

History of South Africa
Teachers' Time line and Notes

For more detailed information on South African history, this site is highly recommended.
<http://www.sahistory.org.za/index.html>

2,000 BP	Remains of the Khoikhoi and San people from this time are found in modern day South Africa. They were hunter-gatherers and we can still see their representations of themselves in their rock paintings and carvings.
400 AD	The Bantu and other people living in north and central Africa begin to push the Khoikhoi and the San people out of their usual land. They were farmers and herders and so the Khoikhoi and San were pushed into the deserts and less desirable lands.
1000	By 1000 AD the Khoikhoi had begun to herd cattle but the San remained hunting and gathering in the Kalahari Desert (modern day Botswana).
1400s	Zulu and Xhosa tribes establish large kingdoms in the South African region.
1488	Portuguese navigator Bartholomew Dias, looking for a fast seaway to India, is the first European to travel around the southern tip of Africa
1652	The Dutch found Cape Colony at Table Bay and are the first European settlers in South Africa. By the 1800s there was a colony of about 15,000 "Boers" speaking a dialect known as Afrikaans. At an early stage (1795) they wanted an independent republic.
1795 - 1806	The British and Dutch fight over the Cape Colony.
1815	Britain takes permanent possession of the Cape Colony at the end of the Napoleonic Wars, bringing in 5,000 settlers and anglicising the government and infrastructure.
1835 – 40	With the Anglicisation of government and the abolition of slavery in 1833 12,000 Boers leave the Cape Colony in the "Great Trek" and found the Orange Free State and Transvaal in northern and eastern tribal territory.
1852	The British take control of Cape town and grant limited self government to the Transvaal
Late 1850s	The Boers proclaim Transvaal a Republic.

1867	Diamonds are discovered at Kimberley in the Northern Cape.
1877	The British annex the Transvaal and "Outlanders" begin an influx into Boer lands to find their fortune.
1879	The British defeat the Zulus in Natal
1880-1881	The Boers rebel against the British which leads to the First Anglo-Boer War. Transvaal is restored as a republic
Mid 1880s	Gold is discovered in Johannesburg in the Transvaal, triggering a gold rush.
1889-1902	The Second Boer War between Dutch Boers and the British. The British win (eventually) and take control of South Africa with Transvaal and the Orange Free State becoming self governing colonies
1910	South Africa becomes an Independent State with the formation of the Union of South Africa by the Cape, Natal, Transvaal and Orange Free State.
1948	Policy of apartheid "separateness" adopted. Laws legally and physically separate different racial groups.
1952-4	The African National Congress (ANC) begins a Campaign for Defiance for Unjust Laws as a protest

	against apartheid. Nelson Mandela is one of its leaders.
1962	Mandela is imprisoned for his actions against the government.
1976	Hundreds of black protesters are killed in an uprising in Soweto.
1990	F.W De Clerk declares an end to apartheid. Mandela is released.
1993	Mandela and De Clerk are jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize
1994	The first non-racial elections take place in SA instigating Mandela as president.
1995	South Africa hosts and wins the Rugby World Cup (see the film <i>Invictus</i>)
1996	The Truth and Reconciliation Commission begins reviewing the evidence of 40 years of apartheid. It's chaired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu
2010	The Football World Cup is hosted on the African continent for the first time ever.