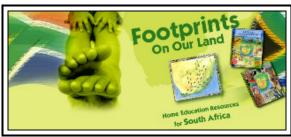
The Dutch at the Cape



A printable file folder project

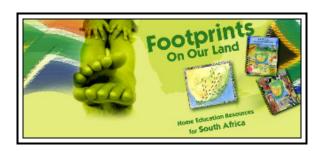


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A South African History File Folder Project

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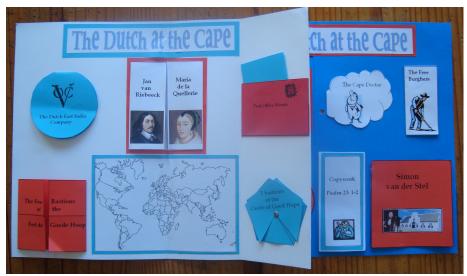
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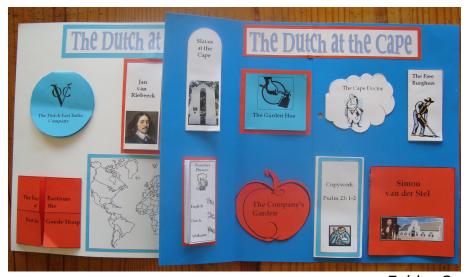
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Sample pictures of the completed file folder project.



Folder 1



Folder 2

A layout plan is provided on page 20.

The Dutch at the Cape

The Cape - Halfway to the East

Soon after the Portuguese explorer, Bartholomeu Dias rounded the Cape in 1488, other explorers found the sea route to the East and soon trade routes were established via the Cape between the East and West. Before any settlement was established at the Cape, many ships called in at Table Bay for refreshment.

The Cape became a meeting place for sailors and a useful port of call where messages could be exchanged. The Portuguese named the area the Cape of Storms.



Statue of Dias, Cape Town

Post-office stones

Sailors often left letters under large engraved stones hoping they would be found and delivered by other sailors on their return journeys. Soon there were many of these post office stones carved with the names of ships and their offices. Some of these can be seen in the South African Museum in Cape Town. Letters were also sometimes given to reliable Khoikhoi with whom regular visitors developed relationships.

South Africa's first letter box was an old boot hung from a tree at Mossel Bay in 1501, by a Portuguese sea-captain. At Saldanha Bay, ships' officers either placed letters in a bottle tied to a stake or buried them under a wooden marker, which had inscriptions on it.

After the founding of the settlement at the Cape, post office stones were no longer needed.

<u>Further reading</u>: Chapter 2 of **The Unofficial History of the Cape** by José Burman gives a fascinating account of the discovery of Table Bay, by the Portuguese, later the English and then the Dutch. It describes how both Table Bay and Saldanha Bay were so named in error in 1601 by a Dutch squadron and how twelve English convicts were actually the first white settlers at the Cape. The Cape was almost annexed by the English in 1620, but since the annexation was ignored by the King, the Dutch later became the first to colonize the Cape.

Map work

- On a map of the world, find the Netherlands (Holland), Cape Town and Java (previously know as Batavia) and plot the route ships used to sail.
- Try to find other places at which ships stopped, such as Saldanha Bay and Mossel Bay.

The Dutch East India Company



The logo of the VOC

The Dutch East India Company or **Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie** (VOC) was formed in the Holland in 1602 when a number of small trading companies united.

The States-General of the Netherlands granted the VOC a 21-year monopoly to carry out colonial activities in the East and Holland became the most important trading nation of Europe at that time.

The VOC was controlled by the Heeren XVII or Lords Seventeen who represented the various shareholders in the Company. The headquarters of the Company were in Batavia on the island of Java and so the Cape was a convenient half-way stop for ships sailing from Holland. In 1651 the Lords Seventeen decided to establish a permanent trading station at the Cape.

Jan Van Riebeeck

Jan Van Riebeeck was born in the Netherlands in 1619. At the age of twenty he joined the Dutch East India Company as an assistant surgeon, but later became a very successful trader for them, in Japan, Formosa (now Taiwan) and China.

In 1651 the Council of Seventeen decided to establish a small settlement at the Cape to serve as a refreshment station for Company ships

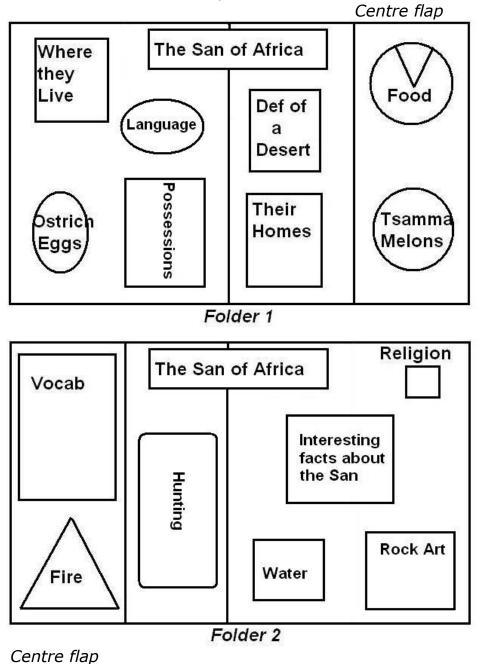


travelling to and from Batavia. Here they could replenish their supplies of water, fruit, vegetables and meat. Van Riebeeck was appointed the leader of this expedition....

Instructions

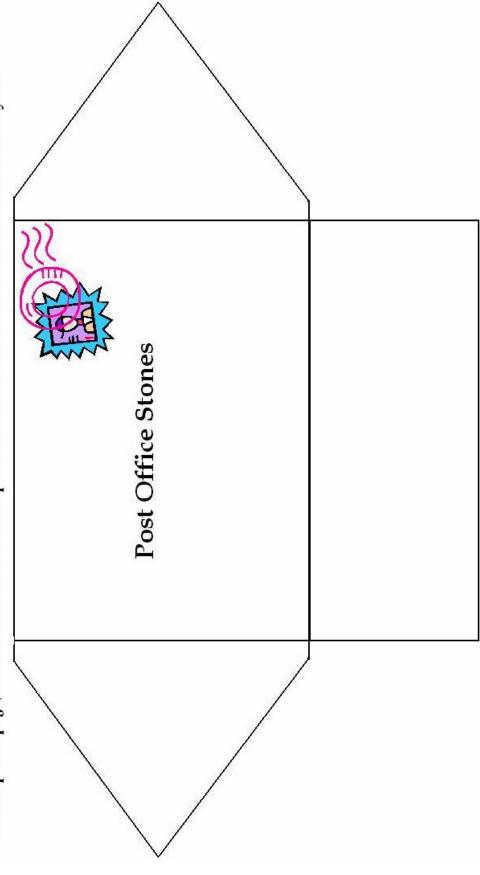
Make your file folder

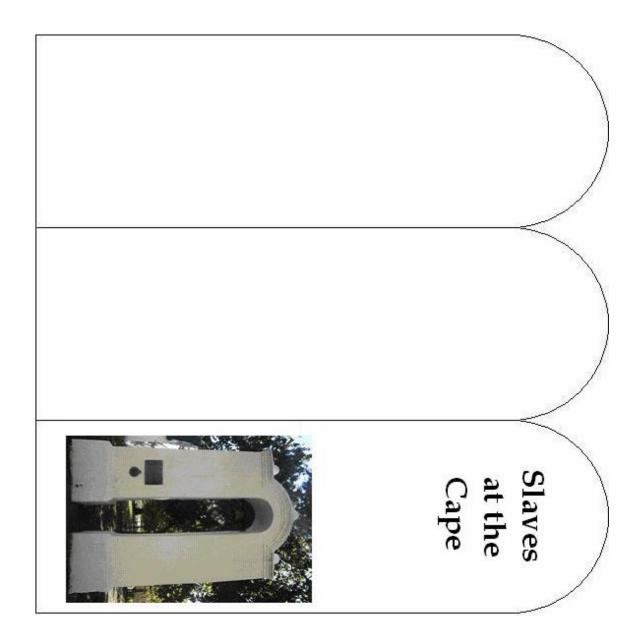
- 1. Open your file and lay it flat. Fold the outer edges of your file to the centre and press them down to make a new fold on one side.
- 2. Repeat with the second file.
- 3. Now glue the two files together along one side where you have folded it, to make a centre flap.



Cut out the envelope template and glue down the flaps. On the back side, where the flaps overlap, glue it to your file folder so that it makes a pocket.

On a separate page, write notes about the use of post office stones. Fold it like a letter and insert it into your





Cut out the arched tri-fold booklet and fold the outer flaps inward, with the cover on top. Write about slaves at the Cape.