The Cape colony in the early 19th century

Arrival of the British and the expanding frontiers of European settlement

The Dutch were the first European settlers in the Cape, but lost the Cape colony to the British during the Battle of Muizenberg in 1795. The British took control of the refreshment station which supplied trade ships on their way to the East with fresh food and water. This led to an increase in beneficial trade between Britain and India.

From 1803 to 1806, the Dutch regained control of the Cape once more, only to lose it to the British, following the Battle of Blaauwberg defeat of the Boers, due to the British’s superior weapons and a well-trained army.

In 1807, Britain abolished slave trading in the British empire; it was now illegal to trade slaves. Full emancipation of slaves came 26 years later in 1834. In the Cape, however, slaves endured a four-year period of “apprenticeship” with their owners, preparing them for their freedom in 1838.

The Boers living within the British colony of the Cape owned slaves who worked as labourers on their farms and in their homes, so they were not happy about slave emancipation.

They opposed it because farming would become too expensive as farmers were forced to pay for workers. While the British government helped the farmers financially, the forced emancipation of slaves caused further tension between the Boers and the British.

This led to the Anglo-Dutch Treaty of 1824 being signed by the Boers and the British, where certain peaceful terms were agreed upon. The Boers were allowed to keep their homes and the land which they lived on; the Dutch language would remain the official language of the Cape; and religious freedom was not taken away from the people living in the Cape Colony.

Many of the Boers left the Cape colony because of the abolition of slavery. Boers went in search of fertile land, moving into territories occupied by indigenous people. This migration away from the Cape became known as The Great Trek. These Trek Boers (as the farmers were known) went in search of fresh grazing for their cattle, leading a semi-nomadic existence, moving between summer and winter pastures.

1807 Slave trading abolished in Britain

Name:
As farmers moved further away from the Cape, so the Trek Boers were expanding the eastern frontiers. The Trek Boers came into contact with the Khoikhoi and Xhosa, often resulting in conflict over land. As the Trek Boers had guns and rode on horseback, they had an advantage over the indigenous people. During the second half of the 16th century, the Xhosa encountered eastward-moving white pioneers or Trek Boers in the region of the Fish River. This caused great tension between the two groups of people, over the struggle for water, grazing and living space.

Activity 1:
1. Draw a timeline showing all the important dates mentioned in the section above. Write a short, brief description for each date. (10 marks)
The eastern frontier of European settlement
Frontier wars on the eastern frontier of European settlement

Although the contact between the Trek Boers and the Xhosa caused conflict over the fertile land and water supplies, it also resulted in trade between them.

As the Trek Boers moved eastwards and the expansion increased, conflict over land was inevitably. The Xhosa fought in nine wars, over approximately 100 years. These wars helped the British:

- Establish the border between the Fish and Sunday’s Rivers, helped move the border west of the Sunday’s River.
- Gain the upper hand and drive the Xhosa from the Zuurveld, establishing a new border at Great Fish River and eventually again at Keiskmma River.
- Eventually colonise all remaining independent Xhosa land.

These nine wars gradually deprived the Xhosa of their own independence and subjugated them to British colonial rule.

Did You Know?
Fort Hare was a British Fort built in the 19th century during the nine wars, to help the British defend the eastern frontier from the Xhosa. Today Fort Hare is a University just 50km outside of King William’s Town. Some influential leaders attended Fort Hare, among them Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo of the African National Congress, Mangosuthu Buthelezi of the Inkatha Freedom Party, Desmond Tutu, Kenneth Kaunda, and Robert Mugabe.

Find it @ www.
Dates of the nine frontier wars and how the border shifted between the Cape Colony and the independent Xhosa states:
http://goo.gl/Im0fS8

Activity 2:
Use the website provided above, and write a paragraph summarising the events and the outcome of the nine wars. Focus on how these nine wars slowly deprived the Xhosa of their own independence. (15 marks)
Case study: Chief Maqoma (1798 – 1873) and Xhosa resistance to British rule

Chief Maqoma is a well-known Xhosa chief who was born in 1798 to Chief Ngqika. He was described as the greatest commanders of the Cape Frontier Wars because of his intelligence and military leadership.

Maqoma was trained in military forces of the Xhosa and became a leader of his father’s military forces. Chief Maqoma led an attack during the 5th Frontier War, when the British drove the Xhosa from their land in the Kat River Valley. This angered Maqoma at the time. Chief Maqoma was against his father’s willingness...
of giving land to the British for the Cape Colony, and became committed to regaining the Xhosa land. Maqoma moved west of Chief Nqiqika’s land, taking position of the neutral land in 1822, where he then established a new chiefdom. He tried to maintain the traditional lands, power and social structures of the Xhosa, while the British tried to destroy the Xhosa. In 1829

Maqoma was hounded by colonial raids and then expelled from his own land, when Chief Nqiqika died.

Maqoma and Tyali, his half-brother, faced increased military pressure from the colony and were forced to take a stand to prevent further dispossession of the Xhosa land. Although conquered by colonial invasion in 1835, Maqoma remained the most powerful chief and by 1837 the British ordered an urgent request to withdraw troops.

In 1847, Maqoma re-emerged when the Xhosa were forced to surrender to the colonial rule over the Rharhabe. Maqoma once more used his military skills and knowledge to lead a guerrilla campaign in the forested mountains and valleys of the Waterkloof.

Maqoma was imprisoned on Robben Island for 12 years, and then paroled in 1869. He attempted to resettle on his stolen land, however, was banished to Robin Island, where he died in 1873.

This Xhosa Chief, Maqoma’s legacy lives on. Through oral traditions, colonial and missionary documents we learn about a man of considerable intellect and eloquence, striving to maintain traditional social structures and the power of Xhosa aristocracy in the face of colonial depredations and dispossession. He is remembered for his extraordinary tenacity, flexibility and political and martial skills.

Activity 3:
1. Maqoma is described as being a well-known Xhosa chief. Write a detailed paragraph explaining why Maqoma was well-known. (5)
2. Write a definition for each of the following words: (4)
   a. Dispossession
   b. Guerrilla
Andries Stockenström (1792 – 1864)
Sir Andries Stockenström was born on the 6th July 1792 in Cape Town and died on the 16th March 1864 in London. He is well known for his efforts in preventing the colonists from entering the Xhosa lands. This made him very unpopular with the British settlers, hindering colonisation within South Africa. Historian Christopher Saunders said this about Stockenström: “No man in the 19th century Cape had greater breadth of vision, none gained the respect of a wider constituency, black as well as white.”

During the nineteenth century, the Cape frontier suffered a number of Frontier Wars, between the Cape Colony and the British Empire, and then against the Xhosa chiefs. Although Stockenström was a highly trained soldier and fought during the frontier wars, over time he became sympathetic towards the Xhosa. He was against soldiers and farmers who raided and burnt Xhosa homesteads because they suspected the Xhosa had stolen cattle. Stockenström felt strongly that the British colonists were responsible for the unfair treatment of the Xhosa, and this is what prompted Stockenström to introduce a new system of treaties to establish peace and respect between the British settlers and the Xhosa.

Once Stockenström’s father was murdered, he was appointed to his father’s position, where he assisted Colonel John Graham on the Fish River Frontier. He was later appointed as assistant landdrost of Graaff-Reinet, by Governor Sir John Cradock, and then in the newly founded town of Cradock.

During his last year as Landdroost, Stockenström lobbied for Ordinance 50 (1828) to allow the right for the Khoi-khoi to own their own land. He worked to set aside fertile land for settlement of the Khoi and Griqua population. Stockenström had worked and fought closely with the Khoi and therefore “claimed to hold their bravery and loyalty in high esteem”. He granted this group of people with equal rights to the land which is now known as the “Kat River Khoi Settlement”.

A severe drought caused an increase in the cattle raiding, in 1842. This led to a gradual increase in violence again along the frontier. However, Stockenström continued to peacefully negotiate between the British settlers and the Xhosa. His health declined and his health never did improve. He was not supported very well by the European soldiers, merchants and farmers, and so resigned from office.

Failing health saw him resign his seat in March 1856, and he left the colony the following month. He lived for a while...
in Nice, Naples and England, returned to the Cape in 1860, and again went to London in 1862, where he eventually died of the bronchitis that had plagued him for years. He was buried in Kensal Green Cemetery, London.

Activity 4:
Write two diary entries by Andries Stockenström: (20 marks)
a. The first entry must be based on his early life as a soldier protecting the British settlers.
b. The second entry must be based on his later years, trying to establish peace among the British government and the Xhosa.

British immigration
The British 1820 Settlers in the Cape were immigrants from Britain. They arrived in March 1820, in South Africa for various reasons and looking for new opportunities to make a new life. Some left Britain because of unemployment after the Napoleonic wars. Therefore these settlers were encouraged by the British government to immigrate to the Cape colony. Lord Somerset, the Governor of the Cape, was for this development as it would consolidate and help defend the eastern frontier. This would also increase the number of English speaking Europeans in the Cape. These immigrants are considered to be the first 1820 settlers who travelled aboard the Nautilus and the Chapman, and arrived in Table Bay on the 17th March 1820. Between April and June of 1820, approximately 4 000 British settlers arrived in the Cape. Some of these settlers were given farms, farming equipment and food. They were sent to the likes of Algoa Bay, known today as Port Elizabeth. However, as many of these settlers were not experienced farmers, they were unable to make a life in the rural areas. Due to factors such as drought, poor production of crops, and lack of transport, many of these settlers moved into towns such as Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown and East London.
Abolition of slavery 1836

Once the British took over the rule of the Cape Colony in 1806, they set about doing away with the inhumane slave trade. In 1806, there were approximately 30 000 slaves. This number made up half of the total population in the Cape Colony. However, after the abolition of slavery the number of slaves started to diminish. Slavery in the Cape Colony was officially abolished in 1834. This meant that the 30 000 slaves were imported from their native countries were now freed. Although slaves were freed, they were still bonded to their owners because of an “apprenticeship” for four years. The British government offered to pay the slave owners a compensation as the slave owners would lose their “property”.

Slavery in the Cape Colony was officially abolished in 1834

The British made it illegal to capture, buy and sell new slaves. However, it was not illegal for already owned slaves to be kept. This was because the British were concerned about tension and unrest which could have resulted in the Cape Colony as the Dutch who owned slaves were opposed to the abolition of slavery.

Activity 5:

Choose one of the topics below and write a letter to your family: (10 marks)

I. You are a slave owner who is about to lose all your slaves because of the abolition of slavery. Explain to your family your worries of what may happen as well as the prospect of compensation from the British government.

II. You are a slave who has been freed from slavery. Write to your family telling them about your joy of being freed, about the four years of apprenticeship and your plans for the future.
Boers migrate and move into the interior: Great Trek

With the emancipation of the slaves by the British in 1835, the Boers in the Cape Colony did not agree with the slaves being emancipated. They would be forced to now treat the slaves as equals. Some Boers sold their farms while others were unable to sell and simply abandoned them, and left with whatever possessions they could carry in the ox wagons. This led to approximately 10 000 Boers, also known as Voortrekkers, to leave the Cape, away from the British rule and to try find new unoccupied land. This was known as the Great Trek.

Read the following manifesto written by Piet Retief.

MANIFESTO OF THE EMIGRANT FARMER

The Graham's Town Journal, 2 February 1837.

A document has been handed to us, with a request to give it publicity, purporting to be the causes of the emigration of the colonial farmers—of which the following is a literal translation:-

Numerous reports having been circulated throughout the colony, evidently with the intention of exciting in the minds of our countrymen a feeling of prejudice against those who have resolved to emigrate from a colony where they have experienced for so many years past a series of the most vexatious and severe losses; and as we desire to stand high in the estimation of our brethren, and are anxious that they and the world at large should believe us incapable of severing that sacred tie which binds a Christian to his native soil, without the most sufficient reasons, we are induced to record the following summary of our motives for taking so important a step; and also our intentions respecting our proceedings towards the Native Tribes which we may meet with beyond the boundary.

1. We despair of saving the colony from those evils which threaten it by the turbulent and dishonest conduct of vagrants, who are allowed to infest the country in every part; nor do we see any prospect of peace or happiness for our children in a country thus distracted by internal commotions.

2. We complain of the severe losses which we have been forced to sustain by the emancipation of our slaves, and the vexatious laws which have been enacted respecting them.

3. We complain of the continual system of plunder which we have ever endured from the Africans and other coloured classes, and particularly by the last invasion of the colony, which has desolated the frontier districts, and ruined most of the inhabitant.
4. We complain of the unjustifiable odium which has been cast upon us by interested and dishonest persons, under the cloak of religion, whose testimony is believed in England to the exclusion of all evidence in our favour; and we can foresee as the result of this prejudice, nothing but the total ruin of the country.

5. We are resolved, wherever we go, that we will uphold the just principles of liberty; but whilst we will take care that no one shall be held in a state of slavery, it is our determination to maintain regulations as may suppress crime and preserve proper relations between Master and servant.

6. We solemnly declare that we quit this colony with a desire to lead a more quiet life than we have heretofore done. We will not molest any people, nor deprive them of the smallest property; but, if attacked, we shall consider ourselves fully justified in defending our persons and effects, to the utmost of our ability, against every enemy.

7. We make known, that when we shall have framed a code of laws for our future guidance, copies shall be forwarded to the colony for general information; but we take this opportunity of stating that it is our firm resolve to make provision for the summary punishment of any traitors who may be found amongst us.

8. We purpose, in the course of our journey, and on arriving at the country in which we shall permanently reside, to make known to the native tribes our intentions, and our desire to live in peace and friendly intercourse with them.

9. We quit this colony under the full assurance that the English government has nothing more to require of us, and will allow us to govern ourselves without its interference in future.

We are now quitting the fruitful land of our birth, in which we have suffered enormous losses and continual vexation, and are entering a wild and dangerous territory; but we go with a firm reliance on an all-seeing, just, and merciful Being, whom it will be our endeavour to fear and humbly to obey.

By authority of the farmers who have quitted the Colony,

(Signed) P. RETIEF.
Activity 6:
Research more information about Piet Retief. Write a paragraph summarising the life of Piet Retief. Your paragraph must consist of 6 to 8 lines, with well-constructed sentences, good grammar and no spelling errors. (20 marks)

Case Study: The lives of “inboekselings”
Follow the link and read the case study.

Activity 7:
Once you have read the case study, answer the questions which follow:

1. In your own words, explain the term “inboekselings”. (2)
2. Why were inboekselings used by the Voortrekkers? (2)
3. Explain what is meant by “a long term investment”? (2)
4. What is meant by “the boer commandos conducted a series of raids on African homesteads in search of black ivory”? (4)

The northern frontier of European settlement
Very little expansion occurred to the north of the Cape Colony because of the dry and infertile environment of that region. Farmers battled to farm and could only farm close to rivers or natural springs, because of the low rainfall and arid conditions.

The indigenous people of the area practiced transhumance. They did not establish permanent settlements but rather moved according to the season. They therefore were pastoralists, living off the milk and meat of their livestock, hunting wild animals and gathering wild berries and fruits.

Due to the barren conditions of the northern frontier, very few European settlers settled in the area. This led to many people fleeing to this area and it became a place of refuge for runaway slaves and soldiers, and escaped convicts. It was considered a wild and lawless place.

However, a group of runaway slaves and Europeans settled in this region. There were many mixed relationships resulting in a group of mixed-race people.
Expanding trade relationships on the northern frontier of European settlement

During the late 17th century European traders and hunters started moving into the Northern Cape, where they traded with the local people, the Kora and the Griqua. They were part of Khoikhoi people who chose to live a roving lifestyle, compared to the more settled life of the Griqua.

The Griqua were a mix of the indigenous people, slaves and the Europeans. The Kora and Griqua traded manufactured goods, such as tobacco and pack oxen from the Cape.

The Kora were part of Khoikhoi people

The Kora were a group of people living along the lower part of the Orange River.
The southern borders of the Tswana world:
Traded ivory, hides, skins and furs, iron and copper with Kora and Griqua

The Tswana people settled in an area which today is the Northern Cape and the North West Province. They lived in stone walled houses, walls covered in mud and thatched roofs. Archaeologists have found many remains of these buildings outside of present day towns of Zeerust and Rustenberg. They have estimated that these towns had a population of approximately 20 000 people.

The chiefs of this area became rich and powerful due to controlling the trade of goods. The Tswana traded iron, copper, ivory, hides, skins and furs in exchange for beads and cloth from European traders.

Activity 8:
Complete the table below by listing as many different items that you can, that the Tswana could make from the items which they traded. You may need to do some research to complete this table. The first one has been done for you: (10 marks)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traded item</th>
<th>Iron</th>
<th>copper</th>
<th>Ivory</th>
<th>Hides</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Items made</td>
<td>iron pick axes, blades, battle axes, hatchet axes, knives, spears</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Missionaries and traders

As more European missionaries and traders arrived in southern Africa in the 19th century. These traders brought new goods to southern Africa, like iron hoes, woven cloth and clothes. This helped enable the African farmers to successfully grow crops to sell traders.

The missionaries arrived in the hope to spread Christianity. They set up mission stations and slowly little villages grew in the sounding area of the mission station. Missionaries offered protection to the African people. They educated the people by teaching them to read and write, as well as taught them new trades, such as carpentry. Some Africans even learnt European languages and culture. Many of the African people were baptised as Christians.
Case study: Robert Moffat (1795 – 1883) at Kuruman

Robert Moffat was born on 21 December 1795 in Scotland. Before becoming a missionary he worked as a gardener and farmer. Robert had already been strongly influenced by the faith of his mother, when he pursued his new interest in missionary work.

On the 18th October 1816, Robert and four other missionaries set sail for Southern Africa, arriving at Cape Town on 17 January 1817. A year after his arrival, once he had learnt Dutch, he left the Cape, heading beyond the boundaries of the Cape Colony.

He worked closely with the African communities, preaching and building schools and hospitals. He also helped improve the farming techniques of the African farmers. Although preaching and educating the local people was his most important task, he was also renowned as a blacksmith and carpenter.

Because of the conflict in the area he had to often play the role as a neutral negotiator. He was therefore well trusted and respected by the local people. He and his wife, Mary, learnt the Thlaping dialect of Tswana.

Robert and his wife had 10 children, however only 5 children lived past childhood. Their eldest daughter married the famous missionary, David Livingstone.

Robert translated the entire Bible into an indigenous South African language. It took nearly 30 years to be completed in 1856.

An influential missionary and father-in-law to David Livingstone

Activity 9:
Research more about David Livingstone and create a poster showing all your interesting information about who he was. Remember he is a renowned missionary. (10 marks)