

Marikana Massacre Lesson Materials

On 16th August 2012, 34 workers on strike for a living wage were murdered by the police at a platinum mine owned by a British company called Lonmin.

In this powerpoint presentation you will find resources for a two lesson sequence about the Marikana Massacre. It is publicly available to all teachers and educators working with children and young people across Key Stages 3-5, and higher or further education settings, on issues relating to: colonialism and neo-colonialism, resource extraction, labour rights, and social movements.

On the 10th anniversary of the Massacre, these resources have been made to ensure that the ongoing struggles for justice and reparations in Marikana are amplified, and that the perpetrators and beneficiaries are held to account.

We welcome all feedback about their content and pedagogy, and hope to learn about how they have been applied!



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Date:

Title: Colonialism in Africa

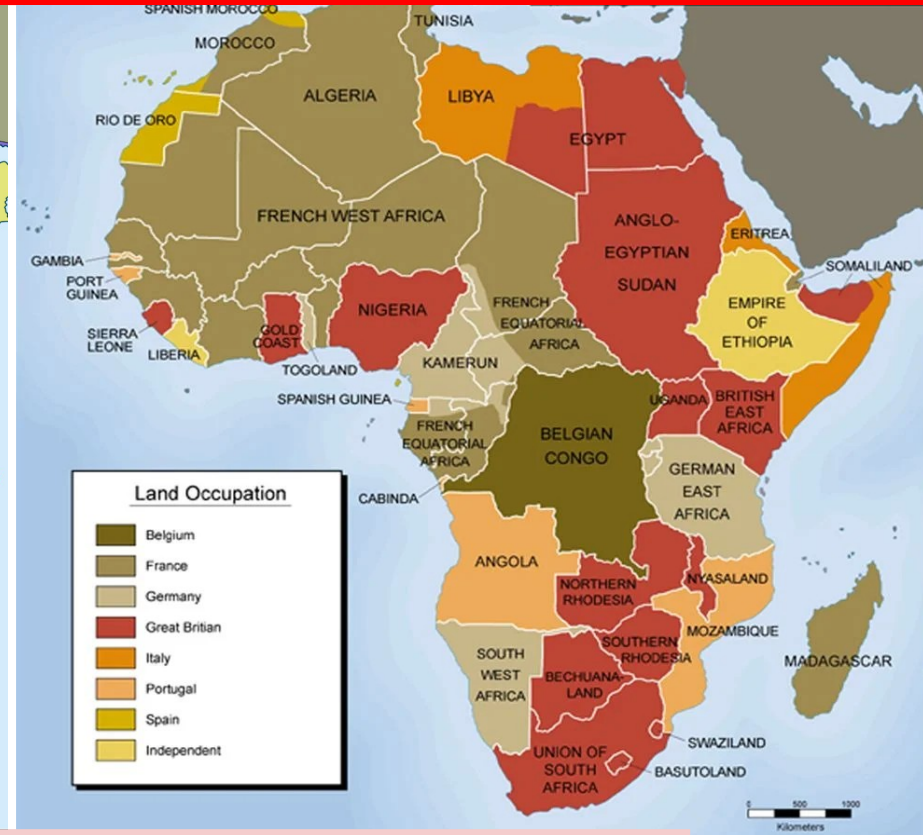
Starter Activity:

Make a mind-map in your books of everything you know about Africa!
Examples: countries, cities, history, environment, people, culture

Africa



Think, Pair, Share: What do you think these two maps of Africa show? What is the difference between them?

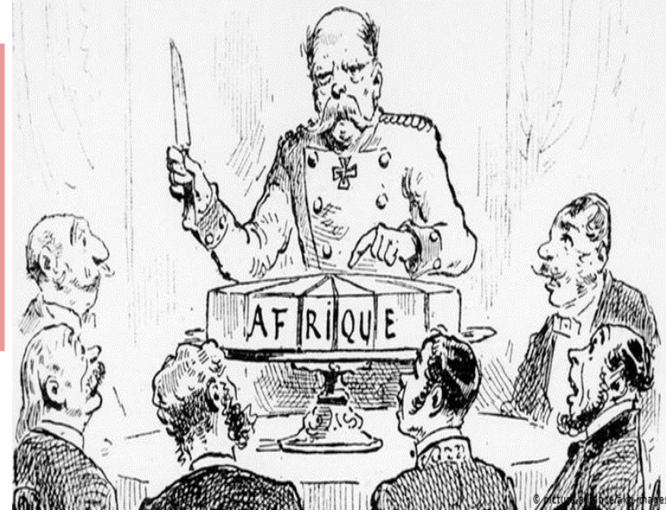


Challenge: Which one looks most like the map we see of Africa today?

Colonialism: taking political control over another country and exploiting it economically.

Geographical Example: By 1914, most of Africa was under the colonial rule of European empires.

Application Task: What impacts do you think colonialism has? Write down your ideas! (Think SEEP: Social, economic, environmental, political)



Watch and Write! While watching this short video of colonialism in southern Africa - take notes to add any impacts you hear to your list!

TRT WORLD

Colonisation of South Africa



THE DIVISION OF THE COUNTRY
WHITE AREA
DE WITTE GEBIED
BLANKE GEBIED

When
the white man
arrived

Challenge: Categorise the impacts using SEEP!



SOCIAL



ENVIRONMENTAL



ECONOMIC



POLITICAL

Guided Reading Activity: How does the history of European colonialism in Africa influence the geography of the continent today?

1. **Draw a table** in your books with two columns:
 - How colonialism benefited Britain
 - How colonialism harmed Africa
1. **Read** the information sheet about colonialism in South Africa.
2. Use two colours to **highlight** anything you read that **benefits the colonial power** (Britain and Netherlands) and anything that **harms the colonised country** (South Africa)
3. **Complete** your table!

Extension: What is the most significant impact of colonialism?



Settler colonialism and slavery in South Africa

In 1652, Jan van Riebeeck, an employee of the Dutch East India Company, landed at the southern tip of Africa. His mission was to create a post where he could supply ships headed to Asia. Dutch settlers soon started grabbing more land for themselves and encouraging farmers to move to the Cape. These settlers became known as the Boers.

As the Dutch colony started to grow and become more profitable, the settlers needed more labour. The Dutch captured people from East Asia and East Africa, and the Cape became a slave society for 176 years. More than 60,000 people were either brought into slavery or born as slaves in the colony. Soon, settlers from all over Europe started arriving in southern Africa until the British arrived and took over the colony in 1806. This led to the Boers travelling further inland, dispossessing more Indigenous Africans along the way.



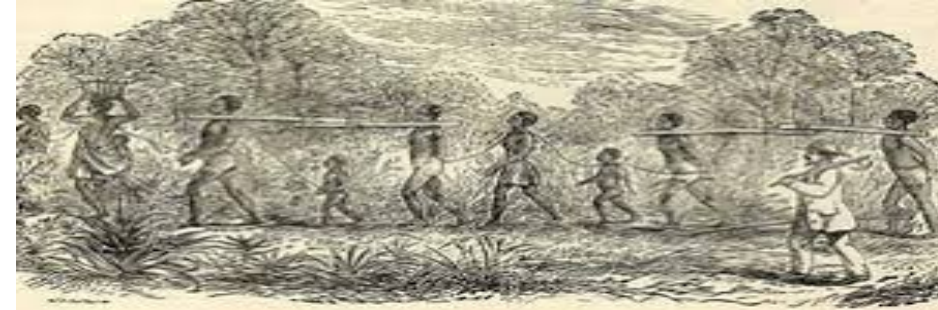
Key words:

Settler: a person who moves to live in a new country or area, often removing people indigenous to the area.

Labour: work

Dispossess: to take away someone's land, property or other possessions

Indigenous: someone who originates from a particular place



Europe's Industrial Revolution and the Scramble for Africa

As the Industrial Revolution began in Europe, colonial powers wanted to exploit Africa's land, natural resources, and labour. When fourteen European countries met at the Berlin Conference (1884-5), they divided the continent between themselves without any Africans present, known as the 'Scramble for Africa.' The borders drawn in Berlin ignored the diversity of ethnic groups, cultures and languages in Africa. Instead, these borders prevented European competition turning into conflict and allowed colonial rulers to divide and rule Indigenous populations more effectively.

However, when large discoveries of diamonds and gold were made at the end of the 19th century in southern Africa, intense conflict erupted between British and Dutch settlers. Cecil Rhodes' British South Africa Company forced Boers and Africans into the first concentration camps, where more than 46,000 people died of disease and starvation. The Boers and British eventually joined together to create the Union of South Africa in 1910. The first act of this new state was to grab 87% of the country's land for white occupation, and force 80% of the African population into overcrowded 'native reserves.' Africans were only allowed to leave to work in white households, farms, plantations, factories and mines.

Key words:

Exploit: to use something or someone in an unfair way

Domination: exercise power or influence over someone

Occupation: to take control of a place by military force

Plantation: a large estate on which crops like coffee, sugar or tobacco are grown

Concentration camp: a place where large numbers of people are imprisoned in a small area.



Resistance and apartheid in South Africa

Colonisation always leads to resistance. For example, after British employers introduced a tax to pressure Zulu men to enter mines and plantations as workers, the chief of the Zondi clan Bambatha launched a rebellion in Natal Colony. Equipped with only spears and sticks, up to 4,000 Zulus were killed by machine gun fire, with 36 British soldiers dying on the other side.

In 1948, apartheid was introduced by the white minority government. Africans were denied any rights to education, healthcare, housing or political participation. Between 1960 and 1990, at least 3.5 million Africans were displaced from their homes, and 25,000 were killed in political violence, including the massacre of 69 demonstrators in Sharpeville in 1960 and 176 students during the 1976 Soweto uprising. Britain and the Netherlands continued to support apartheid for access to South Africa's natural resources, which sustained essential industries like aircraft and automobile manufacturing. By the end of apartheid in 1994, British mining company Anglo American controlled half of South Africa's private industry.

South Africa remains the most unequal economy in the world: approximately 70% of the country's land is in the hands of the 9% minority white population.

Key words:

Resistance: the refusal to accept or comply with something

Tax: a compulsory financial charge to fund government spending

Displace: force someone to leave their home

Massacre: to deliberately and brutally kill many people

Apartheid: a system of segregation and discrimination on the basis of race or ethnicity



How colonialism benefits Britain and Netherlands

- Trading posts to trade with rest of world
- Grabbing land for farming crops and natural resources like gold and diamonds
- Enslaved people provide free labour
- Borders in Africa allowed colonial rulers to divide and rule Indigenous populations more effectively.
- Developed advanced weaponry like Maxim guns to keep themselves in power when Indigenous people rebel
- Raw materials developed aircraft and automobile manufacturing.
- British mining company Anglo American controlled half of South Africa's private industry.

How colonialism harms South Africa

- 87% land of land dispossessed
- Cape became a slave society for 176 years. More than 60,000 people were either brought into slavery or born as slaves in the colony.
- Borders ignored the diversity of ethnic groups, cultures and languages in Africa
- Forced into concentration camps and native reserves and only allowed to leave to work in white households, farms, plantations, factories and mines.
- Forced to pay taxes to colonial governments.
- Denied any access to education, healthcare, housing or political participation
- 3.5 million Africans were displaced from their homes
- 25,000 killed in political violence, including the massacre of 69 demonstrators in Sharpeville in 1960 and 176 students during the 1976 Soweto uprising
- Remains the most unequal economy in the world: 70% of the country's land is in the hands of the 9% minority white population.

The most significant impact of colonialism is...

Debate: Has colonialism impacted Africa today?

Draw out the opinion scale and put an X for your opinion. Next, write a sentence justifying your opinion
e.g. *I think that colonialism has impacted Africa to a (limited, moderate, significant) extent because...*



5.

No impact
at all

Massive impact



Date:

Title: The Marikana Massacre

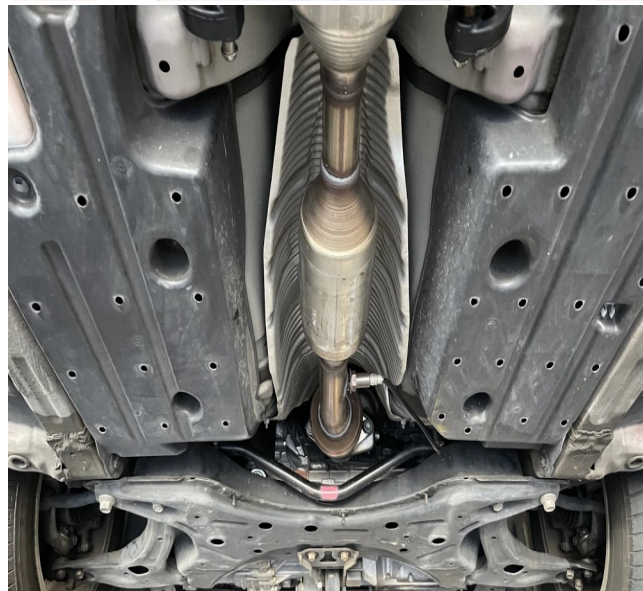
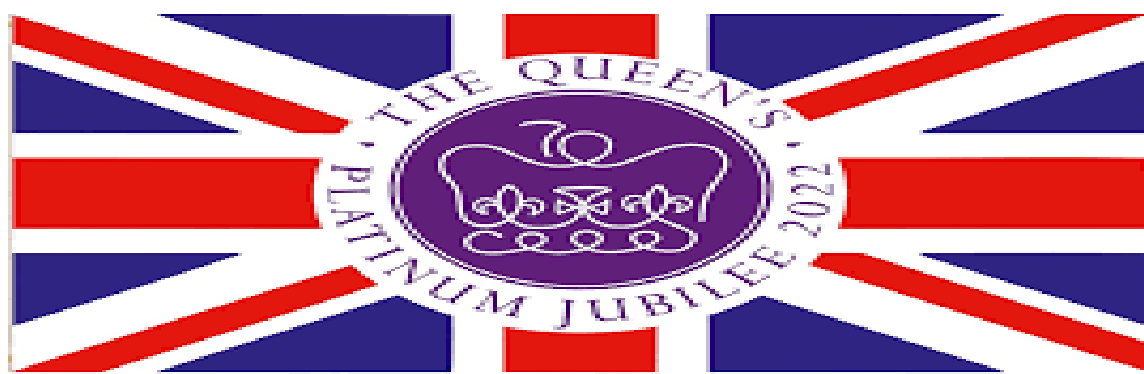
Retrieval Practice:

Write down three impacts of colonialism in South Africa.

Challenge: Rank the impacts and explain what you think the most significant impact of colonialism is in South Africa.



Think, Pair, Share: What makes platinum so special? Write down your ideas!



Platinum is the most expensive metal in the world, making it a popular item of jewellery. It is dense, durable and the least reactive metal on the periodic table. Up to 70% of platinum is consumed by the automobile and industrial sectors, including in catalytic converters for engines.

Catalytic converters change harmful substances, such as carbon monoxide into less harmful substances like carbon dioxide and water vapour by chemical reactions.

The largest platinum mining company in the world is based in London, called Anglo American. However, 80% of global deposits of platinum are located in the Bushveld complex in southern Africa.



Source: Bloomberg, WPC Research

Strike: a refusal to work, typically in an attempt to gain something from an employer.

Geographical Example: The workers at the platinum mine went on strike for over five months.

Application task: Why do you think workers might go on strike? Write down your ideas!



Watch and Write! While watching this documentary about the Marikana Massacre, take notes answering the three questions (Evaluate, Explain, Describe) on your sheet!

MARIKANA, SOUTH AFRICA

FOUR YEARS ON, LITTLE HAS CHANGED.



Creative Writing Activity: Striking Perspectives

Choose one of the following characters to represent and write a narrative story about the Marikana Massacre.

- **Character 1:** You are a rock-driller in the platinum mine at Marikana. Your wage is £450 a month and you have a young family to support.
- **Character 2:** You are the wife of a mineworker living in the community surrounding Marikana mine. You have three young children, and you wake up every morning at 4am to prepare the uniform and food for your husband.
- **Character 3:** You are the chief executive of Lonmin, the mining company. Your salary is over £100,000 a month.
- **Character 4:** You are a minister in the government of South Africa responsible for the mining industry.

Success Criteria: Can you include your character's views about...

- Why the strike happened. (**Challenge:** Can you link this to last lessons key word?)
- The response by Lonmin and the South African government.
- What you think should happen now, ten years after the Massacre.

