

## Grade 8 Life Orientation Worksheet

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### National symbols

Read the passage below.

In South Africa under apartheid, people were taught that they were different because they had different skin colours. Laws were applied which benefited whites and oppressed blacks. There was no common sense of national unity.

After the 1994 democratic election in South Africa, a new non-racial constitution was drawn up. This constitution included a Bill of Rights.

*“We, the people of South Africa, recognise the injustices of the past; honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land; respect those who have worked to build and develop our country; and believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity.”*

A challenge for the democratic government was to create a new national identity from a legacy of division and discrimination.

In order to do this, the country set about creating new symbols of unity that could be embraced by all the citizens of the country. This was all part of the process of nation-building. These are some of the things that were used to build a new South African identity:

#### **National symbols were changed**

**National Anthem:** South Africa adopted a new national anthem in the spirit of reconciliation, a combination of “Nkosi Sikelel’e” and “Die Stem”.

**Flag:** The new national flag of the Republic of South Africa was first used on 27 April 1994.

**Coat of Arms:** A new national coat of arms was adopted. The motto is: *!ke e: /xarra //ke*, written in the Khoisan language of the /Xam people, literally meaning: *diverse people unite*. It calls for the nation to unite in a common sense of belonging and national pride - Unity in Diversity.

#### **National sports teams were created**

Under apartheid, national sports teams were made up of whites only. South Africa was boycotted from participating in international sport during the apartheid years. South African teams now compete against people from all over the world.

South Africa will be the host nation for the 2010 FIFA World Cup. It will be the first time the tournament is held in Africa. It will be a great event to reinforce one South African identity.

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### **South African joined international organisations**

During apartheid, South Africa was excluded from international bodies. Since 1994, South Africa has been welcomed into the international community and now belongs to, for example, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union, the Commonwealth and the United Nations Organisation.

South Africa officially assumed its seat as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council in January 2007, the first time the country has sat on the UN's most powerful organ.

### **New heritage sites were created**

Since 1994, many new heritage sites and museums have been opened to contribute to forging a new South African identity. These include:

The **Apartheid Museum** in Johannesburg: This pre-eminent museum deals with 20th century South Africa, at the heart of which is the apartheid story.

**Freedom Park** in Tshwane: This memorial aims to mobilise for reconciliation and nation-building in our country; to reflect upon our past; to improve our present; and to build our future as a united nation.

**Robben Island Museum (RIM)** near Cape Town: This museum aims to develop the island as a national and international heritage and conservation site. RIM strives to maintain the unique symbolism of the island, nurturing creativity and innovation.

**Museums Online South Africa:** This online heritage portal gives electronic access to most South African museums.

### **New provinces were created**

South Africa under Apartheid had four provinces - Cape Province, Orange Free State, Transvaal, and Natal. The new South Africa has eight provinces - Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, the Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Northwest Province, and Limpopo Province (initially Northern Province).

### **Some towns and streets were renamed**

The renaming process is part of a national drive to make South African cities and street names sound more inclusive and less reflective of the colonial and apartheid past. For example, the cities of Pietersburg, Louis Trichardt, and Potgietersrust were named after Afrikaner leaders. They became Polokwane, Makhoda, and Mokopane.

Within South Africa, the process remains controversial, and renaming is likely to continue for a long time as South Africa continues to redefine itself.

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### **Airport names were changed**

The names of all South African airports were first changed from Apartheid politicians' names to the city or town where they are located. Later, Johannesburg International Airport was changed to OR Tambo International Airport after the great ANC leader.

Now answer the following questions:

1. When South Africa became a democracy in 1994, why do you think it was important to embark on a nation-building campaign? [5]
2. Name some of the ways that the country went about forming a new national identity. [5]
3. Do you think this immediately created a sense of nation-building, or do you think it is a process that takes time? [2]
4. Do you think that all the citizens in South Africa supported the changes? Give reasons for your answer. [3]
5. Name three cities that were originally named after Afrikaner leaders and say what their names were changed to under the new democratic South Africa. [3]
6. Why is it important to have heritage sites? [2]

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### Suggested Solutions

Question number	Possible marks	Solution
1	5	<p>Own answer.</p> <p>(In South Africa under apartheid, people were taught that they were different because they had different skin colours. Laws were applied which benefited whites and oppressed blacks. There was no common sense of national unity.</p> <p>After the 1994 democratic election in South Africa, a new non-racial constitution was drawn up. This constitution included a Bill of Rights.</p> <p>A challenge for the democratic government was to create a new national identity from a legacy of division and discrimination.</p> <p>In order to do this, the country set about creating new symbols of unity that could be embraced by all the citizens of the country. This was all part of the process of nation-building.)</p>
2	5	<p>New national symbols were created, such as a new flag, a new coat of arms and a new national anthem. National sports teams forged new identities and became multi-racial. New heritage sites were created, South Africa joined international organisations, new provinces were created, street names and airport names were changed, etc.</p>
3	2	Own answer.
4	3	Own answer.
5	3	<p>The cities of Pietersburg, Louis Trichardt, and Potgietersrust were named after Afrikaner leaders. They became Polokwane, Makhoda, and Mokopane.</p>
6	2	<p>To contribute to forging a new South African identity and so that all South African citizens could have ownership.</p>
Total	20	