

Centre for Conservation Education

Environmental & Heritage Education Lesson Booklet

2026 (Second Edition)

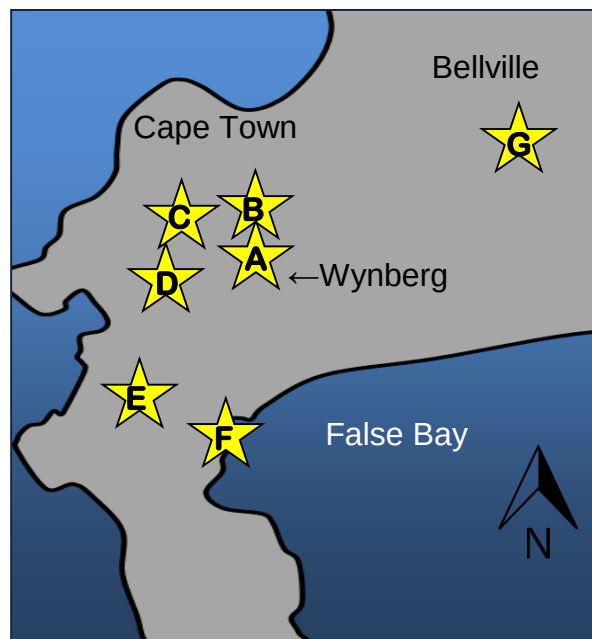


A healthy environment for all is one of the principles of the constitution of South Africa. Our motto remains: **ENTER TO LEARN; LEAVE TO SAVE**, encouraging young people to work towards saving our earth. Besides our Centre in Wynberg, we teach at a variety of sites in the Cape Peninsula, as indicated below - *click on the links for the maps*:

- A [Centre for Conservation Education](#)
- B [Arderne Gardens](#)
- C [Liesbeek River](#)
- D [Groot Constantia Wine Estate](#)
- E [Silvermine Nature Reserve](#)
- F [Dalebrook Beach, Kalk Bay](#)
- G [Bracken Nature Reserve](#)

We have:

- The only museum on education in Africa (since 1989): **Education Museum**
- **Provincial Heritage Site** status (since 1994)
- Won the DCAS Cultural Awards:
 - **Best Museum Programme: 'Every School Counts'** (2009)
 - **Best Museum Programme: 'History That Hurts'** (2017)
 - **Best Contribution to Local History** (2017)
- **Distributed trees** (donated by DFFE) to schools and organisations every year during National Arbor Week
- Been awarded a **Blue Heritage Plaque** in 2018
- Done over 185 educational exhibitions
- Recognition for contribution towards **Marine Citizen Science Programme** (Table Mountain Fund and WWF 2023)



Map of the Cape Peninsula

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**Western Cape
Government**

QUALITY EDUCATION

for every child | in every classroom | in every school in the province.

Last updated: June 2026

Prices for 2026

1. Set prices for lessons per learner:

"FREEZE THE FEES" <i>Prices will remain the same as 2025</i>	Price per Learner
All lessons at the Centre; and most field studies at outdoor sites	R35
All lessons at Groot Constantia (we pay for the use of this site)	R45
Table Mountain National Park: Silvermine Nature Reserve (includes an Entry Permit to the Nature Reserve)	R40
Educators; student teachers; parents who are lifting	Free

Booking Procedures

Bookings are essential!

BOOK NOW

[Click here to make a booking](#)

1. **Select a lesson** and check that it is suitable for your class and your learning programme.
2. **Bookings are done online.** Click the link on the left to complete the Booking Form and to submit it. Or you can do it from our website: www.centreforconservation.co.za
3. **Telephonic (021 762-1622) and WhatsApp bookings (063 459-6046)** will be considered as provisional and the dates will only be confirmed once an online Booking Form has been completed.
4. Dates are allocated on a **'first come first served' basis and according to availability**. If these do not suit you, please contact us ASAP so that we can change them while alternative dates are still available.
5. **All bookings will be confirmed in writing via email.**
We will supply you with the following:
 - a Confirmation/Invoice Form with the dates and times of your lesson(s)
 - a map to get to the venue
 - a Lesson Plan which you can submit to your District Office as part of your motivation (Government schools only)
 - Worksheets for duplication (if applicable)
 - Final Details for Field Studies
6. **Apply to your District Office for permission as per WCED protocol.**
Postponements of lessons due to the weather, illness and other unforeseen circumstances are sometimes inevitable. In such an event, we will always try to fit you in at a suitable later date.

Cancellations or no-shows: Last-minute cancellations mean that other schools miss the opportunity of visiting us because they also need 4 weeks to get permission to come. **We charge a cancellation fee of 50% of the invoice for schools that cancel less than 4 weeks before their visit or who fail to turn up on the day of their booking.**

Special Programmes: 'Enter to learn; leave to save'.

Date	Description
LIMPET Long-Term Intertidal Monitoring through Participation, Evaluation & Training	We are part of the Provincial LIMPET project, which gives high school learners an opportunity to participate in an active Marine Citizen Science Project, that contributes towards research & conservation (Gr 10 & 11: Life Sciences and Marine Sciences).
National Water Week Tue 17 Mar – Thu 19 Mar (our programme)	World Water Day is on Sunday, 22 March 2026. Our special lesson, Water Awareness (Gr 4 - 7), focuses on water as a human right and a scarce resource that must be used sparingly and sustainably. Available all year.
City Nature Challenge Fri 24 Apr – Mon 27 Apr	A project that all learners, teachers, parents and community members can get involved in: find wildlife; take a photo; share it to iNaturalist . In 2020 Cape Town won with the most observations (53 763) and the most species (4 588). Let's do it again!
International Museum Week Mon 18 May – Fri 22 May	Monday, 18 May 2026 is International Museum Day. As always, the Education Museum at the Centre will be presenting an interesting and educational programme. We will notify schools with more details closer to the time.
World Environment Day Fri 5 Jun	World Environment Day seeks to raise awareness about environmental issues. It hopes to curb climate change, minimize pollution and create sustainable lifestyles to ensure the Earth's health.
National Arbor Week Tue 1 Sep – Fri 11 Sep (our programme)	We will be teaching at the Arderne Gardens during Arbor Week. See our Lesson: Trees of Arderne Gardens . It is a walk through the Gardens in Claremont learning about Champion Trees that grow there (Gr 3 - 5).
International Coastal Clean-up Sat 19 Sep	This is a great opportunity for schools and learners to get practically involved in cleaning the environment. The data of the debris collected is sent to scientists to analyse; thus learners can contribute to the scientific knowledge and become citizen scientists. Schools arranging beach clean-ups can get data cards, plastic gloves and refuse bags from us.
National Marine Month October	Lesson: Rocky Seashore Study. A study of the biodiversity and the survival of rock pool dwellers at Dalebrook Beach, Kalk Bay with a different focus for each grade (Gr 4 - 8; 10 - 11).
Blue Heritage Plaque Schools Project Contact person: Anton Fortuin	This programme carries the approval of the WCED and the Heritage Association of South Africa (HASA), and is supported by several local heritage associations. Schools can apply for a Blue Heritage Plaque in one of the following 5 categories: <i>The age of the school</i> (over 125 years); <i>an architecturally significant building</i> ; <i>exceptional service to the community</i> ; <i>survival under difficult circumstances</i> ; <i>a past learner or educator who has distinguished themselves</i> (must no longer be living).

SUMMARY OF LESSONS FOR 2026

Lesson		Grade suitability										Pg.
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Environmental Issues												
Climate Change: Can we meet the challenge?								✓	✓	✓		5
The Weather Station				✓					✓			5
Water Awareness	Water in SA: uses of water; water as a resource; how people get their water; pollution & waste water; dangers in and around water		✓									5
	Where rivers begin & end; impact of dams; water as a basic need			✓								5
	Water pollution; importance of wetlands; processes to purify water				✓							5
	Environmental & river health; disappearing wetlands; responsible use of water resources					✓						5
Field Studies												
Biodiversity in the Table Mountain Biosphere					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		6
Rocky Seashore Study	Habitats		✓									6
	Biodiversity; food chains			✓								6
	Eco-systems; food webs				✓							6
	Biodiversity; molluscs; crustaceans; tides; marine protected areas					✓						6
	Eco-systems; adaptations; food chains/webs; conservation						✓					6
	Biomes; eco-systems; LIMPET								✓			6
	Interactions in environment; loss of biodiversity; LIMPET									✓		6
Cape Floral Kingdom Study					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		7
The Trees of Arderne Gardens		✓	✓	✓								7
The Liesbeek as a River Study				✓	✓						✓	8
Cellar Tour and Viticulture			✓	✓	✓							8
History / Museum Work												
Make a Museum Display			✓									8
Archaeology	Finding out about hunter-gatherers			✓								9
	Mapungubwe				✓							9
	Mali & Timbuktu					✓						9
Groot Constantia as a Heritage Site			✓	✓					✓			9
Slavery at Groot Constantia						✓						9
Children's Games: Change and Continuity			✓		✓							10
When Great-Granny / Grandpa was at School		✓	✓									10

Descriptions of Regular Lessons

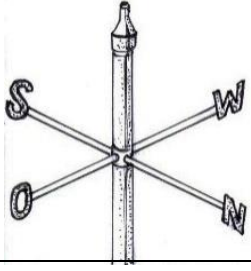
The content of our lessons is always adapted to suit the grade and the CAPS.

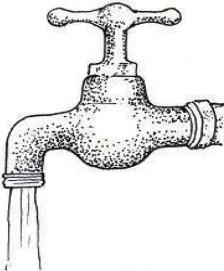
All our lessons are available for learners with special education needs.

In case of inclement weather, field studies will be postponed to a later date.

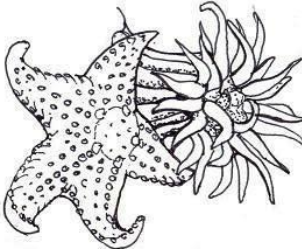
Environmental Issues

CLIMATE CHANGE: CAN WE MEET THE CHALLENGE?		3 hours	Grades: 9; 10, 11
	Climate change is the biggest threat to the well-being of the earth and its inhabitants, contributing greatly to the loss of biodiversity. It has been greatly accelerated by human activities. The key issues we cover are: 1) Causes of climate change (global warming and greenhouse gases); 2) Impact of climate change on the environment and people; 3) Solutions and making sustainable lifestyle choices.		Curriculum Links: <u>Gr 9</u> Natural Sciences <u>Gr 10</u> Geography <u>Gr 11</u> Life Sciences

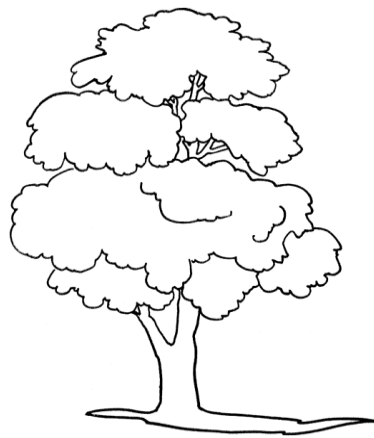
THE WEATHER STATION		3 hours	Grade: 5, 10
Curriculum Links: <u>Gr 5</u> SS Geography <u>Gr 10</u> Geography	The weather affects every aspect of human activity. The Centre has a Stevenson's Screen and other weather recording equipment, which makes the observation of weather possible. The learners are introduced to a number of modern scientific weather recording instruments, and they learn how weather information is collected globally by both scientists and ordinary people. They are then taken to the Stevenson's Screen and use the instruments to record different weather phenomena. Their data is compared and analysed. Flowing from this is the importance of understanding weather forecasts. Using recorded forecasts, the older learners in particular are given the opportunity of applying these to their own lives. The Weather Station video clip		
			

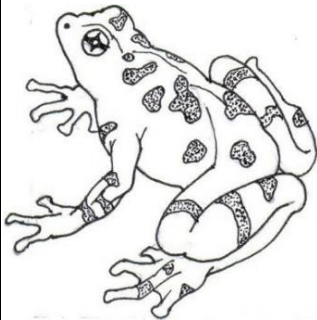
WATER AWARENESS		3 hours	Grade: 4, 5, 6, 7
Water is life and life is water. We start the lesson with the impact of humans on water resources. We also examine where water comes from – how it is supplied by dams to a developing city like Cape Town. Water as a scarce resource is highlighted, as is the need to use it sustainably. Water-saving devices are demonstrated. The lesson has learner-centred activities, including measuring, and varies according to the curriculum needs of the grade: <u>Gr 4:</u> Water in SA: uses of water; water as a resource; how people get water; pollution and waste water (SS Geography); dangers in and around water (Life Skills). <u>Gr 5:</u> Where rivers begin and end; impact of dams (SS Geography); water as a basic need (Life Skills). <u>Gr 6:</u> Water pollution; importance of wetlands; processes to purify water (Natural Sciences & Technology). <u>Gr 7:</u> Environmental health (Life Orientation); river health; disappearing wetlands; responsible use of water resources (SS Geography).			Curriculum Links: SS Geography Natural Sciences & Technology Life Skills/Orient. Mathematics
			SAVE OUR WATER 

BIODIVERSITY IN THE TABLE MOUNTAIN BIOSPHERE	4 hours	Grade: 6, 7, 8, 10, 11
This field study takes place at the Silvermine Nature Reserve within the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP). Table Mountain (TM) is Cape Town's most easily recognisable natural Provincial Heritage Site and it contains the Cape Floral Region (mainly fynbos), a World Heritage Site. This study begins with how to prepare for a walk in the mountain, including responsible use of the TMNP. Through practical activities the learners are exposed to various aspects of their curriculum. The lesson always has an element of unpredictability that may alter it slightly: accessibility to the site; the weather; mountain fires; the presence of animals, etc. <u>Gr 6:</u> Ecosystems; food chains; photosynthesis <u>Gr 7:</u> Classification of living things; biodiversity (emphasis on fynbos); pollination <u>Gr 8:</u> Ecosystems; food chains; photosynthesis; conservation <u>Gr 10:</u> Ecosystems; food webs; classification of living things; biodiversity (emphasis on fynbos) <u>Gr 11:</u> Biodiversity of plants and animals; pollination; population ecology; photosynthesis Biodiversity in the Table Mountain Biosphere video clip		Curriculum Links: Life Orientation SS History SS Geography Natural Sciences Life Sciences  SAVE OUR FYNBOS

ROCKY SEASHORE STUDY	3 hours	Grade: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11
This field study takes place at Dalebrook Beach in Kalk Bay. It is a scientific study of the biodiversity in the zones between the high and low water marks. We start by discussing the importance of marine protected areas and appropriate human behaviour; the human impact on marine resources and safety at the seashore. The learners study the rock pools revealed at low tide, and make various observations and deductions. If time permits, we do a litter survey as an act of community service. The lesson always has an element of unpredictability that may alter it slightly: the weather; the tides; the presence of other groups at the site etc. <u>Gr 4:</u> Habitats <u>Gr 5:</u> Biodiversity; food chains <u>Gr 6:</u> Eco-systems; food webs <u>Gr 7:</u> Biodiversity; molluscs; crustaceans; tides; marine protected areas <u>Gr 8:</u> Eco-systems; adaptations; food chains & food webs; conservation <u>Gr 10:</u> Biomes; eco-systems; LIMPET Field Study <u>Gr 11:</u> Interactions in environment; loss of biodiversity; LIMPET field study The Rocky Seashore Study is available in Terms 1, 2 & 4, and is tide & weather dependent. Rocky Seashore Study video clip / LIMPET Rocky Seashore video clip		Curriculum Links: <u>Gr 4-6</u> Natural Sciences & Technology <u>Gr 7-8</u> Natural Sciences SS Geography Mathematics Life Skills/Orientation <u>Gr 10-11</u> Life Sciences Marine Sciences 

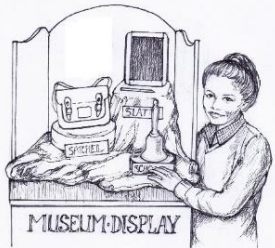
CAPE FLORAL KINGDOM STUDY		3 hours	Grade: 6, 7, 8, 10, 11
This field study takes place at Bracken Nature Reserve in Brackenfell, an area that conserves two vegetation types: Cape Flats Sand Fynbos and Swartland Granite Renosterveld. Both types of vegetation form part of the Cape Floral Kingdom (CFK). The CFK is the smallest of the six plant kingdoms in the world, yet renowned for its exceptional species richness and high levels of endemism. The reserve also features an old signal cannon, offering learners the opportunity to understand the role of the cannon in the signal system during the VOC (Dutch East India Company) era. Through practical activities, learners will investigate the unique characteristics of the two vegetation types found within the reserve and will be exposed to various aspects within the curriculum.		Curriculum Links: Life Orientation Life Sciences Natural Sciences SS Geography SS History	
		SAVE OUR ECOSYSTEMS	

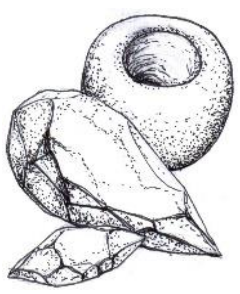
THE TREES OF ARDERNE GARDENS		3 hours	Grade: 3, 4, 5
	This lesson takes place in the Arderne Gardens in Claremont. It is done in Term 3 and 4, as it links with 'Special Days: National Arbor Week' (1-7 Sept). The lesson is weather dependent. The Arderne Gardens is a Provincial Heritage Site, where a variety of plants and trees have been planted for the enjoyment of the public and for learning. We begin with the rules for visitors and introduce the history of the Gardens. Then we take a walk through the Gardens, focusing on identifying specific trees. Learners participate in a variety of activities to identify and classify the diverse species. Lastly, we talk about Arbor Week, the uses of trees and why we should plant more trees. The Trees of the Arderne Gardens video clip	Curriculum Link: Life Skills Natural Sciences & Technology Life Skills SS History	
		<u>Special days:</u> Arbor Week SAVE OUR TREES	

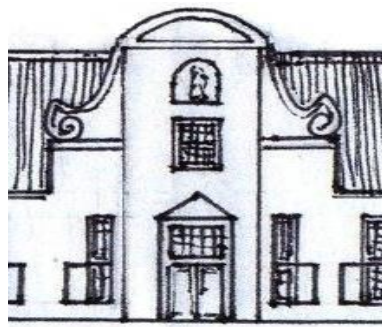
THE LIESBEEK AS A RIVER STUDY		3 hours	Grade: 5, 6, 12
SAVE OUR RIVERS 	We meet at the parking area (Gate 1) of Kirstenbosch Gardens and then proceed to two sites on the Liesbeek River: Natural (for practical activities) and canalised (for comparison). The Liesbeek is one of a few accessible rivers in an urban area. We focus on the impact of human development and invasive plants on the River and its biodiversity. A citizen science audit of the River is done. This lesson is ideally suited as field work. The lesson is only available in Terms 1, 2 & 4. School transport needs to remain with learners in order to transfer them between three sites. The Liesbeek as a River Study video clip		Curriculum Links: <u>Gr 5, 6</u> SS Geography SS History Natural Sciences & Technology Life Skills <u>Gr 12</u> Geography (River Management)

CELLAR TOUR AND VITICULTURE		3 hours	Grade: 4, 5, 6
This lesson takes place at Groot Constantia Wine Estate and begins with a look at the relationship between the seasons and viticulture. Learners are taught the difference between table grapes and wine grapes. They taste a grape berry to recognise the taste of tannin. This is followed by a tour through the production cellar, which uses state-of-the-art technology. Thereafter, learners do a juice tasting in one of the tasting rooms. A brief introduction to the history of Groot Constantia is given. Finally, we conclude with a chronology activity: 'From the vine to the shelf'. 			Curriculum Links: SS Geography SS History Natural Sciences & Technology Life Skills

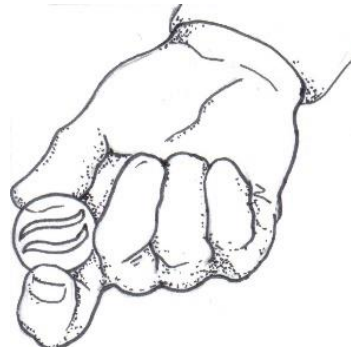
History / Museum Work

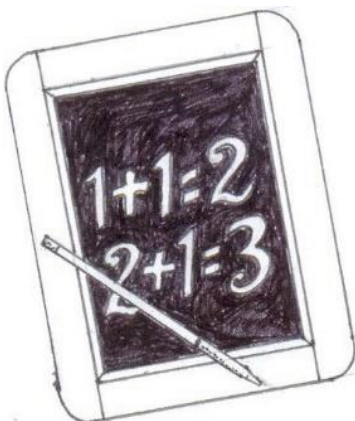
Grade: 4	3 hours	MAKE A MUSEUM DISPLAY	
Curriculum Link: SS History: Local History Project 		This lesson is designed to complement the Local History Project suggested for Term 1 and can cover 3 of the required 7 hours indicated in the CAPS. It is a practical activity where learners are taught some basic skills needed to set up a small museum display, using objects from the Education Museum's collection. The lesson begins with a presentation on the local history of your school's area, with notes for the teacher's future use . We cover vocabulary relevant to museum displays; group and select different kinds of information; identify objects from the past & present and their use; interpret/compare old and new photographs; tips for arranging and displaying material; make labels; be creative and innovative. Make a Museum Display video clip	

ARCHAEOLOGY		3 hours	Grade: 5, 6, 7
An archaeological dig reveals tangible evidence that allows archaeologists to reconstruct the past. This lesson is a practical introduction to archaeology and its processes. Learners excavate a recreated Stone/Iron Age site and sift, sort, categorise, label and record artefacts. The lesson highlights a few of Africa's rich cultural heritage sites. The content differs with each grade.		Curriculum Links: SS History Life Skills / Orientation SAVE OUR CULTURAL OBJECTS	
 <u>Gr 5:</u> Hunter-gatherers <u>Gr 6:</u> Mapungubwe <u>Gr 7:</u> Mali and Timbuktu			

GROOT CONSTANTIA AS A HERITAGE SITE		3 hours	Grade: 4, 5, 10
This lesson takes place at Groot Constantia, a Provincial Heritage Site. We start with a discussion of what heritage is, followed by a 'History in a Box' activity where the history of the Groot Constantia is unpacked. Before we enter the Homestead, we look at some of the features of Cape Dutch architecture. In the house the learners examine some of the objects displayed there and do a variety of activities to explore how people lived long ago. Lastly, learners are told a story relating to Groot Constantia, leading to a discussion on heritage conservation. <u>Gr 4:</u> Local History (how we learn about the past) <u>Gr 5:</u> Heritage (part of the Heritage Trail through South Africa) <u>Gr 10:</u> Importance of heritage, heritage sites, tourist attractions Groot Constantia as a Heritage Site video clip		Curriculum Link: SS History Tourism: Culture & Heritage Heritage sites  SAVE OUR HERITAGE	

Grade: 7	3 hours	SLAVERY AT GROOT CONSTANTIA	
Curriculum Links: SS History Slavery Life Orientation Human rights	This lesson takes place at Groot Constantia, a Provincial Heritage Site. It covers the history of the farm, with emphasis on its slaves. We begin with the arrival of the VOC (Dutch East India Company) and the need for labour. We revise what slavery is and discuss why a farm like Constantia needed slaves. Through examining primary sources of evidence, learners get to know who some of the specific slaves at Groot Constantia were, where they came from and what work they did on the farm. Included is a walk around the Estate and we look at where the slaves would have performed their daily labour. This incorporates a visit to the Homestead. Lastly, we look at the contribution of the slaves to Cape society. Slavery at Groot Constantia video clip		

Grade: 4, 6	3 hours	CHILDREN'S GAMES: CHANGE AND CONTINUITY
Curriculum Links: <u>Gr 4</u> SS History: Local History Life Skills: Indigenous games <u>Gr 6</u> SS History: Children's rights & responsibilities Life Skills: Striking games	All over the world children play similar games. This is a practical lesson where learners play a variety of indigenous and traditional games. We begin with a look at the universal phenomenon of play and the seasonal nature of certain games. The Children's Rights Charter is introduced and the importance of playing with friends, enjoyment, respect for rules, taking turns and co-operation are discussed (rights & responsibilities). Learners learn about hiding and hunting games of early African societies, and Gr 6s are taught the striking game of <i>kennetjie</i> . Learners can also make tractors from cotton reels, <i>woer-woers</i> from buttons and clay oxen, depending on time. We mention that games do not need money or fancy equipment. This lesson encourages children to play as an alternative to excessive time spent on devices and screen-time.	

WHEN GREAT-GRANNY / GRANDPA WAS AT SCHOOL <i>Our most popular lesson!</i>	2½ hours	Grade: 3 (Term 3 only)
	3 hours	Grade: 4
Local history: schooling in the Cape Colony between 1836 and 1911. This lesson is role-played in an authentic setting. Teachers are required to prepare their learners beforehand according to our Teachers' Guide. After a baseline assessment using a variety of sources to determine what they know, learners are taken through a typical 19 th century school day in our recreated Victorian classroom using authentic learning materials of the time. This also gives them an understanding of heritage conservation. Depending on the time available, the lesson may include social issues; behaviour; discipline; teaching methods; devotions; reading; spelling; proverbs; arithmetic; writing on slates or in copy books; inspection; object lesson; singing; drill; and playground games. The lesson ends with a debriefing.		Curriculum Links: <u>Gr 3</u> Life Skills Beginning Knowledge: How people lived long ago <u>Gr 4</u> SS History (Local History) Life Skills: Performing Arts Natural Sciences & Technology Language Mathematics

[When Great-Granny / Grandpa was at School video clip](#)

Directions to the Centre for Conservation Education



Contact us:

**Centre for
Conservation
Education**



**Sentrum vir
Bewarings-
opvoeding**

*Address: 9 Aliwal Road, Wynberg, 7800
Tel: (021) 762-1622*

Website: www.centreforconservation.co.za

admin@centreforconservation.co.za (enquiries)

souad@centreforconservation.co.za (bookings)

andre@centreforconservation.co.za (projects)

anton@centreforconservation.co.za

(Western Cape EE Forum; Coastal Clean-up; Blue Heritage Plaques)

Map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Li9j5NGYKUyF3VTb9>



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