**LIFEBRIDGE INTEGRATED LEARNING CENTRE**

**GRADE 8 GEOGRAPHY SETTLEMENTS**

**URBANIZATION IN SOUTH AFRICA**

**NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

When you complete this unit, you should be able to show that you can identify:

1. What led to the growth of cities in South Africa.
2. How laws and race policies influenced the development of cities.
3. How land use in cities was affected by apartheid.
4. How the end of apartheid has influenced urbanization.

**KEY TERMS AND CONCEPTS**

Give a definition in your own words for each of the terms in the left-hand column

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| Transit city |  |
| Mineral resources |  |
| 1913 Land Act |  |
| Apartheid |  |
| Group Areas |  |
| Dormitory suburb |  |

1. Cape Town was the first urban settlement in South Africa and at first it grew very slowly. It was initially started as refreshment stop for passing ships, but when some of the staff decided to settle permanently in the new land it began to expand and grow as people built farms and started their own businesses. Figure 1 shows the growth of Cape Town.
2. The first few towns started after Cape Town (Stellenbosch, Swellendam, and Graaff-Reinet) never really grew very big as they were mainly just started as an extension of the government offices in Cape Town.
3. The importance of a good, safe harbour at Cape Town also helped the city to grow.
4. When the British decided to expand into Natal Durban provided a convenient, safe harbour and the area around Durban began to grow in a similar way to Cape Town.

QUESTION 1

What was the single common factor that promoted the growth of the first cities or urban areas in South Africa?

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1. After the discovery of diamonds in Kimberley (1867) and gold on the Witwatersrand (1879) the cities of Kimberley and Johannesburg grew very rapidly. Around that time rail transport was introduced for the first time in South Africa and this also accelerated growth.
2. Additional ports were established at Port Elizabeth and Port Rex (East London) and these also grew quickly into new cities.
3. At that time the Boers who had moved away from the British colonies started their own republics and the two capitals, Bloemfontein and Pretoria also grew into cities.

QUESTION 2

What were three reasons why more, new urban areas developed in South Africa?

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Which of these promoted urban growth the most rapidly?

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1. After the Anglo-Boer War the territories in South Africa decided to form a single union in 1910. The new government was dominated by whites and they deliberately tried to limit the power of the large majority of black people. One of the most significant ways they did this was by way of limiting land ownership and ensuring that most of the available land (about 87%) was under the control and ownership of whites. This was done through the **Land Act of 1913.** See figure 2 to see how the land was distributed.

QUESTION 3

Where was the majority of land that was given to black people?

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Apart from the unfairly small amount of land that was allocated to blacks what else seems unjust about the results of the Land Act?

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9 In 1948 the National Party came into power and introduced a racial policy called Apartheid that was designed to ensure that whites enjoyed the most power and wealth and it led to the passing of many laws. An important law was the Group Areas Act that regulated where people of different races could live. This resulted in cities being divided into specific “group areas” and the building of “dormitory suburbs or locations to house (mostly) black workers. Figure 3 shows an example of a South African city designed along these lines (Durban)/

QUESTION 4

What sorts of barriers were put between the different group areas?

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Can you name group areas in East London that were established under apartheid for different race groups?

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1. In 1994 the Constitution of South Africa was changed and the first all-inclusive elections took place finally ending Apartheid, but it has not been easy to do away with the old apartheid land divisions in cities. However, since 1994 it has been much easier for people to move freely around the country and many people have moved to the cities in search of work leading to the rapid growth of most cities and even many smaller towns. Many of these people were poor or poorly skilled and this has led to the rapid growth of overcrowded and poorly serviced informal settlements and slums in most cities. It has also caused the decline of many of the smaller country towns.