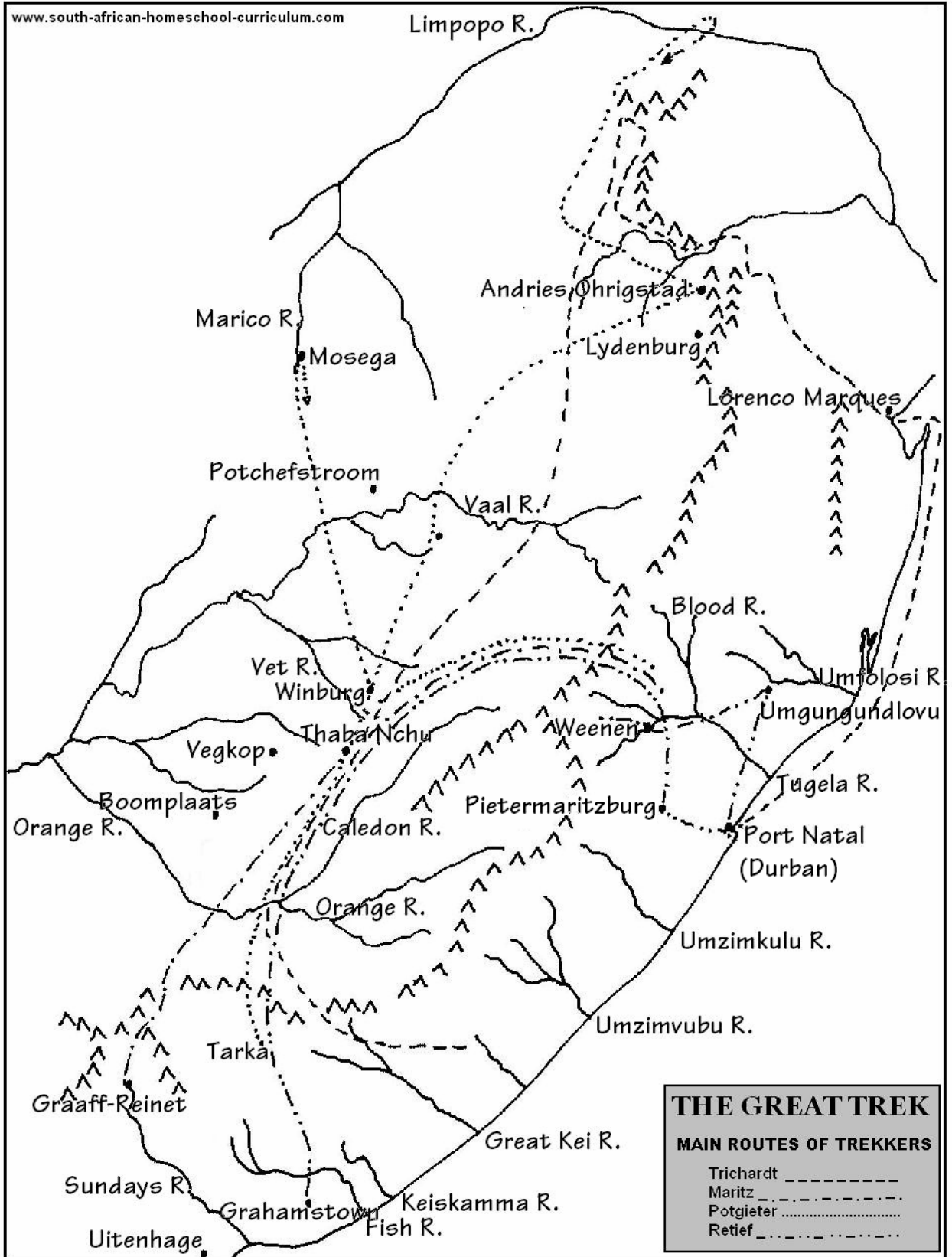
Knitted socks

Denim jackets

High heels

Nylon stockings

Sheepskin jackets



Write the name of 6 Voortrekker leaders on the card-fold booklet.
Cut and paste the label on the front.

Trekker Leaders



BILTONG

Ingredients

2 kg beef or venison (silverside, topside or such)(London Broil)
3 cups coarse salt (not table salt or sea salt but the big lumpy salt)
2 cups soft brown sugar
5 ml bicarbonate of soda (this softens the meat)
2.5 ml coarsely ground black pepper
12.5 ml coarsely ground roasted coriander seeds
1.5 cups brown vinegar mixed with 100ml Worcestershire sauce.

Method

Cut the meat into strips of approximately 1 cm thickness.
Layer in a bowl with the vinegar mix for ½ hour.
Mix all dry spices together.
Roll meat in the mixed dry spices in a CLEAN bowl.
Allow meat to draw in its own brine for 3 hours.(thicker pieces to the bottom)
Remove meat and put back into vinegar mix for +/- 10 minutes.
Remove again and wipe meat with same vinegar to make sure NO SALT sticks to the meat.
Squeeze meat with your hand to get rid of as much liquid as possible.
Hang until ready.

Insert these recipe cards into the recipe pocket.

RUSKS

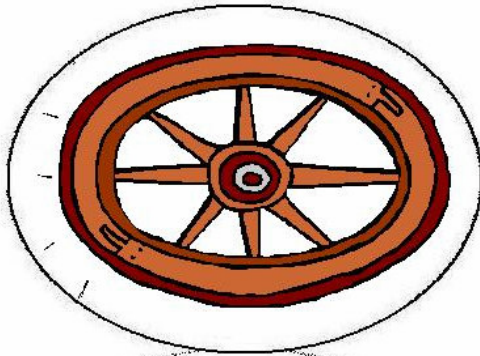
Ingredients

1,5 kg self-raising flour
375ml sugar
pinch of salt
500g margarine/butter
500ml sour milk

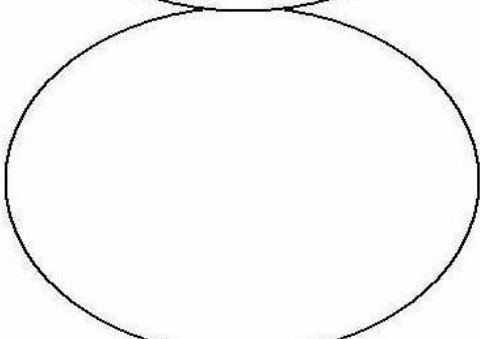
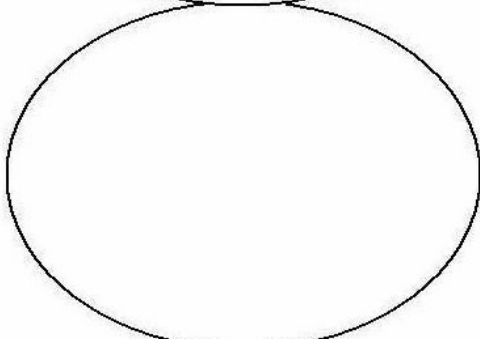
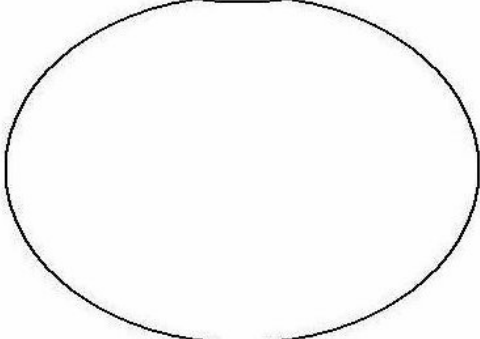
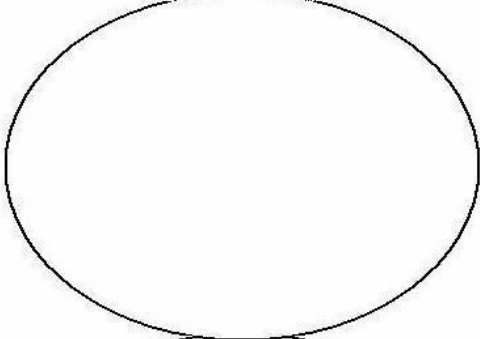
Method

Preheat oven to 180oC.
Mix all dry ingredients together.
Rub in the margarine.
Add sour milk and mix thoroughly
Roll into balls and place in greased bread pans.
Bake for about an hour.
Remove from pans and break or cut into pieces.
Place on rack to dry in a 'cool' oven.

Trekker Towns' Names



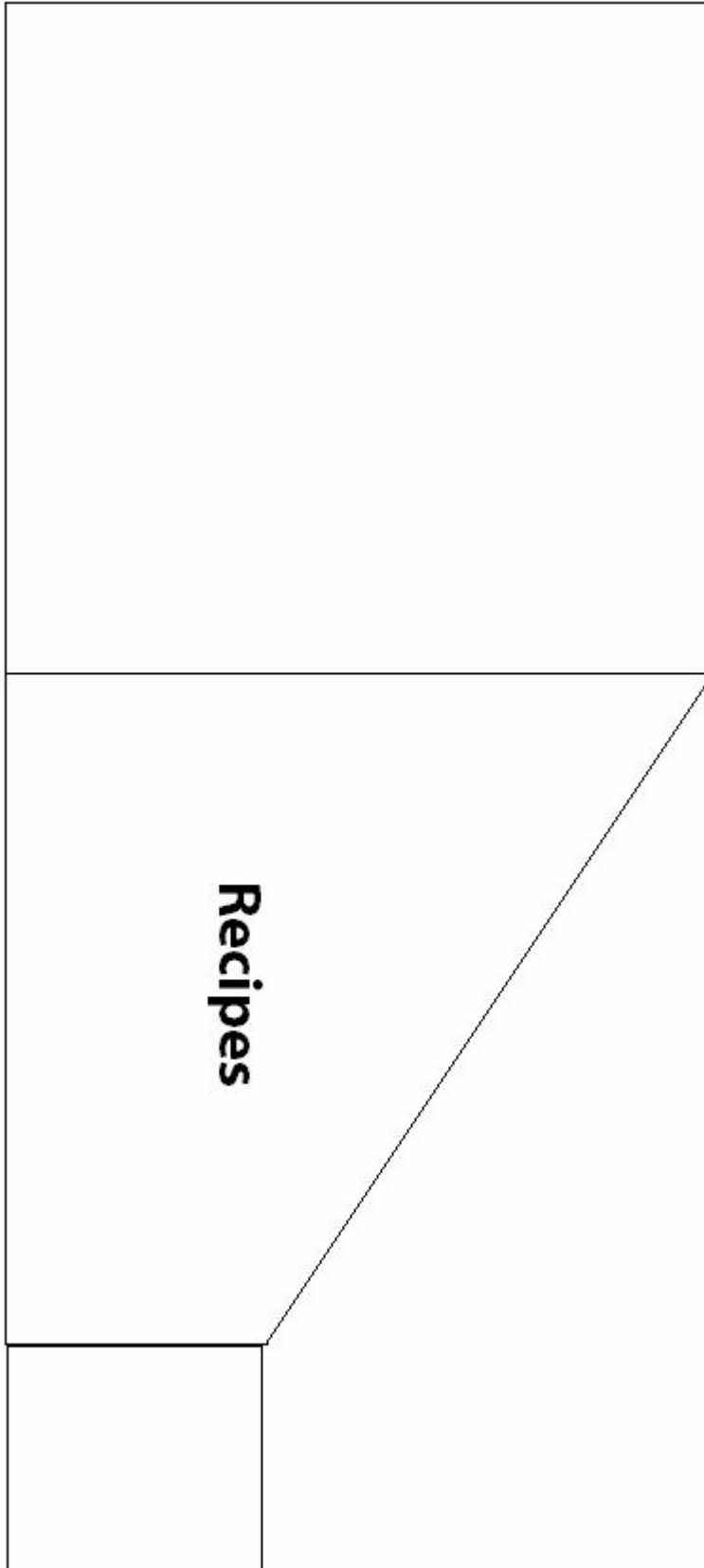
List the names of South African towns named after famous trekker leaders. Write more than one per page in the wagon-wheel concertina booklet, if necessary. Use an atlas to help you.



Weapons and Hunting



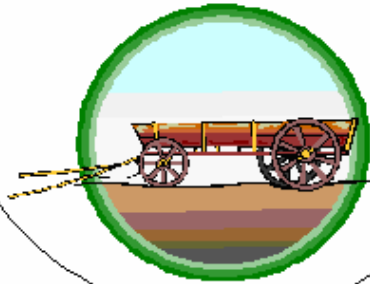
On the tri-fold booklet, write about trekker weapons and hunting. Cut and paste the picture and label on the front cover.



Cut out the recipe pocket and glue the small flap onto the back surface before gluing the pocket down on the file folder.

Insert the recipe cards for making biltong and rusks.

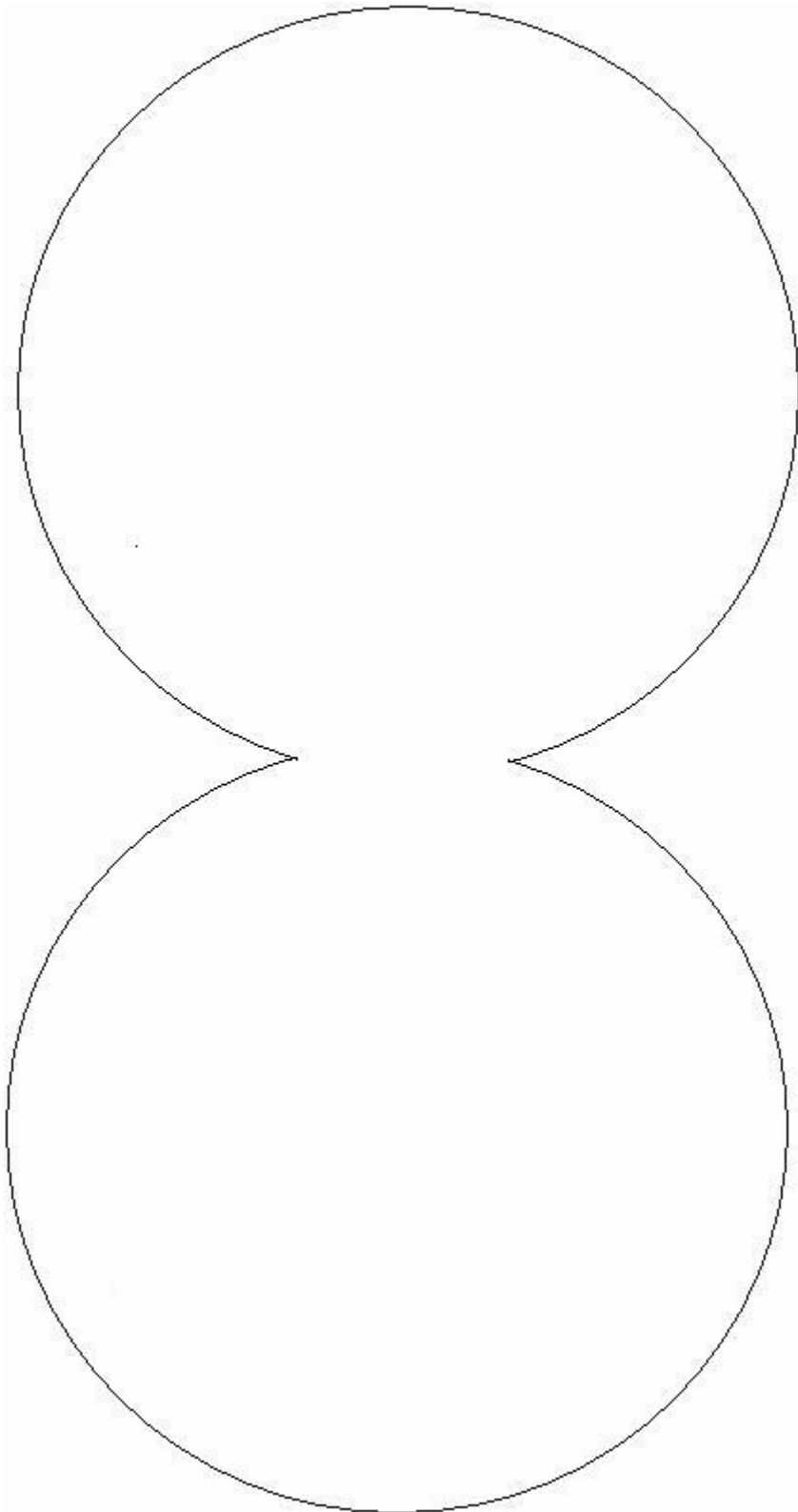
Main Causes of the Great Trek



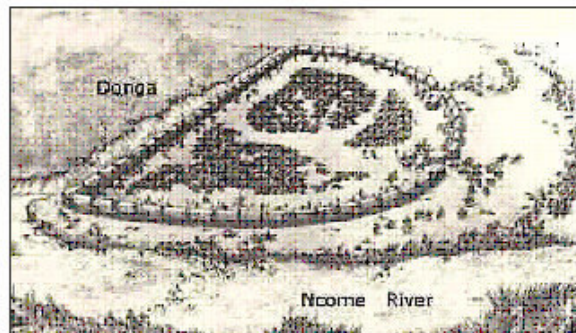
List in each circle, one of the three main reasons why the Voortrekkers left the Cape Colony. Paste the label below the circles. Place the circles on top of each other to make a fan booklet and fasten them with a brad.

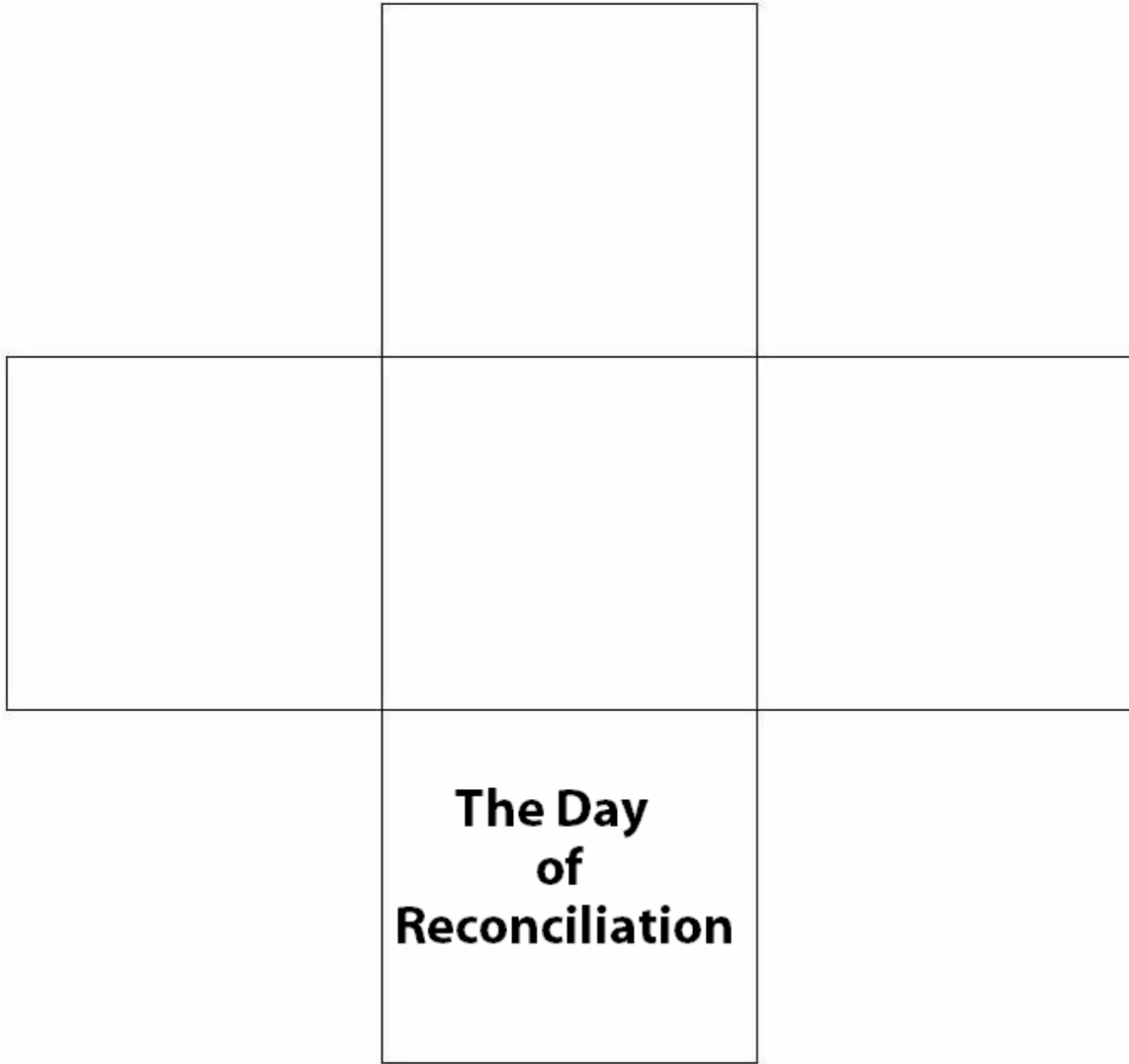
Umgungundlovu

Draw a picture of the layout of Umgungundlovu on the front of the circle booklet and write about Dingaan and Retief inside.

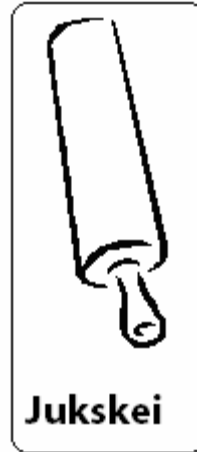
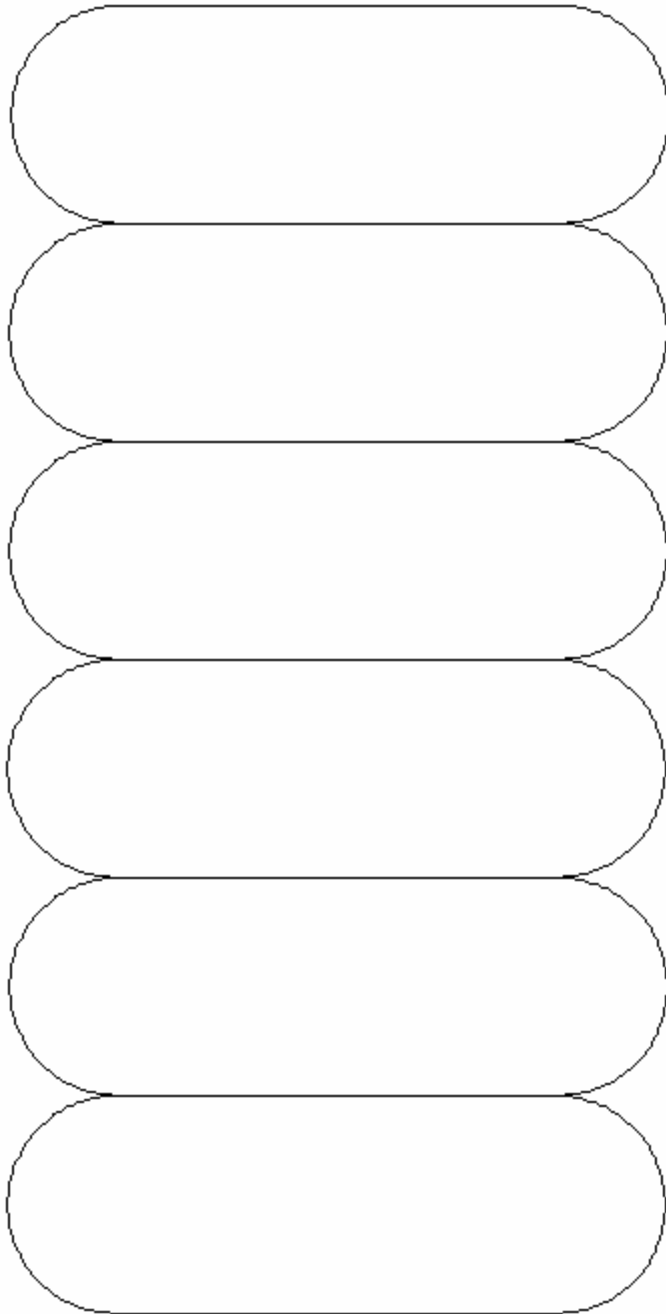


The Battle of Blood River





Inside the cross-fold booklet, write about the Day of Reconciliation. What date is it celebrated and why?



Fold the concertina booklet on the lines of each segment. Across the side that has no lines, write about the origins of the sport, Jukseis. Cut and paste the label on the front of the concertina booklet and glue it to your file folder

The Great Trek Crossword



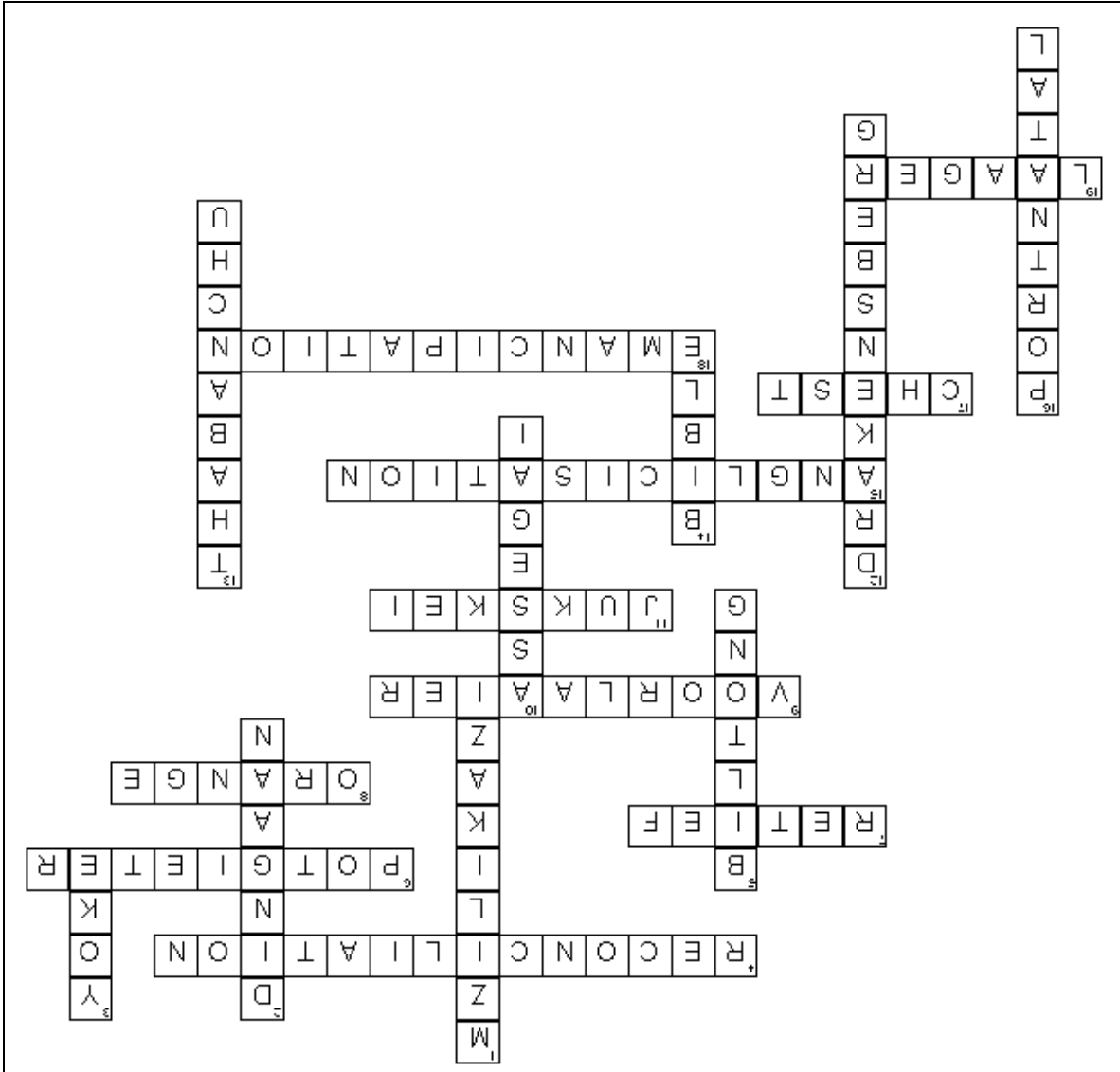
ACROSS

4. Modern purpose of 18 December
6. Founder of Potchefstroom
7. He published a manifesto
8. The longest river in SA
9. Voortrekker gun type
11. Voortrekker sport
15. Policy of replacing Dutch with English as the official language
17. Wooden box
18. Liberation of slaves
19. Enclosure of wagons in formation

DOWN

1. Chief of the Matabele
2. Zulu chief
3. Placed over a pair of oxens' necks to inspan them.
5. Preserved meat
10. Zulu weapon
12. Largest mountain range in South Africa
13. Place where many trekkers first gathered
14. Voortrekker school book
16. Durban's earlier name

Answer Key to Great Trek Crossword (upside down)



The Great Trek Word Search



VOORLOPER
MANIFESTO
MATABELE
CHASSIS
CANOPY
VEGKOP
MOSEGA
ORANGE
WHEELS

BONNET
WAGON
SPEAR
RIVER
WAKIS
WHIP
IMPI
VAAL
ZULU
UMGUNGUNDLOVU

Date	Event	Picture
1835 -36		
1836		
1837		
1838, Feb April		
1838, Dec		

1843		
1844		
1848		
1852		
1854		

Cut out the date summary templates and glue the bottom one onto the last block of the top one. Cut out the events cards, arrange them next to the correct dates and glue them in place. Match the corresponding pictures or flags and glue them too.

You could print the pictures again and paste them on a timeline chart or in a timeline book too, if you have one.



Clues to help you:

- Republic of the Orange Free State - orange/white striped flag
- South African Republic – red, white, blue and green flag
- British flag – red, white and blue crosses

Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek established.	Natal annexed as a British Colony.
Boers from Natal cross the Drakensburg and settle at Potchefstroom.	Battle of Blood River, Trekker victory Republiek of Natalia established.
Voortrekkers reach Transvaal and Free State Battle of Vegkop. Matabele driven north to Marico Valley.	Retief publishes his Manifesto Potgieter and Uys drive Matabele over Limpopo River. Trichardt arrives in Lourenco Marques.
Trichardt, van Rensburg and Potgieter leave Cape.	Retief and co. murdered by Dingaan. Battle of Italeni, Zulus defeat Trekkers
Boers cross the Vaal River. Orange River Sovereignty established. Battle of Boomplaats.	Orange Free State Republic established.



The Great Trek



The Great Trek



