

## South Africa celebrates Heritage Day



This special public holiday is celebrated on the 24<sup>th</sup> September every year. Not only do we get to spend a day away from school or work but we also get the chance to celebrate our South African heritage.

### What does the word heritage mean?

The word heritage is a noun. The word means that you came from and belong to the place that you were born in. This means that South Africa belongs to you. Are you proud to be a South African?

Some synonyms for the word 'heritage' are: tradition, culture and custom



Nelson Mandela used the phrase "rainbow nation" to describe South Africa's diverse (different) cultures, customs, traditions, histories, and languages. Heritage day is a celebration of the diversity of our beliefs and traditions.

Do you know what the different South African official languages are?

### What is our South African Heritage?

Our heritage is all about what we, as South Africans, have inherited. Some of these things include:

- National monuments and historical buildings
- Game reserves and wildlife parks
- Music and literature written by South Africans
- Art and sculpture
- Museums such as Robben Island
- Historical sites such as the Cradle of Humankind
- Coastline and mountain ranges – Drakensberg



- a. Talk about some of the places that you have visited in South Africa. What makes each place unique and proudly South African?
- b. Ask the children in your class to talk a little about their culture and customs.

How we celebrate Heritage Day is important, because it is all about what we think is valuable and worthwhile.

## What is Braai Day?

Braai day has become one in the same as Heritage Day. Many South Africans have been encouraged to participate in Heritage Day simply by having a braai. This allows people to get together, crossing racial, religious, cultural and social boundaries and to enjoy each other's company. It is fun and South Africans from all around the world can participate in a braai.

