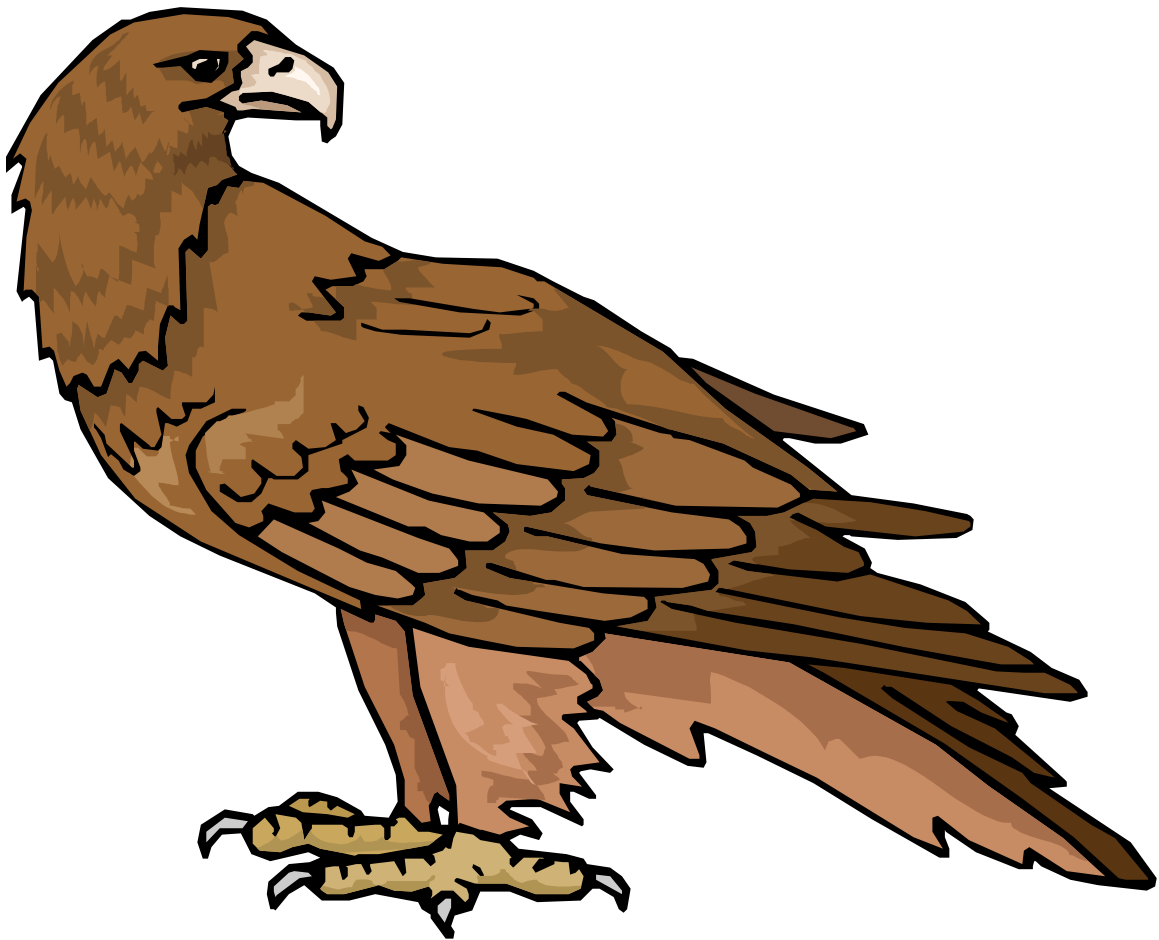


Fly, Eagle, Fly!

An African Tale



A Hands on Unit Study of *Fly, Eagle, Fly!* by Christopher Gregorowski

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Footprints On Our Land – www.south-african-homeschool-curriculum.com
www.shirleys-preschool-activities.com

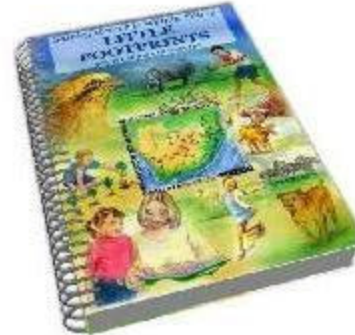
Clipart from Microsoft Office Online <http://office.microsoft.com>

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INSTRUCTIONS

These lesson topics are taken from the South African homeschool curriculum, **Little Footprints**. You can read more about this literature based unit study at www.south-african-homeschool-curriculum.com or email footprints@south-african-homeschool-curriculum.com.



Little Footprints is an exploration of contemporary South African by means of top quality children's picture books. It is built on the ideas of Charlotte Mason, using 'living books' and incorporating Narration, Dictation, Copywork, Nature Study as well as hands on activities into a multi-faceted unit study.

You will not need to print all the pages included in this book. Some of the printable pages at the end are options from which to choose, depending on the writing abilities of your children. Select the most appropriate one.

You will need to read the story ***Fly, Eagle, Fly! An African Tale*** by Christopher Gregorowski (published by Tafelberg) before you begin these activities.



This inspiring story, which has already been reprinted numerous times, is regarded as a classic in South African children's literature. The story is simple, but the meaning profound.

A farmer finds an eaglet and takes it home to his children and raises it among the chickens. A visiting friend sets out to prove to the farmer that the grown eagle has not forgotten its identity, but can fly as all eagles do. To his dismay, all attempts to get the eagle to fly are in vain, until one morning at dawn...

ACTIVITIES

Narration

- ☐ After reading the story, ask your child to tell it back to you while you write down their version on the printable notebooking page provided. Let your child draw a picture about the story in the block provided on the page. Extra lined pages are provided if required.

Memory verse

Isaiah 40: 31 "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles: they will run and not grow weary..."

- ☐ Select one of the printable pages provided on which this verse can be copied by your children.

Copywork

The great bird stretched out its wings to greet the sun and feel the life-giving warmth on its feathers.

- ☐ Select one of the printable pages provided for this copywork.

Bible – Lost to the Lord

Read the parable of the lost sheep in Matthew 18: 10-14 and discuss the similarities of the farmer looking for lost livestock and The Good Shepherd looking for us. Children are especially precious to the Lord. Also read Matthew 19: 13-15.

If you have not yet led your children to an experience of salvation, this is a good opportunity. Simply ask them if they want to be sure that they are a child of God and let them pray a simple prayer asking the Lord to forgive their sins and be their Lord and Saviour, (according to Romans 10:9-10 &13). If they are saved, simply remind them of God's promises to us.

Bible – Creation of the sun

Read the account of the creation of the sun in Genesis 1:14-19. Remind the children that the sun was created by God. However, because all life as we know it would cease to exist without it, some people have worshipped the sun like a god. As Christians, whenever we see the glory of the sun, it should serve as a reminder of God and his great love for us. A lesson about the sun follows further on.

Also read Joshua 10:12-14 where God allowed the sun to stand still for about a day. (Perhaps the earth stopped rotating for a day.) No matter how this was accomplished, it is proof that God is in control of the universe.

Geography - The sun

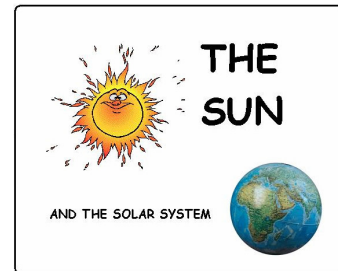
The sun is possibly the most important thing in our solar system as it is the greatest source of light and heat. Without the sun's light and heat, nothing on earth could live or grow on earth.

Our solar system has nine planets, lots of moons and other rocks, called asteroids which all move around the sun. The sun's gravity prevents the planets flying off into space. The earth takes one year to move around the sun.

The sun is not made of rock, like the earth, but is a huge, fiery ball of hot glowing gases. As the earth moves on its journey around the sun, it spins, making one turn every 24 hours. This is what causes day and night. When one side of the earth is facing the sun it is day, and when it is turned away it is night. You can demonstrate the effect of day and night by shining a torch onto a ball or a globe and rotating it slowly.

- Make the mini-book about THE SUN AND THE SOLAR SYSTEM.

1. Cut and paste the cut-outs for day and night.
2. Colour the sun yellow.
3. Colour the planets of the solar system.
4. Cut out all four pages and staple them to make a mini-book.



- Make the fan book of the THE 9 PLANETS.

1. Cut out the ten oval shaped pieces.
2. Fasten them together with a brad in the following order, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto.

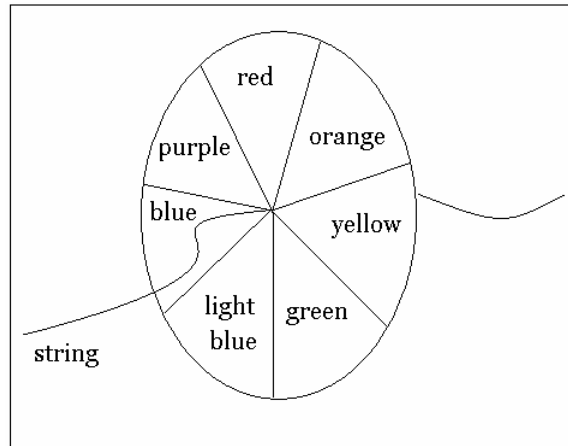


Glue your mini-book down and fasten the fan book using the brad.

Science – Light

Ask the children what colour the light of the sun is. Then demonstrate to them how many colours make white as follows:

- Cut out a circle of white card about 10cm in diameter. Divide it into sevenths and colour each part a different colour, starting with red, then orange, yellow, green, light blue, dark blue (indigo) and purple (violet).
- Thread some string through the centre of the circle.
- Hold each end and begin to swing the card in big loops.
- Pull the string tight from both ends so that the card spins fast.
- If you spin very fast, the colours blend and the card almost looks white.



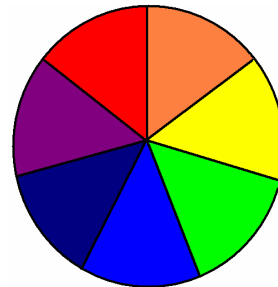
Sunlight may appear to be clear or white, but in fact it is made up of all the colours of the rainbow. A rainbow is formed when the sun shines on water droplets in the air and the light is split up into these different colours. You can only see a rainbow if your back is to the sun.

Light gives colour to everything that we can see. We see only the colour that is reflected, so for example, when light strikes green leaves, some colours are absorbed and only the green component is reflected. White surfaces reflect all the light and black surfaces absorb all the colours. At night there is not enough light to see anything clearly.

The sky above the earth appears blue because of dust and water droplets in the air, which tend to reflect blue light more than the other colours. In space there is nothing to reflect the sun's light and so space appears black.

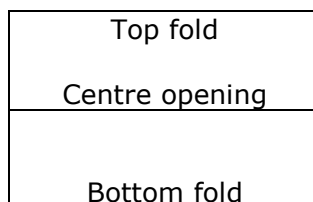
□ Make the COLOUR WHEEL.

1. Colour in the 7 colours of the rainbow.
2. Fasten it to your notebooking page or lapbook with a brad.



□ Make the RAINBOW shutterfold book.

1. Fill in the list of colour of the rainbow.
2. Write the numbers 1-7.
3. Fold the page in half and then fold the top and bottom edges in towards the centre fold again.
4. Decorate the outside with rainbow stripes.
5. Glue the shutterfold book to your notebooking page or lapbook.



Science - Flight

How do birds fly? We know that they use their wings to fly, but how do they work? By flapping their wings, birds are able to raise their bodies off the ground and move forward through the air. This is possible because of something called 'lift'. Because of the shape of the wings, the air moving over the top of the wing moves faster than the air moving underneath. This difference causes the air underneath to exert more pressure on the wing and creates 'lift'.

It is mainly the outer half of the wing that enables the bird to move forward as the long feathers of the wing tips are differently shaped from the other feathers. These flight quills give the bird forward thrust. Birds like eagles can also glide and soar on the air currents with their wings outstretched.

Watch some birds flying and tell your children how God has specially designed their bodies for flight:

- they have **powerful breast muscles** for moving the wings
- their **feathers** are light and arranged in a way that provides strong strokes against the air
- the bird's skeleton is very light because the **bones are hollow**
- the **energy** needed for flight is provided by their warm blood, their good breathing system and their ability to digest food quickly.

- Collect some feathers when you go on a nature outing and try to guess from what bird and what part of the bird's body they come. Stick the feathers on the printable notebooking page provided.

Find age-appropriate reference books about birds if you would like to take the study of their design further.

Read a book about the reproduction of chickens.

Nature – Birds of prey

Birds of prey or 'raptors' as they are also called, are flesh-eaters that hunt other animals for food. Eagles are raptors as are falcons, owls, vultures and secretary birds.

Raptors have very **sharp eye-sight**, with their eyes well-positioned in the front of their head to help them judge distances accurately when swooping down to grab their prey. They usually have **large feet with long sharp claws** for grasping and crushing their victims. Their **beaks are strong and hooked** for tearing flesh.

Let your children examine the features of the eagle in the picture book and compare them with those of the chickens. Pay attention to the position of the eyes, the feet, beak, **wingspan** etc.

Compare the pictures in the story with illustrations in a bird guide and see if you can tell what species of eagle is depicted in the story book.

Read the poem *Black Eagles* in Fynbos Friends.

- ☐ Make the two flap books titled **FOUR FEATURES OF RAPTORS** and **4 FEATURES ENABLING BIRDS TO FLY**.

4 features	enabling
birds	to fly

Four	features
of	raptors

1. Write the answers in the four middle blocks of the table provided.

	answer	answer	
	answer	answer	

2. Fold along the blue vertical lines. Cut along the red horizontal lines, to make four flaps that cover each answer.
3. Cut out the title blocks and paste one the outside of each flap to give the booklets their titles.

Social studies – Xhosa people

The story is situated in the Transkei, which is the area from the Mtamvuna River in Kwa-Zulu Natal to the Zuurveld of the Eastern Cape, which is the traditional home of the Xhosa people of South Africa. Their language, also called Xhosa is one of the eleven official languages recognised in South Africa.

The Xhosa people traditionally lived in large family groups as rural farmers who grew subsistence crops and kept cattle, which were regarded as their wealth. However, today, many Xhosa people are urbanised, living and working in cities all around the country.

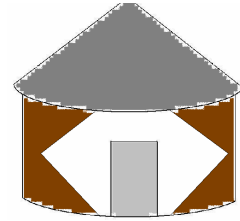
Although many Xhosa people today, do not practice the traditions of previous generations, it is still common to see Xhosa women carrying their babies on their backs and wearing a head-covering if they are married, as shown in the story.

An age appropriate book to look out for is Looking at the Xhosa by Pat and Roger de la Harpe, Struik publishers.

- ☐ Help the children to locate the Transkei on the map of South Africa provided. Let them colour the area and label it. Cut it out and glue it on a notebooking or lapbook page.

❑ Create the HUT FLAP booklet.

1. Look at the huts depicted in the story book and on the back cover of the book.
2. Talk about how the huts differ from homes in your neighbourhood. What are the similarities and the differences?
3. Look at the picture of the farmer and his family asleep in their hut. Ask the children to compare the contents with the contents of their home. eg. There is no TV, no computer, no couch, or stove.
4. Now let the children decorate the front of the hut flap-booklet provided.
5. Fold the page as indicated and cut out the hut shape.
6. Let the child draw the interior of the hut on the underneath side.
7. Cut the door so that it can flap open and closed too.
8. Glue your map and hut flap booklet to a notebooking page or your lapbook.



Craft – Model hut

You will need: flexible card, crayons or paints, glue or sticky tape

Look at the homes of the Xhosa people in the book. In rural areas, they usually live in circular huts grouped together around a central cattle kraal. The huts are constructed of mud and clay with cone-shaped, thatched roofs.

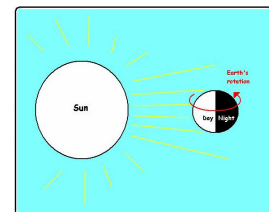
Make a 3-D model hut using card. Make a cylinder for the wall of the hut and a cone shape for the roof. Let the children decorate it appropriately using felt-tipped markers, crayon or even paint. Encourage them to decorate the walls of the hut with geometric designs similar to those shown on the back cover of the book. They might enjoy painting the walls with mud and 'thatching' the roof with dry grass stalks to make the model hut more authentic.

Maths – Measuring day and night

Either get up early and see what time the sun rises or consult your local newspaper for the times of sunrise each day. Help the children to observe and record the time that the sun sets and then calculate how many hours of dark and daylight you experience respectively.

For younger children it might be best to round off the time to the nearest hour or half hour and help them with the calculations as needed. You could repeat this exercise a few weeks or months later and compare the results, or do it regularly and plot the results on a graph.

- ❑ Refer to the mini-book about THE SUN AND THE SOLAR SYSTEM and explain how the earth's rotation causes day and night.



Language – Parable

Explain to the children that this story is a parable. A parable is a short story about every day things or situations, which is used to illustrate a religious or ethical point. In other words it is a story that has a deeper meaning and is intended to teach a lesson.

Talk about any of Jesus's parables in the Bible with which the children may be familiar. They should at least be familiar with the parable of the lost sheep given in the Bible lesson for this book.

Ask them leading questions to help them discover the deeper meaning of this story for themselves. Explain to them why Christians should never see themselves as mere chickens, because God has created each one of us to reflect His glory in our lives.

Language Arts – Opposites

□ Play the opposites matching card game with your children

1. Print the cards on white card.
2. Cut out the opposites cards and fold and glue the envelope in which to store them.
3. Place the cards face down and take turns picking up 2. If they are a pair, you keep them, if not, put them face down again.
4. Play until there are no cards left.
5. Non-readers can also play using the colour codes on each pair of cards.
6. Glue the envelope to a notebooking or lapbook page.

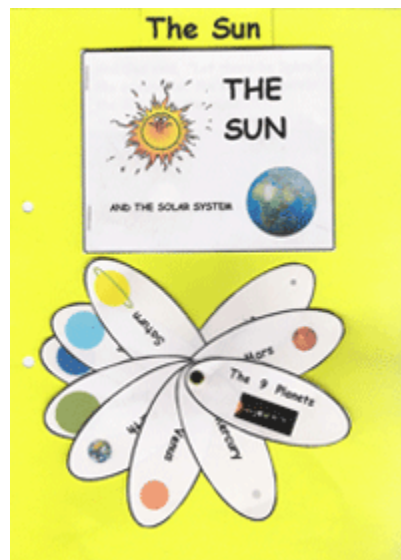
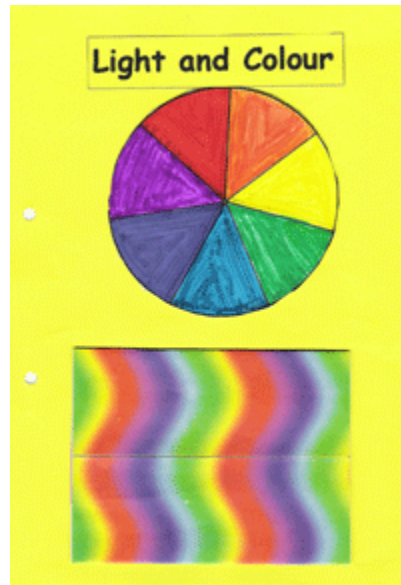
Art – Picture with a border

You will need: drawing paper, pencil crayons or other drawing medium

Let the children look at the pictures on the cover and the first and last pages of the storybook and point out the border. Ask them to do a picture within a border. They should use a geometric pattern on the border, perhaps similar to those shown on the huts on the back cover. They could create a much wider border, more like a picture frame, if they like. Let them draw a pictorial narration of the story within their border.

Older children might be interested in a discussion of which colours in the border will highlight elements of the drawing itself.

SAMPLE PAGES



And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night..."

Genesis 1: 14

Staple along this edge

Night

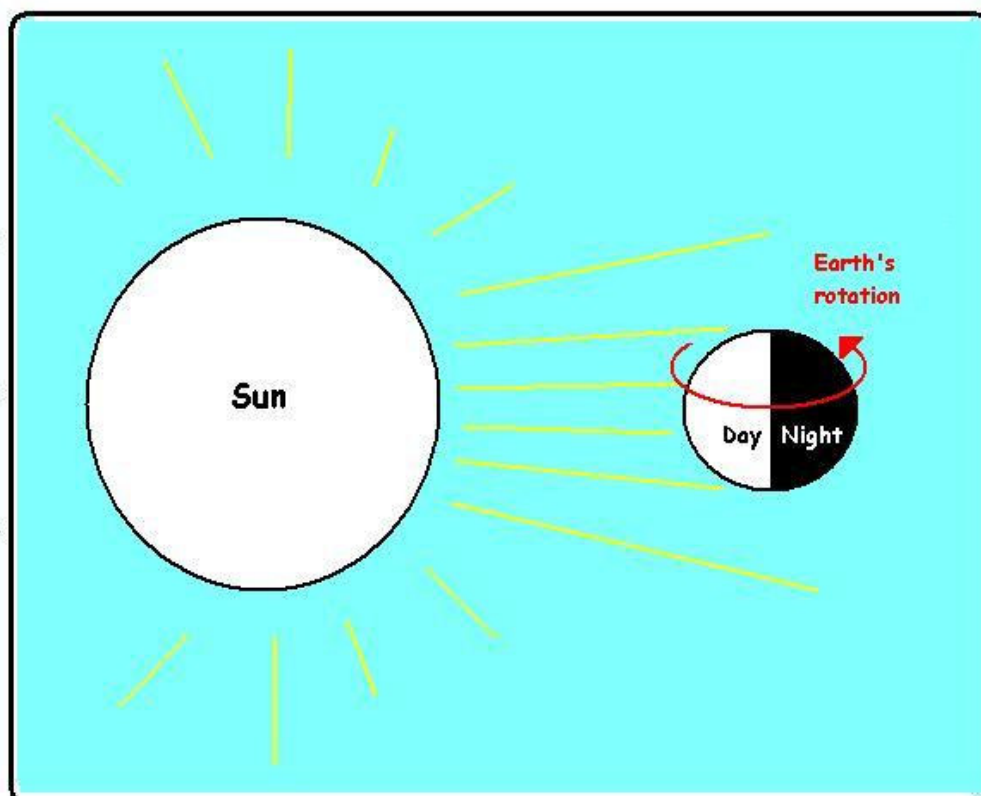
Glue
picture
here

Day

Glue
picture
here

Page 1

Staple along this edge

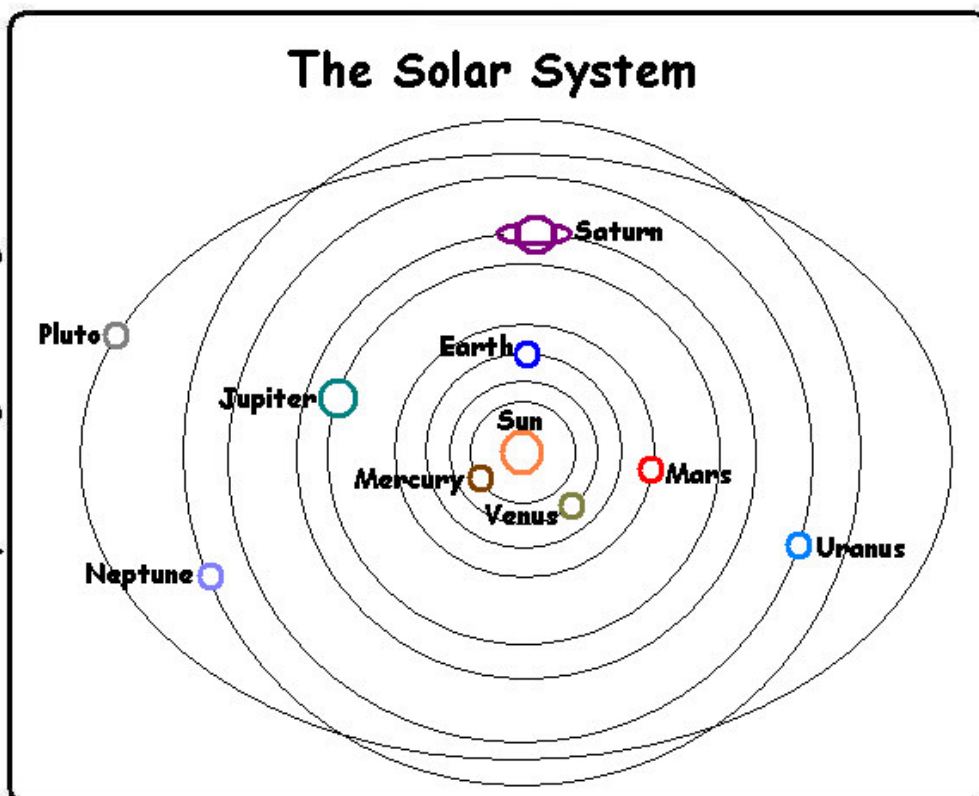


Page 2

Colour the sun yellow.

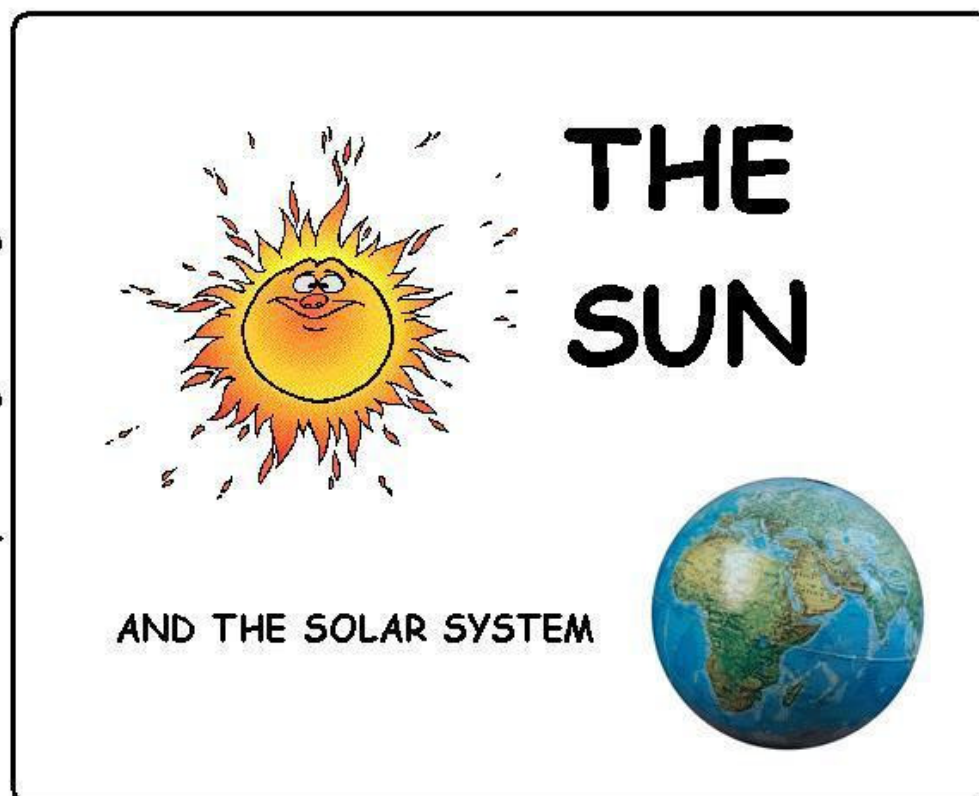
THE SUN AND THE SOLAR SYSTEM MINI-BOOKLET

Staple along this edge



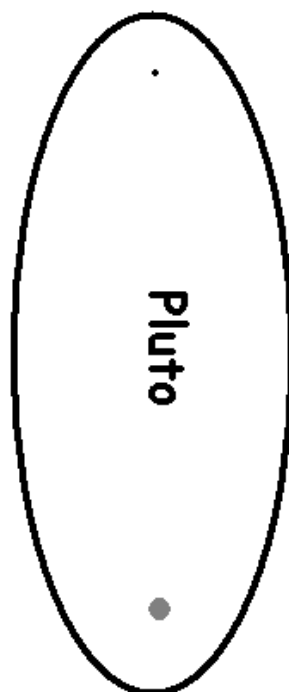
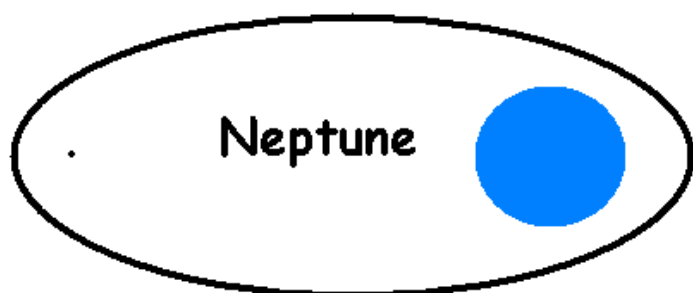
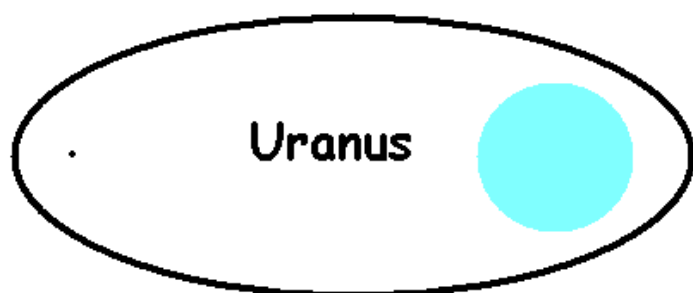
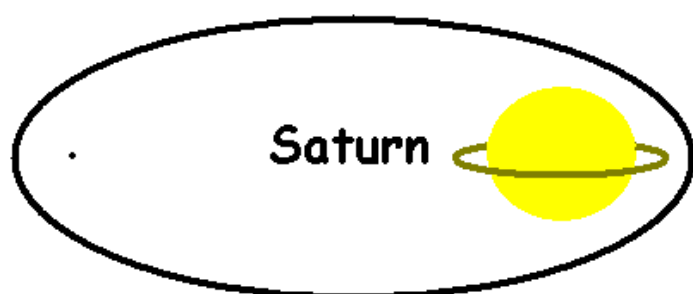
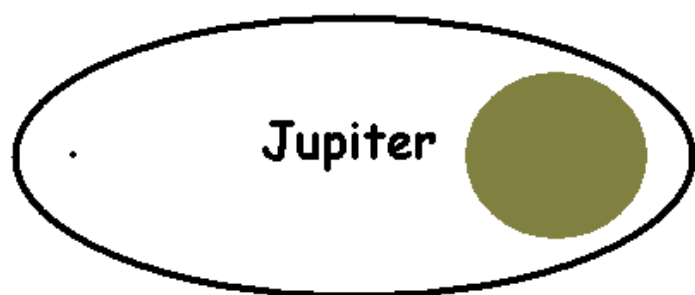
Page 3

Staple along this edge

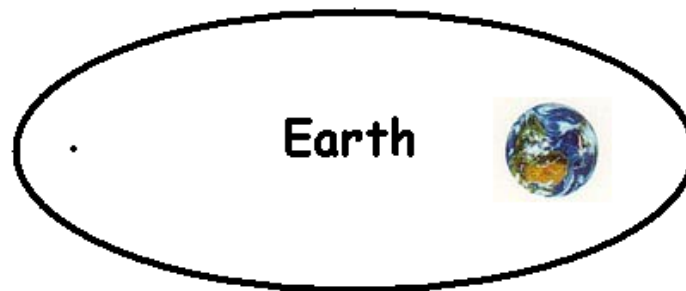
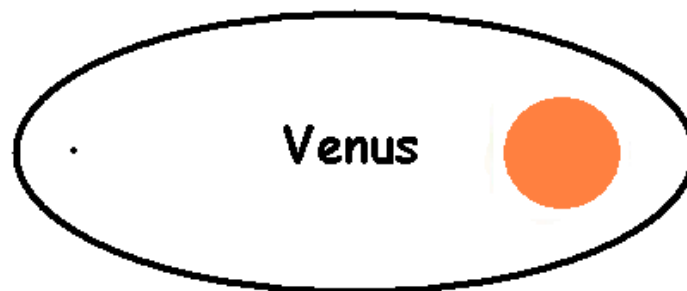
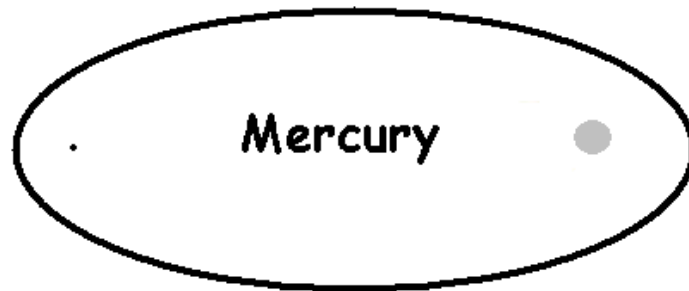


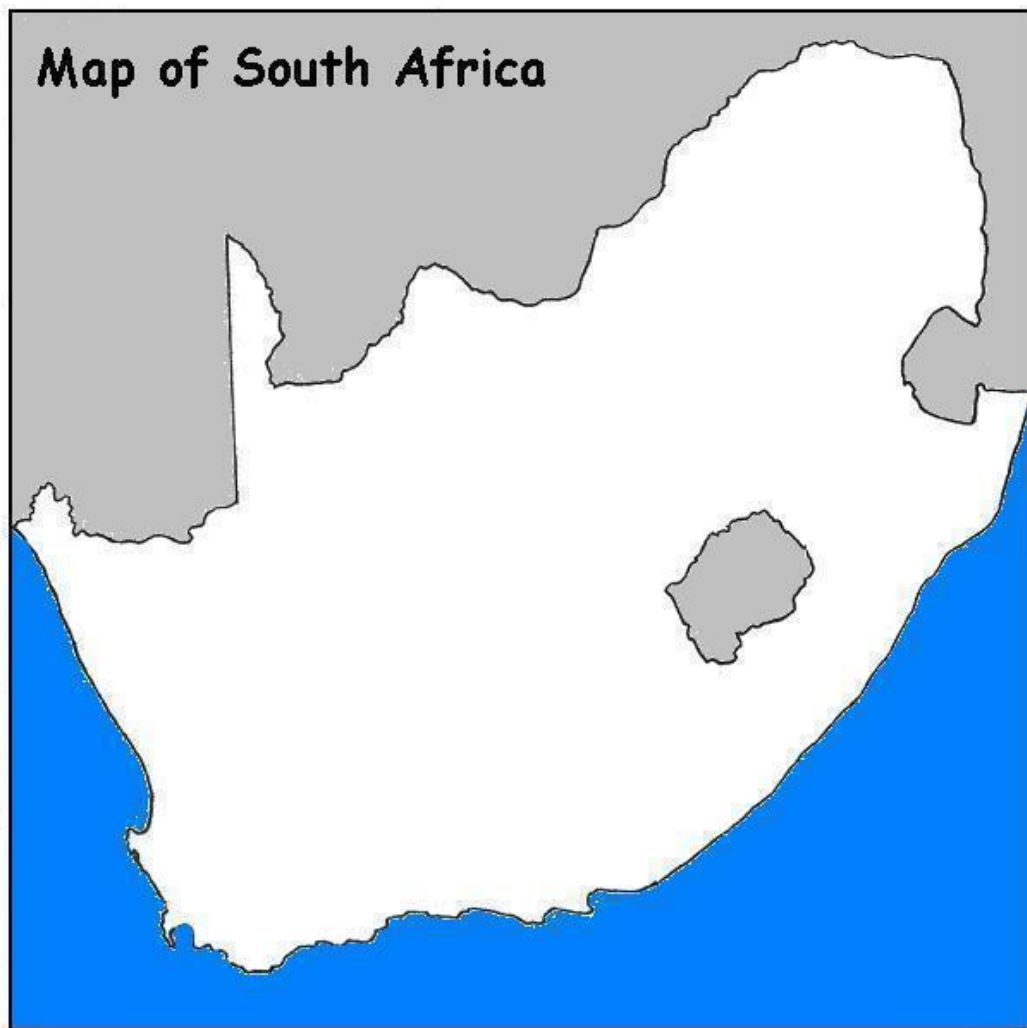
Cover

THE SUN AND THE SOLAR SYSTEM MINI-BOOKLET

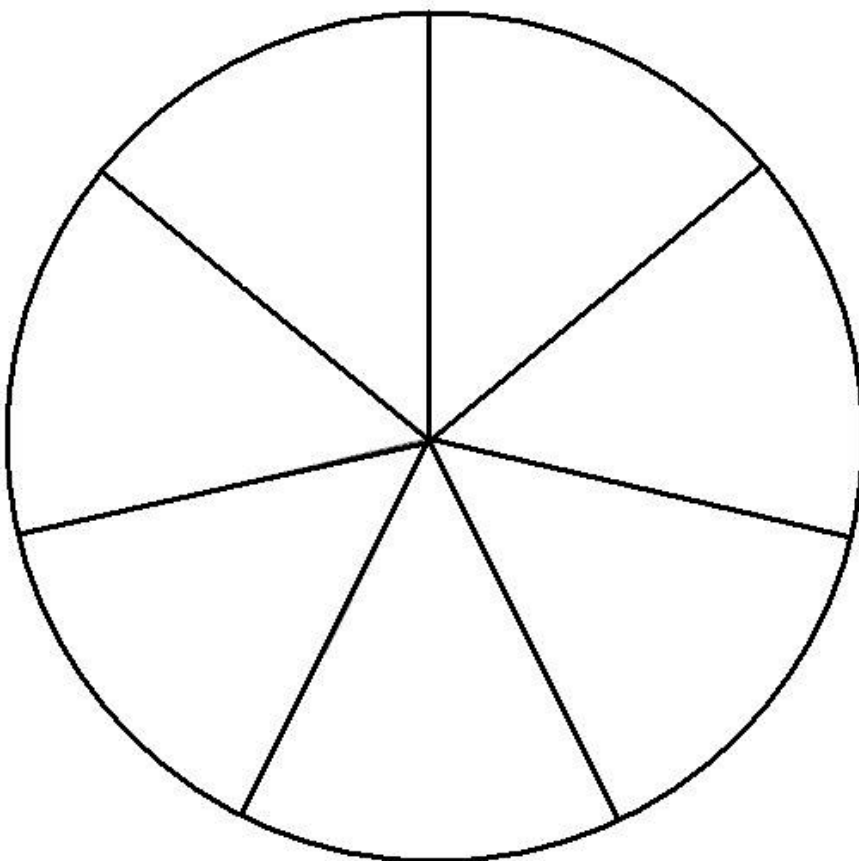


THE NINE PLANETS FAN BOOK



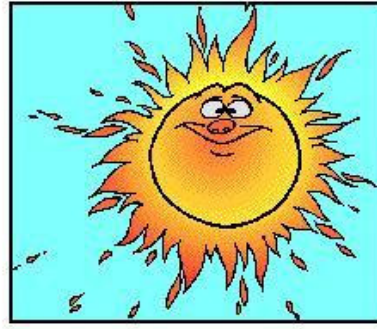
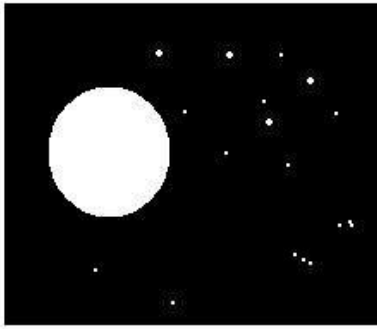


Help your child locate the area known as Transkei on the map. Mark it and colour it. This is where many Xhosa people live in South Africa.



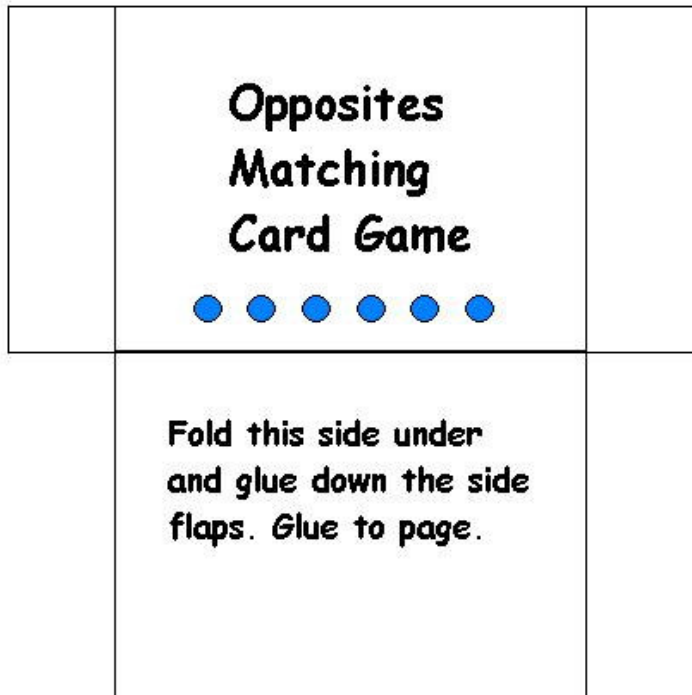
COLOUR WHEEL

Colour the 7 colours of the rainbow and attach with a brad in the centre.



Cut outs for THE SUN
booklet.

CUT OUTS FOR OTHER PAGES

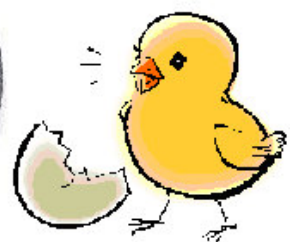
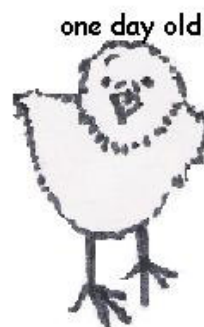


Storage envelope for cards. Make sure the cards fit inside
it before gluing down the side flaps.



Lifecycle from Egg to Chicken

Cut and paste in correct order
on lifecycle wheel. Use a brad
to make the wheel rotate.



RAINBOW SHUTTERFOLD BOOK

There are

colours in the rainbow:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

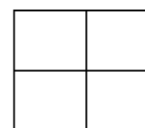
7. _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

1. Fill in the answers and write the numbers.
2. Cut out the rectangle.
3. Place the two short sides together and fold the page in half.
4. Open it again. Now fold the two short sides so that they meet on the middle fold.
5. Glue down your shutterfold booklet.

Flap book - 4 Features that enable birds to fly

Fold in along the blue line, cut along the red line to make flaps



Flap book - 4 features of birds of prey

4 features	enabling	Four	features
birds	to fly	of	raptors

Answers:

Feathers

Hollow/light bones

Strong breast muscles

Quick energy system

Answers:

sharp eyesight

hooked beaks

large claws with talons

large wingspan

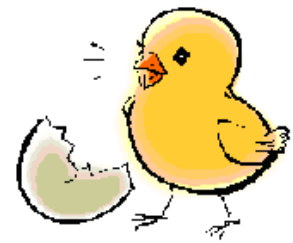
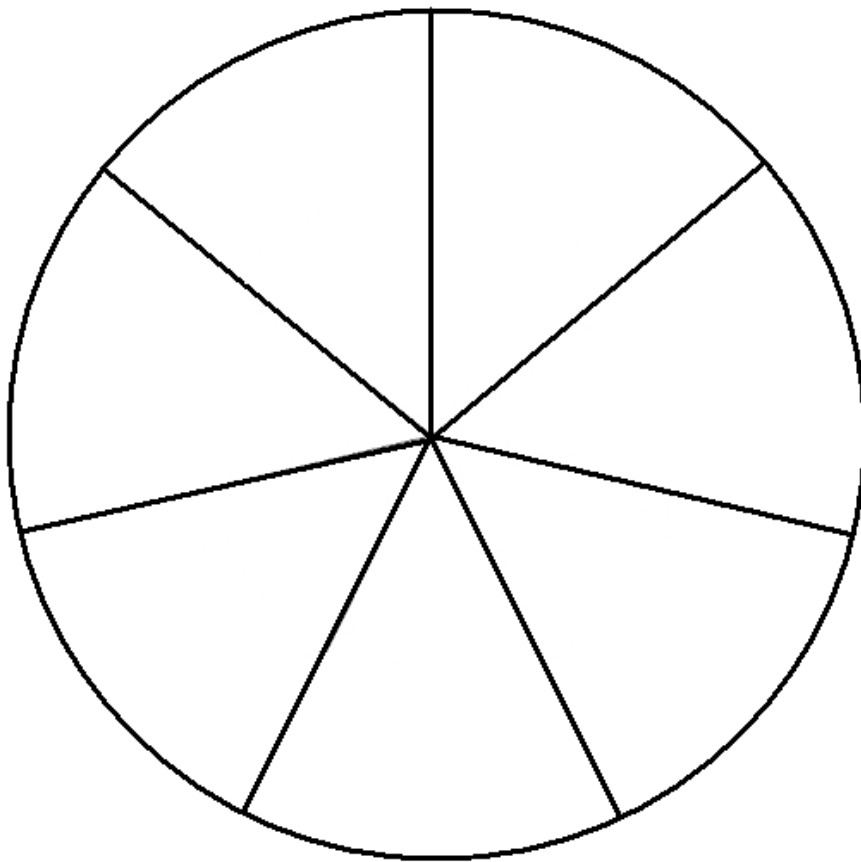
Headings for your notebooking/lapbook pages

The Xhosas

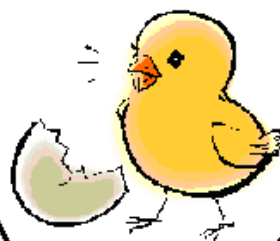
Birds

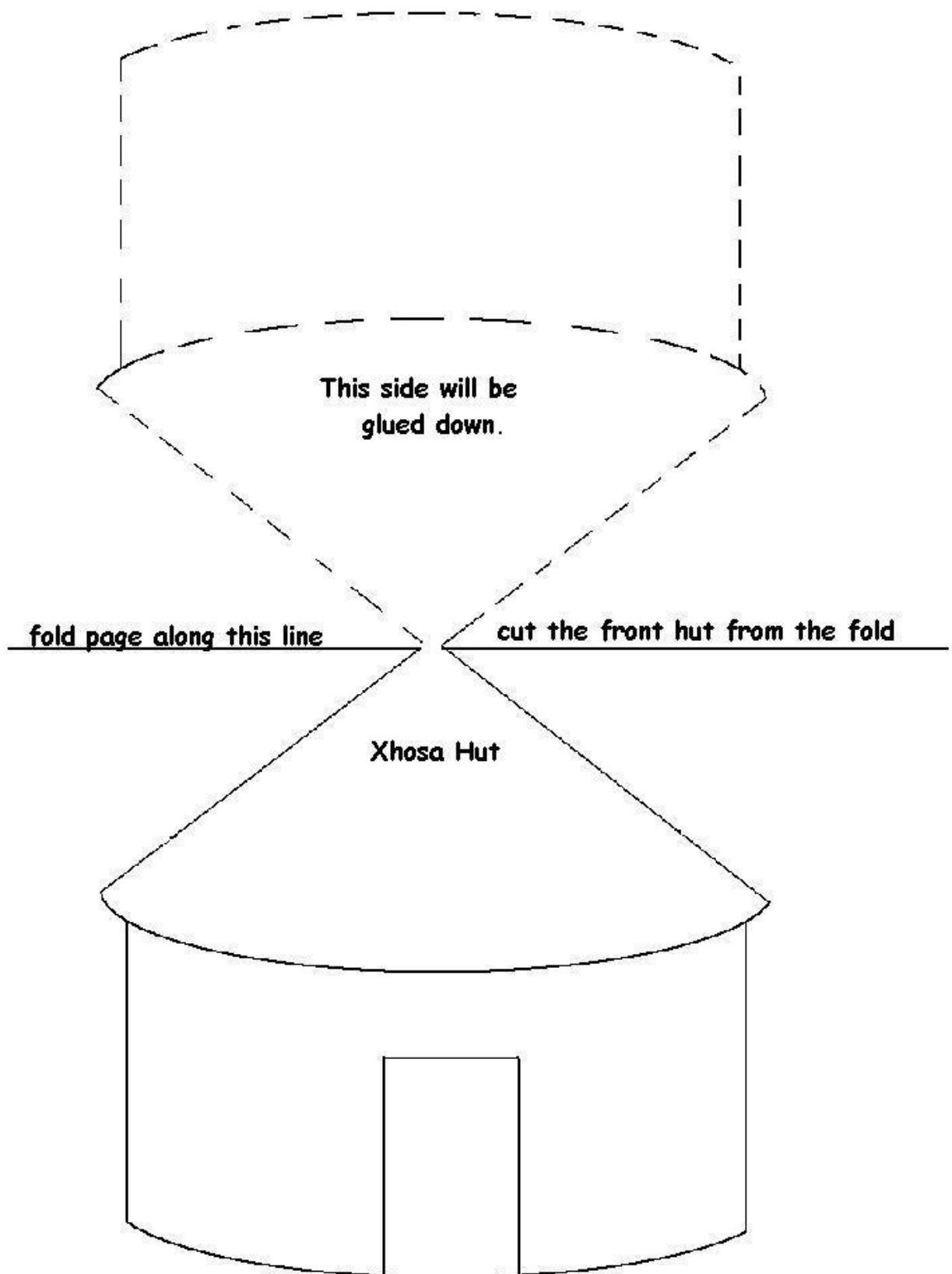
Light and Colour

The Sun



**Lifecycle
from
Egg to Chick**





Colour the hut.

Decorate the walls of the hut like the Xhosa people do. Cut along the one side and top or the door to let it flap open. Draw the inside of the hut on the back of your folded hut. Glue your hut down on a coloured page.

Fly, Eagle, Fly!

Isaiah 40:31



Those who hope

in the Lord

will renew

their strength.

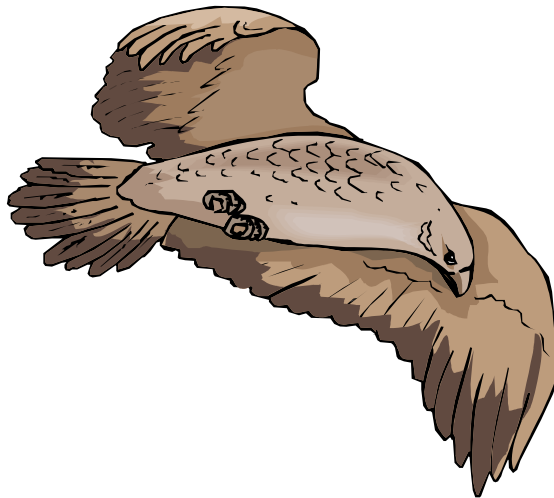
They will soar

on wings like

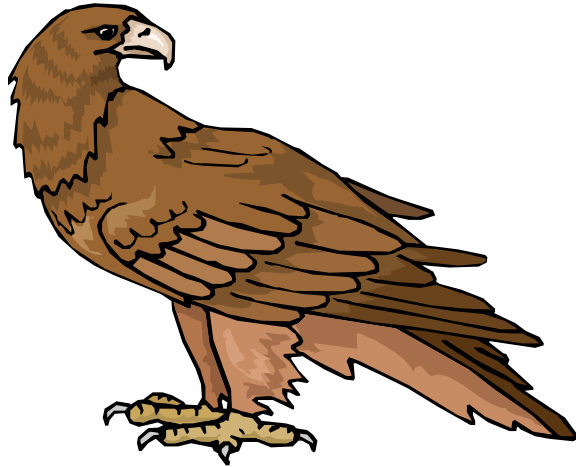
eagles: they

will run and

not grow weary.



Fly, Eagle, Fly!



The great bird

stretched out

its wings to

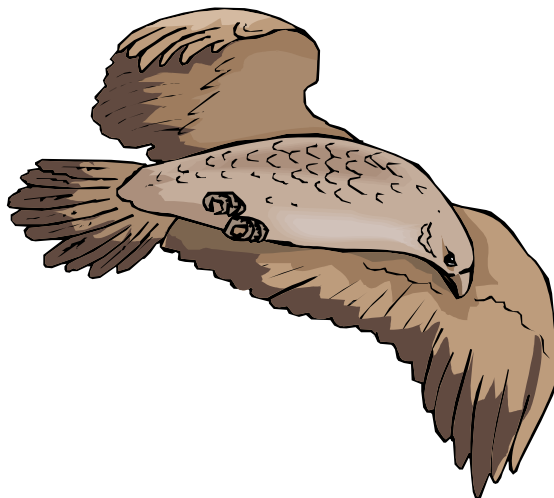
greet the sun

and feel the

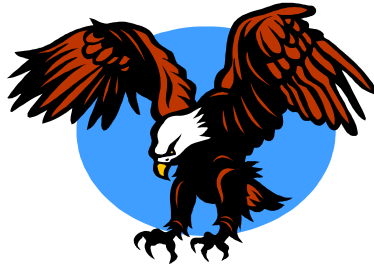
life-giving

warmth on its

feathers.



Fly, Eagle Fly !



The great bird stretched
out its wings to greet
the sun and feel the
life-giving warmth on its
feathers.

Fly, Eagle, Fly!

Isaiah 40:31



"Those who hope in the
Lord will renew their
strength. They will soar
on wings like eagles:
they will run and not
grow weary."

Little Footprints Copywork

Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed middle line. There are 10 sets of these lines on the page.