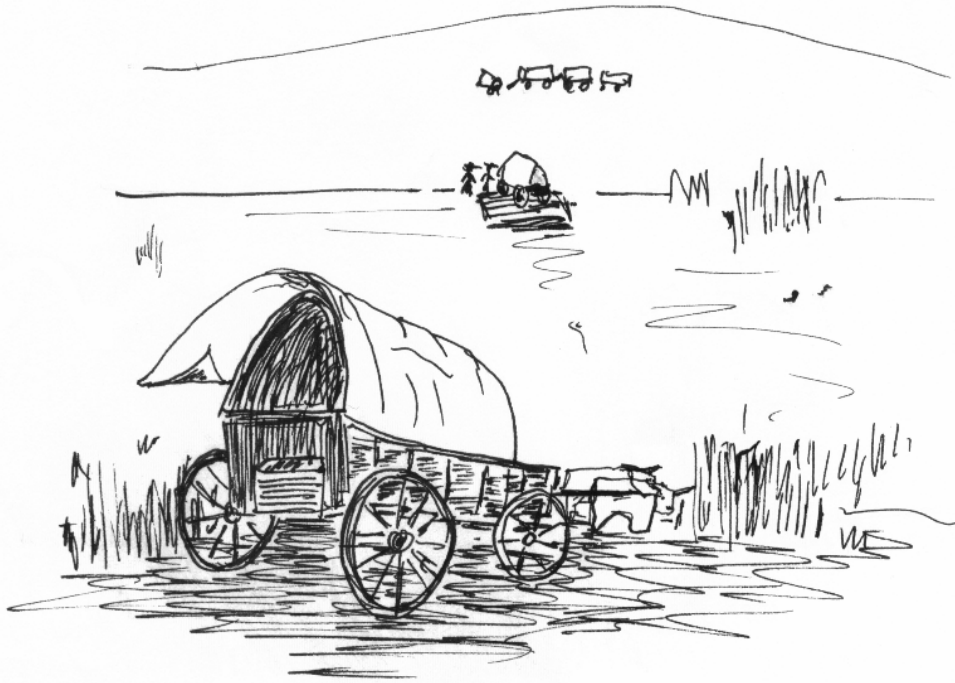


THE UNKNOWN LAND

Jenny Seed



The Unknown Land is the first of two books set during the Great Trek. In the lessons for The Broken Spear, which follows, you will study this event in more detail.

This is an easy-to-read story about a family on the Great Trek from the Cape to the interior. The Steins and the rest of the trekkers experience a run-in with the Ndebele chief, Mzilikazi. The story focuses on the son of the Stein family, Pieter and how his courage helps save his family's company from death at the hands of the warriors.

READ ALOUD Grade 1+

READ ALONE Grade 4+

FIELD TRIPS:

Virtual tour - follow the Orange River on the Internet:

<http://www.namibia-travel.net/southnamibia/orange.htm>

<http://www.edenvms.u-net.com/orange/lormap.htm>

<http://www.dwaf.gov.za/orange/default.htm>

ADDITIONAL READING:

- Carmen Welz, The Orange River, 1985 – available from **Footprints On Our Land**
- *Augrabies Adventure* and *No Moss for Sammy* in The Best of Storytime and Storyland
- Barbara Tyrell, African Heritage, MacMillan SA 1983
- *Mzilikazi* in They Made This Land by Jay Heale
- Helene Roux, Beyond the Mountains – available from **Footprints On Our Land**

LESSON OUTLINE

Ch	History/ Social Studies	Geography/ Science	Nature/ Biology	Language Arts	Hands On
1	Home on the wagon	The Orange River		Captivating the reader	Make a model raft
		Density		Essay: uses of the wagon	Marbled paper
		Bridges		The hero	Build a bridge
2	Matabele and Mzilikazi		Animals	Simile	Baking rusks
				Poem: Biltong	
3	Afterwards			Metaphor	
				Climax	

BIBLE: Faith in the face of danger

Even though we may not have to face physical enemies that want to take our lives, like Pieter and his party did, in life, we will still often face situations where we feel that we are under attack and we may fear the outcome of such a situation. It is at times like this that we need to know what the Scriptures say and what God promises us so that we can exercise our faith in God, our Deliverer.

- Read and meditate on the whole of Psalm 27.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

“The Lord is the light and my salvation;
Whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life;
Of whom shall I be afraid?”

Psalm 27:1

COPYWORK

"He dreamt that he was out hunting with Pappie. The dream seemed to go on for hours. They were galloping across the veld, the hooves of the horses pounding on the hard ground. Bounding over the grass in front of them was a herd of springbok."

CHAPTER 1

LANGUAGE ARTS: Captivating the reader

Page 7 “There was a sudden volley of gunfire, sharp and clear in the dry air.”

Does the way this story begins grab your attention immediately and make you want to read further? You should remember that this literary device is called a *hook*. Just like a fish hook is used to catch fish, a hook captivates the reader and causes them to be so intrigued, that they become engrossed in the story. Good authors always begin a piece of writing or a book with a hook.

GEOGRAPHY: The Orange River

Page 7 “We have reached the Orange River!”

For the Trekkers the Orange River symbolised freedom as it was the border in to the unknown land which they planned to inhabit. The Orange River is South Africa’s largest river with a length of 2 188km.

- Mark the route the Trekkers would have taken to the interior on your map.
- Trace and name the rivers crossed - the Orange and Vaal rivers. Look at their importance to sustaining life in the current day. Older children can draw on a map other major South African rivers too: Caledon, Limpopo, Olifants, Crocodile, Pongola, Tugela, Kei, Great Fish, Sundays, Gamtoos, Breë, Berg, Olifants.
- Read *Augrabies Adventure* and *No Moss for Sammy* in The Best of Storytime and Storyland.
- Using an atlas, look at how rivers form natural boundaries between provinces and between South Africa and our neighbouring states.
- Read more about the Orange River and the Orange River Development Project in AASA on pages 106-107.
- To expand this lesson further, refer to *Rivers* in the Appendix at the back of this Guide.
- An attractively-illustrated and age-appropriate book to add to your study is The Orange River by Carmen Welz, Donker, 1985 as it has information about the Orange River’s significance in history, mining and farming as well as the Orange River Development Project. It is also available from **Footprints On Our Land**.
- Write an essay about the Orange River. It should consist of
 - a) Introduction – general information about the Orange River
 - b) 3 or more paragraphs about
 - i. the importance of the Orange River in the history of South Africa
 - ii. minerals and mining along the river
 - iii. its significance in farming and as a source of water for our country
 - c) Conclusion – your own opinion

HISTORY: Home on the Wagon

Page 10 “There were ten wagons altogether in the Stein party.”

- For a general introduction to the Great Trek, read pages 34-35 in AASA. This will give you good background information to help you understand this book, as well as The Broken Spear which follows.
- Look at the ox wagon. After studying the book and other sources, write an essay on how the ox wagon was a mobile home for the trekkers. How did the Trekkers use it to protect themselves in battle?

LANGUAGE ARTS: The hero

In order to create a compelling hero and an interesting plot, the author must create an obstacle that the hero must overcome or a goal that he must strive for. On pages 10 and 11 we get a good description of Pieter’s character.

- What kind of personality does Pieter have and for what does he long?

HANDS ON: Build a Raft

Page 11 “In his wonder at the river he had not noticed the raft.”

Since there was no way to drive their wagons through the river, the Trekkers floated them across on rafts.

- Make a model of a raft, using twigs or wood and test it out in a pool, or even the bath!

SCIENCE: Density and buoyancy

Why does a wooden raft float in water, but even a tiny stone will sink? To discover the answer to this question you will need to learn about a scientific term called *density*.

The density of an object or substance depends on the *mass* and *volume* of that object.

If you took three blocks of wood of different sizes and measured their mass (how much they weigh) and their volume (the amount of space each one occupies), and then divided the mass by the volume, this ration would be the same for all three blocks.

This ration of mass:volume is called the density of the object or substance and it is measured in kilograms per cubic metre (kg/m³). $D = \frac{M}{V}$

The density of water is 1g/cm³.

A substance which sinks in water has a greater density than that of water.

A substance which floats has a density which is less than that of water.

Bouyancy refers to the ability to float or rise to the surface of a liquid.

- You can test the buoyancy of various substances by dropping them into a basin of water. Try iron (a nail), ice, plastic, glass, gold, cork, lead, brass (a screw) etc. You should be able to predict which will sink and which will float.
- Try weighing a few objects, like toy blocks, and measuring their volume to calculate their density. Then see if they float or sink.

HANDS ON: Marbled paper

Marbling is a fun art activity that depends on the different densities of oil and water for its success.

You will need:

- two or more shades of oil paint
- a clean plastic container for each shade of paint
- a roasting tray or similar watertight container
- paintbrush
- paper towel roll
- turpentine
- plastic spoons
- lots of paper
- newspaper

Method

- Cover your work area with newspaper.
- Fill the roasting tray with water.
- Place a little paint in the jar and add turpentine until the mixture is runny like cream.
- Using the tip of the paint brush, drip paint all over the surface of the water. Add other shades too.
- Slowly wiggle the paintbrush in the water to break up the drops of paint and make swirly patterns.
- Holding the paper on each end, lay the middle part gently onto the surface of the water, and then lower each end.
- Pick up the corners at one end, lift it carefully and allow it to drip for a few seconds and then lay it on the newspaper to dry.
- You can make a paler print, using another sheet of paper at once, or add more paint and print again.
- When you have finished, tip the contents of the tray down an outside drain. Use turpentine on paper towel to clean your hands and then wash them well in soapy water.
- You can use your marbled paper for letters, wrapping small gifts, cards and book covers.

SCIENCE: Bridges

Page 15 “At last with a jolt they reached the opposite bank.”

The trekkers had to cross the Orange River on a raft, but these days we would simply drive across over a bridge. Bridges make journeys easier, safer and shorter by allowing vehicles or pedestrians to cross barriers like rivers, gorges, busy roads and even railway lines. There are many different kinds of bridges used for spanning different spaces: rope bridges, arch bridges, suspensions bridges, cantilever bridges, causeways and many more.

The three main types of bridges are beam, arch and suspension bridges.

- Beam bridges, including cantilever bridges, are very common and follow the same principle as laying a plank across a stream. Many beam bridges rest on piers.
- Arch bridges are supported by an arch. The largest arch bridge is that over Sydney Harbour.
- Suspension bridges, like the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges in New York are suspended by strong metal cables from two towers on each side of the river.

The famous Tower Bridge over the Thames in London is an example of a movable drawbridge that allows ships to pass through. Machinery inside each tower pulls one end of the deck downwards, thus raising the other side like a see-saw.

You will learn about a pontoon bridge when you read The Spy Hill.

- Find a reference book that has photographs of famous bridges of the world.
- Find out about the Nelson Mandela Bridge in Johannesburg, a new landmark in our country.
- **HANDS ON:** Design your own bridge and build a model bridge using wood, cardboard or other household materials.



Arch bridge, Garden Route

CHAPTER 2

LANGUAGE ARTS: Simile

Page 17 “The tall golden grass waved and billowed in the wind like a sea.”

- Discuss the similarities between the two elements that are being compared here.

HISTORY: Matabele and Mzilikazi

Page 19 “There is a great and warlike African nation called the Matabele.”

- Read about Mzilikazi in Shaka Warrior King of the Zulu page 21.
- AASA page 37.
- The Great Trek page 10.
- They Made This Land by Jay Heale also has a chapter about Mzilikazi.
- Using a book like African Heritage by Barbara Tyrell, look at how the Matabele dressed. Compare the Matabele to the other African people that you have already studied.
- Read about other South African people groups in AASA on pages 16-19.

NATURE STUDY: Animals

- Refer to the lesson about quaggas in Ghamka, Man-of-Men
- Many other animals are also mentioned. Find pictures of and draw in your nature books: wildebeest, hartebeest, quagga and springbok. Refer to The Great Trek pages 24-25.
- Also look at pages 120-123 in AASA for more about South Africa’s endangered animals and plants.



HANDS ON: Baking rusks

Page 24 “...they loaded their bags with rusks and tied long strips of dried meat to their saddles as food for the day....”

Ingredients

1,5kg self-raising flour
 375ml sugar
 a pinch of salt
 500g margarine/butter
 500ml sour milk*

Method

- Pre-heat oven to 180°C.
- Mix all dry ingredients together.
- Rub in the margarine.
- Add sour milk and mix thoroughly.
- Roll into balls and place in greased bread pans.
- Bake for about an hour. Remove from pan and break or cut into pieces.
- Place on a rack to dry in a ‘cool’ oven.

*Add a table spoon of lemon juice or vinegar to fresh milk if it is not sour.

LANGUAGE ARTS: Poem

- Read the poem *Biltong* by Anita Robinson in our compilation of Poetry and Heroes of South Africa.

CHAPTER 3**LANGUAGE ARTS: Metaphor**

Page 38 “Pieter watched the advancing line crumble...”

- Discuss this metaphor: To what is the line of soldiers being compared? What are the similarities? Is the comparison effective?

LANGUAGE ARTS: Climax

Page 42 “I was proud of you in the battle, my son,” said Pappie...

Finally our hero had received the recognition that he has longed for. We call this point in a story the climax, a high point in which the hero achieves his goal, or overcomes the obstacles or weaknesses in his character that were part of the plot.

- Reread the last two paragraphs of the story and discuss the effect that Pappie’s praise has on Pieter’s character.
- Praise and acknowledgment for the things we do is something that everyone likes to receive. Think about how you can sincerely show appreciation to each one in your family for their contributions to your home.

HISTORY: Afterwards

- Read the paragraph *What Happened Afterwards* on page 48 in the story. You will study the Great Trek in greater detail when you read The Broken Spear.

PICTURE DISC

- On completion of this book, place the appropriate picture disc on your map and update Footprints Through Time.

The Great Trek

The Great Trek started because the Boers didn't want to be under British government rules. They left and went across the Orange River and past a gentle African tribe. But on the other side of the Vaal River was the fierce Matabele. Mizilikazi was their chief and when they ran down the hillside they would shout "Mzilikazi!"