

History Grade 7

Term 4

2018

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British arrival and the expanding frontier

Vocabulary

Frontier: *an area of land where two different groups meet, and fight for control of the land.*

Empire: *a group of countries controlled by the government of another country.*

Indigenous people: *people who live in the place where they were born/local people.*

A **frontier** marks the edge of a known area, but a frontier is not a formal border. A frontier can lie on a boundary, such as a river or a mountain range. The main difference between a border and a frontier is that a frontier can change.

Before the Dutch arrived at the Cape, there was no frontier. The Dutch settlers began to move further and further away from Cape Town, eastwards and northwards, in search of land to live and farm on. As they moved, the Cape frontier moved too. As they moved into the southern African interior, these Dutch settlers, also called Trekboers or Boers, made contact with indigenous people.

In 1806, the British (Great Britain) seized the Cape from the Dutch (Holland). The French (France) had just won a war against the Dutch and the British were worried that the French would take control of the Cape. The Cape was a very important stopping point on the profitable trade route from Europe to the East - the British wanted to make sure that they controlled it.



The British occupation of the Cape was different to that of the Dutch. While the Dutch just wanted to farm and trade, the British had a bigger plan. They were growing their **empire** throughout the world, so they made plans for more people from Britain to come and live in the Cape.

In 1820, British settlers arrived in what we call the Eastern Cape - home to the Xhosa people. Conflict between the Trekboers, the British and the indigenous people was frequent.

Activity 1

1. Which country might have taken the Cape away from the VOC before the British could? (1)
2. Read the information about European settlement at the Cape and write down the words that have the following meaning: (5)
 - a. took over
 - b. border
 - c. edge, dividing line
 - d. fighting
 - e. local.
3. Who were the 'Trekboers'? (1)

Total: 7

The Eastern frontier of European settlement

Vocabulary

Communal: shared

Lobola: payment made by a man to the family of his bride

The situation in the Eastern Cape in the early late 18th and early 19th century (approximately 1780 - 1850) was as follows:

- There were three groups of people:
 - ❖ The Xhosa, who had lived there for hundreds of years.
 - ❖ The Trekboers, who moved into the area from the Cape.
 - ❖ The British settlers, who arrived from Britain in 1820.



Xhosa



Trekboers



British

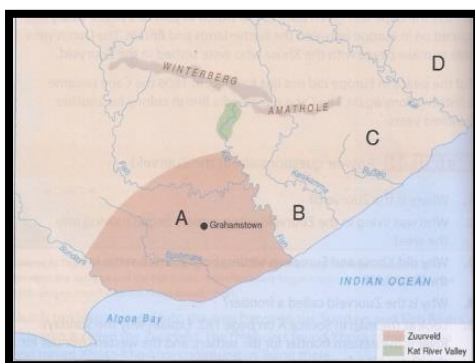
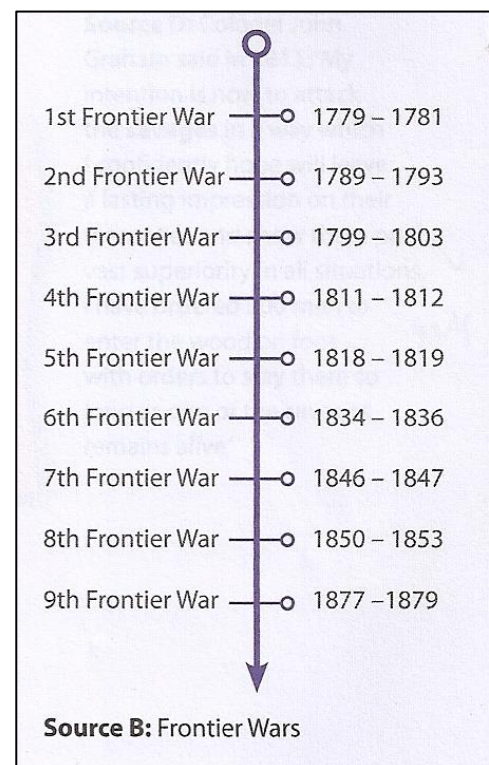
- Each group needed land for their families and their livestock.
 - ❖ The Xhosa believed that land was for the use of all the people. People didn't own land. The chief of a village would allow people to use land for crops and grazing. There was also **communal** grazing land for everyone's livestock. The Xhosa's

most precious possession was their cattle. Cattle gave them milk and meat, and wealth was measured in terms of the number of cattle a person had. Cattle were used for **lobola** and for ancestor worship. Without good grazing land, it was difficult to keep large herds of cattle.

- ❖ Dutch and British farmers had very different ideas about land ownership. They believed that people could own property and buy and sell land. It was very important to them that all adult men should own land.

Frontier wars on the eastern frontier of European settlement

The situation in the Eastern Cape led to a great deal of conflict between the Dutch and British settlers on the one side and the Xhosa on the other. Nine wars were fought over land and cattle between 1779 and 1878. This time is known as the 100-year war. The conflict started in 1778 when the Dutch governor of the Cape made the Great Fish River the eastern boundary of the Cape Colony. The Trekboers and the Xhosa got into conflict over grazing land and cattle theft. Three frontier wars between Dutch settlers and the Xhosa had already taken place by 1802. However, after the British took over the Cape in 1806, things became much worse. British soldiers were sent in to get Xhosa people off the land that they had been living on for many years. They argued that the Xhosa were stealing cattle from the settlers.



The map shows the expanding frontiers of the Cape Colony between 1779 and 1879

- A. 4th Frontier War: the British took over the Zuurveld (1812)
- B. 5th and 6th Frontier Wars: the British create 'empty land' between the Fish and Keiskamma Rivers (1836)
- C. 7th and 8th Frontier Wars: the British take over the land between the Keiskamma and the Kei Rivers
- D. 9th Frontier War: British take control of the land of the eastern Xhosa, east of the Kei River (1879)

Vocabulary

Ceded: *give your land away without a fight.*

Guerrilla warfare: *fighting by making sudden attacks in small groups.*

Gallant: *brave*

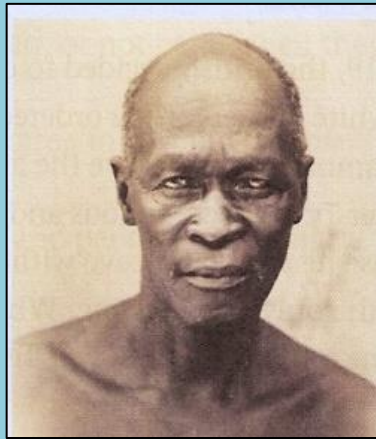
Case study: Chief Maqoma (1798 – 1873)

Chief Maqoma, son of the Xhosa king Ngqika, was one of the greatest leaders in Xhosa history. Although Maqoma loved peace and would rather solve problems by talking about them, he fought the British to defend his people's land.

In 1819, the British decided to create a neutral zone between the Xhosa and white farmers. They ordered everyone living between the Fish and the Keiskamma rivers to leave the area, even King Ngqika. Maqoma and his brother Tyhali were furious and thought that their father was selling out because he agreed to leave without a fight. The Xhosa soon saw that they were the only ones leaving. White settlers were still given farms in what became known as the **Ceded** Territory.

Maqoma and his followers moved to the fertile Kat River Valley. Then, in 1829, the British brought Khoikhoi people and freed slaves from the Cape into the Kat River Valley to form a buffer between the Xhosa and settler farms. They forced Maqoma off his land. The Sixth Frontier War of 1834-35 was started by Maqoma and Tyhali because they were so angry about the loss of their land.

Maqoma fought a very successful **guerrilla** war in the forests and valleys along the Fish River. This way of fighting took the British by surprise and they suffered heavy losses.



Sources A and B show what the British said about Maqoma.

Source A

‘He was certainly the most daring [Xhosa] of the whole; a **gallant** bold fellow, and as a friend, a most excellent one; but as an enemy, a most dangerous one.’

(From an 1836 British report, quoted in Noel Mostert, *Frontiers*, page 613)

Source B

‘The greatest politician and best warrior in (the Eastern Cape).’

(Henry Dugmore, Wesleyan Missionary)

In 1857, Maqoma and the other Xhosa chiefs were taken to Cape Town and imprisoned on Robben Island. Although Maqoma briefly returned to the Eastern Cape, he spent fourteen years on the Island, where he died a lonely death in September 1873.

Activity 2

1. Read Source A. Which word states that Maqoma was feared by the British? (1)
2. Which words in Source A and B tell you that Chief Maqoma was: (3)
 - a. brave?
 - b. loyal?
 - c. fearless?
3. Choose the correct answer: Both sources speak of Chief Maqoma with: (1)
 - a. great respect
 - b. great fear
 - c. hatred
 - d. fondness

Total: 5

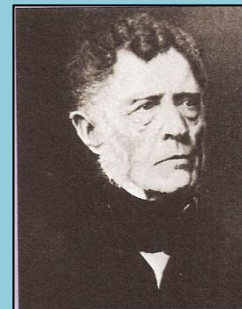
Soldiers and officials

After the British took over the Cape from the Dutch, in 1806, one of the things they had to deal with was the conflict between the Xhosa and white Trekboers on the Cape's eastern frontier. In 1811, Colonel John Graham was sent in to push the Xhosa beyond the Fish River, which at that stage was the recognised border between white settlers and the Xhosa. The British built a series of forts, military posts and signal towers along the Fish River.

Case study: Andries Stockenström (1792-1864)

Andries Stockenström was born in Cape Town in 1792. He was the son of a Cape magistrate who came from Sweden. As a young man, he fought in the Fourth Frontier War (1811-1812) against the Xhosa. His father was killed in this war.

- Stockenström worked for the British government in the Cape.
- He tried to keep the peace on the eastern frontier.
- He tried to be fair to both the white settlers and the Xhosa.



- The farmers, the Xhosa and the British government all had a lot of respect for Stockenström.
- They often came to him for advice.
-

In 1836, the conflict on the frontier calmed down when Stockenström was made Lieutenant Governor of the Eastern Districts. He believed that the raids by British soldiers on the Xhosa were a big cause of the conflict, and worked out an agreement between the British and the Xhosa whereby:

- the British would respect the Xhosa chiefs,
- the chiefs would not allow their people to raid settler farms,
- the British would not go onto Xhosa land to deal with cattle raids and
- they would sort matters out from the Cape and through agents.

Stockenström believed that problems needed to be sorted out fairly and according to the law. But, he found it harder and harder to support the rules that the British were

making for the Xhosa. He thought they were unfair. He understood how the loss of their land was making the Xhosa angry.

Some British soldiers burned down Stockenström's home because they believed he was working with the Xhosa against the British. In fact, he was just trying to do the right thing. Stockenström fought for the rights of the Xhosa until in his seventies, but became sick and died in London, in 1864.

Activity 3

1. Complete the following sentence:

The British, Trekboers and the Xhosa respected Stockenström because.... (1)

2. Why was Stockenström's house burnt down? (1)

3. Why was it strange that he had empathy for the Xhosa? (1)

4. What did he believe was the main reason for the conflict between the Xhosa and the British? (1)

5. Did Stockenström's family come from Britain? Explain. (1)

Total: 5

British immigration

When the British took over the Cape in 1806, there were about 25 000 European settlers at the Cape (mainly Dutch). There had already been five frontier wars between the Xhosa and settlers before 1820. The Cape government wanted to increase the number of settlers in the area and enlist more British people to defend the Eastern frontier against the Xhosa.

In 1820, the government in Britain paid for a large group of about 4 000 unemployed British people and their families to go to the Cape as settlers. The ships carrying these settlers landed at Algoa Bay. Each family was given a small piece of farm land to grow crops.



British settlers arriving in 1820

Abolition of slavery 1836

During the late 18th century the British started to question the practice of slavery and their own involvement in the trading of slaves. In 1807, the British stopped the slave trade in all its colonies. However, this did not mean that slavery had ended. The ending of the trade in slaves did not help people who were already slaves. No new slaves could be brought into a British colony, but slaves could still be bought and sold within the colony itself.

Boers migrate and move into the interior: The Great Trek

The following issues made the Trekboers angry:

- They felt the British government at the Cape did not protect them.
- They felt that the Dutch language was losing out to English.
- They were always in conflict with the Xhosa over land.

The Trekboers saw only one solution: to move out of the Cape Colony and settle away from the British in a place where they could make their own rules and organise their lives in the way they wanted.

From 1836 to 1846, thousands of Voortrekkers, as they are now known, left the Cape and moved into the South African interior. They grouped themselves into a number of trek parties under various leaders. The Trekboers were used to moving around in search of land for grazing. They packed their belongings into ox wagons, gathered their servants and slaves, and headed north in search of new homes. These journeys became known as the Great Trek.

As they moved into the South African interior, the Voortrekkers met many groups of indigenous people. The battles over land continued and, because the Voortrekkers had guns and horses, they often won the battles. They took land from local people and disrupted their way of life.



Oxen pulling an ox wagon

Vocabulary

Kraals: land or huts with a fence or wall around it

Case study: The lives of inboekselings

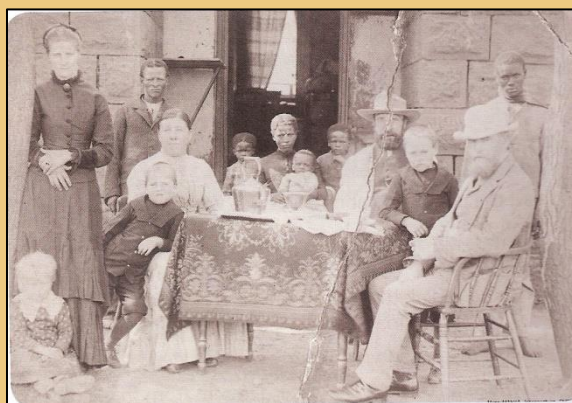
As the Voortrekkers settled in new places and started farming, they needed people to work for them. Black people from the area were often forced to work on the Voortrekkers' farms in exchange for staying on the land and grazing their cattle.

However, when there was not enough local labour to meet their needs so the farmers raided local communities and stole their children. They called these children 'black ivory' because they were so valuable.

The Voortrekker farmers claimed that they were not stealing the children from their parents and that they were orphans. They also said that the children could not be called slaves because they were not buying or selling them. However, it is a known fact that they traded the children for goods or cattle.

By law, the farmers had to register (or book in) the children they brought back from the raids, with the magistrate of the district. These children were called 'inboekselings'. They had to work for the farmer that registered them until they were 25 years old.

'Inboekselings' had to do many different jobs: milking cows, herding sheep and cattle, leading ox wagons, and building dams, canals, **kraals** and houses. In return they were given food, clothes and a place to sleep.



Inboekselings and servants wore Western clothes and spoke Afrikaans

Activity 4

1. Why did the Cape government want more British people to settle in the Cape? (1)
2. Why did the Voortrekkers move away from the Cape Colony? (2)
3. What advantages did the Voortrekkers have when fighting the indigenous people? (2)
4. Why was the system of inboekselings started? (1)
5. Name 3 types of work the inboekselings did. (3)
6. Why were these children called 'black ivory'? (1)

Total: 10

The Northern Frontier of European settlement

Expanding trade relationships on the northern frontier of European settlement

There were four main groups of people living across the border of the Cape Colony in the early 19th century:

A. The Khoisan

They were a mixture of Khoikhoi and San people.

B. The Boers

They were the descendants of the Dutch people from the Cape Colony.

C. The Oorlams

Their ancestors were from different groups - some were a mix of Boer and Khoikhoi, or slaves and Khoikhoi, or Boer and slaves. They spoke Dutch (Afrikaans).

D. The Tswana

They were African people who spoke Setswana and ruled by chiefs. They farmed cattle and sheep. They also hunted elephants and traded their tusks.

Vocabulary

Mixed descent: children of boers, slaves and Khoisan.

Pack oxen: oxen trained to carry loads and pull wagons with goods.

The Kora and Griqua were groups of people of **mixed descent** and runaway slaves who had left the Cape Colony. They traded manufactured goods, tobacco and **pack oxen** from the Cape.

The Kora

The Kora originated from small groups of Khoikhoi who had lost their land to the Dutch in the south-western Cape. The groups included runaway slaves and people of mixed European and Khoikhoi descent. Most of the first Kora people had worked on Dutch farms and spoke Dutch. They knew how to use guns and ride horses. They lived in groups along the Gariep River in the central parts of southern Africa.

The Kora kept close contact with the Cape Colony. They got goods from the Cape like material for making clothes, flour for making bread, and tobacco that the Dutch farmers grew. The Kora traded these goods with the different groups living along the Gariep River and beyond. They also traded pack oxen, which they got from the Cape.



A Kora camp

The Griqua

The Griqua were a group of people of Khoikhoi, slave and European descendants who had left the Cape in the late 1700s (18th century). They owned cattle, had guns and horses and used ox-wagons. They usually wore European style clothes, spoke Dutch and were Christians. At the beginning of the 19th century, the Griqua settled north of the Gariep River, in an area that later became known as Griqualand West. They were first group from the Cape to settle north of the Gariep River.

The Griqua took their name from the Khoikhoi group the Guriqua. The Griqua saw themselves more as Khoikhoi than Dutch. They traded material, flour, tobacco and oxen. The Griqua traded mainly with southern Tswana groups.



Griqua people



Adam Kok, founder of the Griqua was a freed slave. He married the daughter of the Griqua chief.

The southern borders of the Tswana world

The Tswana people also lived on the land across the Orange River. They had moved to that area in about the 16th century. They spoke Setswana. They grew crops such as grains and tobacco and herded cattle, sheep and goats. They were skilled at crafts such as wood carving, basket weaving and metal work. They also hunted elephants for their tusks, which they traded.

The Tswana traded with the Kora, Griqua and Boers:

- The Tswana killed elephants for their tusks, which people sold for a lot of money. The Griqua were involved, as middlemen, in this trade.
- They hunted and killed other animals for their skins, which they traded.
- They also traded iron and copper, which they used to make farming tools.
- They wanted to buy guns to protect themselves.

In the early 19th century, missionaries came into the Tswana territory. They converted many of the Tswana to Christianity and taught them how to read and write. They encouraged Tswana people to live like the Europeans. They built schools and churches.

Tswana walled towns

The Tswana lived in villages led by a chief. Their houses and kraals were inside the villages and the farmland was outside. Some of the bigger towns

were surrounded by stone walls for protection. Some of the villages grew into towns with thousands of people living together. The Tswana allowed people who were not Tswana to join them, so their settlements grew in size. They also grew bigger because there was so much trade happening with the other people living in the region.



Three important cities were Marothodi, Molokwane and Kaditshwene:

- Marothodi had a good water supply and fertile land. People there probably made things out of copper and iron.
- Molokwane was in a fertile area that was close to good grazing land. The people of Molokwane probably traded with other towns (such as Marothodi) for tools.
- Kaditshwene had a population about the same size as Cape Town. It was on a hill which was good for defence. The area was good for farming and grazing. People in Kaditshwene made metal goods.

In the early parts of the 1800s, there was much conflict among the peoples of southern Africa. Many people had to leave the places where they lived. When the Tswana were attacked, they left these cities and went to other places.

Activity 5

1. How did the missionaries change the life of the Tswana? (2)
2. Why did the Tswana leave their three towns? (1)
3. Why did the Tswana kill elephants for their tusks? (1)
4. What did the Tswana people use iron and copper for? (1)

Total: 5

Missionaries and traders

European traders and missionaries started arriving in the area north of the Orange River after 1800. They explored areas that the Cape Colony did not know and drew up maps of these areas. Later, the colony used these maps to push its borders further north.

Traders

European traders could make big profits north of the Orange River. They could trade in ivory, furs from animals and feathers from birds. They also wanted to buy cattle from the Griqua and Tswana to sell as meat in the Cape Colony.

Many local people became powerful if they controlled the trade with Europeans. They could get guns and gunpowder from the Cape Colony. It was against the law to sell weapons to the people outside the colony's borders, but traders did it anyway because they could get ivory and other valuable goods in exchange.



Some missionaries became traders so that they could make more money. They also needed to get basic goods through trade. They traded goods such as buttons and beads which they brought to southern Africa. They also made friends with local chiefs by giving them gifts. Because of this, the chiefs let them stay in the area.

Missionaries



Kuruman mission station

Missionaries from Europe wanted to spread Christianity. The people living north of the Orange River had their own religions. The Tswana people, for example, believed in *Modimo*, their god, and that their ancestors would help them. The missionaries moved into the area and lived among the local people. They set up permanent mission stations.

Missionaries learnt local languages to talk to people about Christianity. They set up churches and taught the people to read and write so that they could study the Bible. They wanted local people to become more like Europeans in their clothes and customs. Some missionaries converted chiefs and then their followers to Christianity. The chiefs trusted them and so they became important people in the area.

Some missionaries helped to protect the people they had converted. For example, Dr John Philip lived and worked with the Griqua. He arranged a treaty with the Cape Colony that said the Colony would help protect the Griqua in 1843.

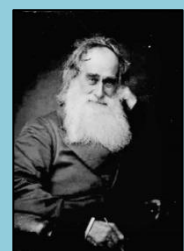
Case study: Robert Moffat (1795-1883) at Kuruman

Robert Moffat, born in Scotland, was a Methodist who wanted to convert other people to Christianity. He came to southern Africa in 1817 when he was 21 years old. His wife Mary worked with him. Moffat worked among the Griqua and Tswana people. He and Mary settled in Kuruman, and built up a mission station there. Moffat translated the Bible into

Setswana. The mission station became important. Other missionaries started their work there. Important people from the Cape Colony also stayed there when they were in the area.

The mission station had a church, houses, a school and other buildings. Moffat wrote down the language rules of Setswana. In 1831, he brought a printing press to Kuruman that he could print religious works in Setswana.

Moffat was skilled at carpentry, gardening, farming, printing and working with metals. He was a good negotiator and helped the Tswana people with some of their conflicts in the area. Moffat and his wife went back to Britain in 1870.



Activity 6

1. Why was it important that Moffat learnt to speak Setswana?
2. State whether the statements below are True or False. Correct the false statements to make them true.
 - a. The missionaries' main job was to care for sick Tswana people.
 - b. Moffat was born in Sweden.
 - c. Missionaries wanted local people to become more like Europeans in their clothes and customs.

SUMMARY

- There was conflict and co-operation on both the northern and eastern frontiers of the Cape Colony in the early part of the 19th century.
- Xhosa people lived to the east of the Cape Colony.
- Trekboers moved onto Xhosa land for grazing and farmland.
- There were wars between the Xhosa and the Colony.
- The British took over the Cape Colony in 1806. They made many changes to the way the colony was ruled.
- The British army defeated the Xhosa.
- Andries Stockenström set up a treaty system that recognised the chiefs as independent, but other officials at the Cape ended this policy.
- More British settlers arrived in 1820. They found it difficult to farm and moved to towns.
- Slavery was abolished in the 1830s.
- Many Boers did not like the new British rulers. They trekked north and set up two republics.
- The Boers used *inboekselings* for labour.
- There were four main groups of people living around the northern frontier: the Khoisan, Boers, Oorlams and Tswana.
- They traded goods such as cattle, ivory, guns, metals, fur and hides.
- The Tswana lived in towns. Some walled towns were very big.
- Traders and missionaries helped Europeans explore the area north of the Orange

River.

- Missionaries such as Robert Moffat set up Christian missions and converted people to Christianity.

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