

Grade 8 Social Sciences Worksheet

Industrialisation and urbanisation in South Africa

In the final year of the South African war, the British army practised a 'scorched earth' policy to break the back of Afrikaner resistance.

- 1.1 Why did the British resort to a 'scorched earth' policy?
- 1.2 What happened to the women and children who were forced off the land by the policy?
2. What impact did this have on the Afrikaner rural economy, after the war was over, between 1902 and 1910?
3. What were the advantages of forming a union between the defeated Boer Republics, the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, and Natal and the Cape Colony?

A series of laws were passed between the end of the South African War and the Native Lands Act in 1913 that greatly restricted how and where Africans could farm. In addition, in 1905 East Coast Fever caused tens of thousands of cattle to be killed.

4. What impact did all these events have on African and Boer farmers?
5. What factors led to the Native Lands Act being passed?

Source 1

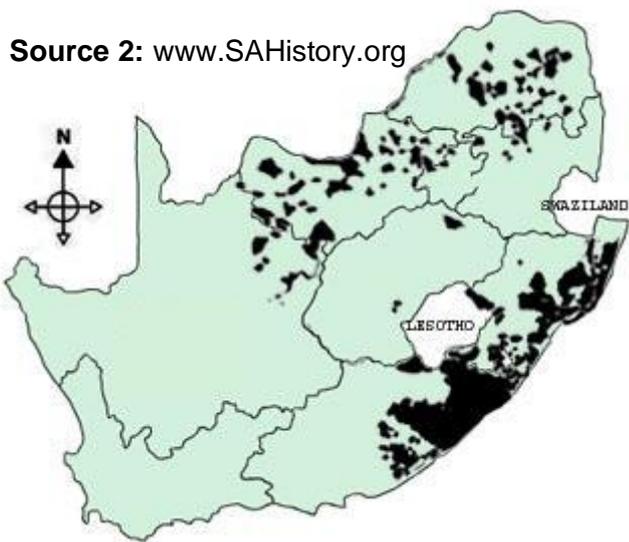
The cruelty and suffering imposed on African tenants is vividly described in Sol Plaatje's book, *Native Life in South Africa*:

"The baas has exacted from him the services of himself, his wife and his oxen, for wages of 30 shilling a month, whereas Kgobadi had been making over £100 a year, besides retaining the services of his wife and of his cattle for himself. When he refused the extortionate terms, the baas retaliated with a Dutch note, dated the 30th day of June 1913, which ordered him to 'betake himself from the farm' of the undersigned, by sunset of the same day, failing which his stock would be seized and impounded, and himself handed over to the authorities for trespassing on the farm."

(Plaatjie, S.T. (1916). *Native Life in South Africa*, London: PS King, p 87)

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- 6.1 What percentage of land was allocated to the African people in the Native Lands Act?
- 6.2 Describe in words the position of the 'Native Lands' as shown on the map (Source 2).
- 6.3 What made this small percentage even worse?
- 6.4 Write a paragraph, stating what you think happened to Kgobadi in the above extract (Source 1).



1914 – 1918

During World War I, 146 000 Whites, 83 000 Africans and 2 000 coloured men volunteered for service. Many Africans saw the World Wars as 'white man's wars'.

7. Do you think the above statistics support this view? Justify your answer.
- 8.1 What two events threatened the growth of the South African economy between 1924 and 1934?
- 8.2 What impact did these events have on the rural population?
9. The United Party was formed in 1934. What did the new government do that caused the economy to boom, but made the plight of rural African even worse?

Source 3: www.sahistory.org

1923 – The Native Urban Areas Act

This law controlled how many Africans could come into the cities and restricted their rights once they were in the cities.

1927 – The Native Administration Act

This gave the government the right to separate communities along ethnic and/or racial lines.

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1932 – The Native Service Contract Act

Tenants on white-owned farms now had to work between three and six months for the landowner or pay a heavy tax of five pounds. It was also illegal for tenants to leave the farms on which they worked without written permission.

1936 – The Native Land and Trust Act

This Act increased the land which Africans could own from 7,5% to about 14%. But it placed more controls over tenancy on farms.

1937 – The Native Laws Amendment Act

The number of Africans entering the cities was further restricted. Africans were only allowed to stay in the urban areas if they had a job.

- 10.1 Which two politically powerful groups placed pressure on the government to introduce the above laws?
 - 10.2 What was the overall purpose of this group of laws?
 - 10.3 What do you think would have happened if Africans had been allowed to vote at this time?
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11. How did the two world wars benefit the South African economy?

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Suggested Solutions

- 1.1 The Boers had resorted to guerrilla (commando) war, getting their supplies off the farms. Without food off the farms the Boers commandos were starved into defeat.
- 1.2 They were either put in concentration camps, where about 20 000 died, or they fled to the cities, particularly Johannesburg, to try to find work.

2. The farms were destroyed, and they had no capital to start again. Many farmers left their farms and went to the cities. This was the start of the 'poor white' problem.

3. The country as a whole was rich in resources and would be easier to govern as one country, with one transport system and common economic and political policies. The Boer Republics were broken by the South African War and they saw benefit in joining with the British colonies.

4. White farmers gained land and became increasingly wealthy, while black farmers were made poorer with less land.

5. White farmers had found it increasingly difficult to compete with black farmers and also felt threatened by the large numbers of black tenant farmers. It strengthened the position of white farmers, giving them bigger and more fertile farms at the expense of African farmers, who were gradually forced off the best land.

- 6.1 7.5 %
- 6.2 Large blocks of Zulu and Xhosa land in the South East, scattered patches of land in the North West. No land in the South West and central interior.
- 6.3 A lot of the land was infertile or too steep or had too little rain to be farmed successfully.
- 6.4 He probably sold his cattle and went to the city to look for work. His family probably went to live in one of the 'Native Reserves'.

7. Although 83 000 Africans did go to the War, this was a small proportion compared to the whites, as there were many more Africans in South Africa than whites. Nevertheless, the War offered young black men steady pay and an opportunity to travel and have some adventure. Black men were generally not put into combat positions, which suggested that the government rather than the black soldiers regarded it as a white man's war.

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- 8.1 Drought and the Great Depression
- 8.2 Both African and Afrikaner farming communities were devastated by these events, leading to a massive flow of people into the cities.

9. They provided economic support to white farmers, giving them low-cost loans to buy machinery. They also protected local industry, which allowed large industrial firms a chance to establish themselves.

- 10.1 Mining companies and white farmers
- 10.2 To limit the growth of the black urban population and to protect white farmers from competition. To stabilise the labour market in the mines.
- 10.3 South Africa would probably be one of the richest nations on Earth. Accept any sensible answer about the value of democracy to economic growth.

11. Forced South Africa to start making many goods locally, especially steel, on which so many other industries depend.