

VOTER



EDUCATION



A joint CELEP & Tembaletu Project

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WHAT IS AN ELECTION?

Worksheet 1: **What is Democracy?**

Worksheet 2: **What is a Free and Fair Election?**

Worksheet 3: **What is Voting?**

WHAT IS DEMOCRACY?

equality
ukulingana

There are many definitions for democracy. But democracy is about **equality, freedom and human rights**.

freedom
inkululeko

In a democracy, all people must have the **freedom** to:

- ~ vote for the party of their choice
- ~ talk about the things they believe in, without being intimidated or arrested
- ~ meet together with other people, without being intimidated or arrested
- ~ practise any religion they choose
- ~ choose not to belong to any political party

In a democracy, all people must have **equality** in:

- ~ access to education
- ~ human rights
- ~ social services, such as pensions

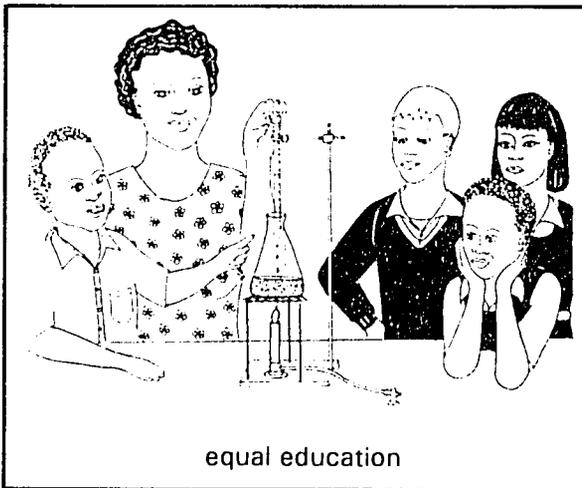
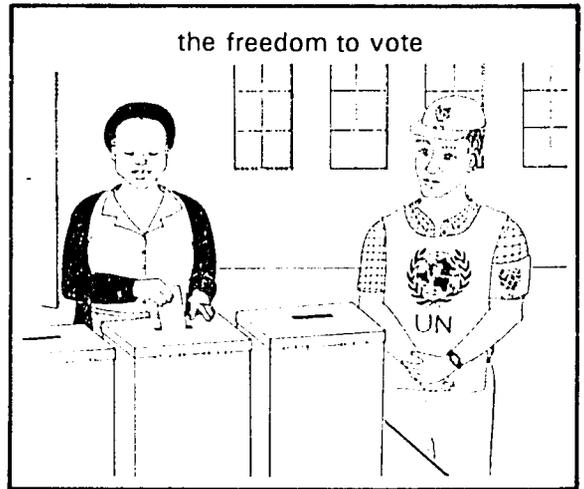
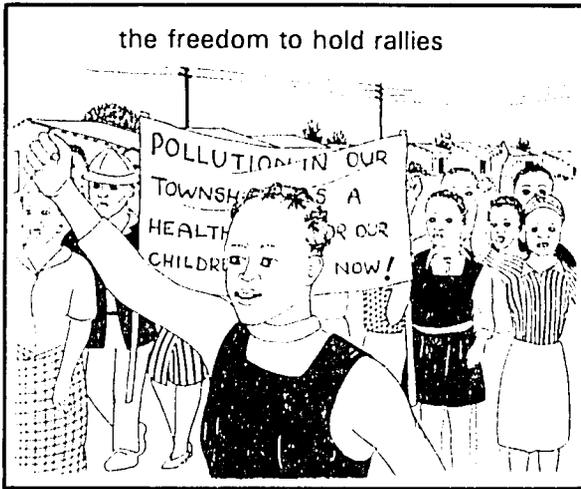
tolerance
ukubekezelana

If the government is to be democratic, there must be:

- ~ **tolerance**
- ~ representation
- ~ an opposition party
- ~ **accountability**

accountability
ukwethembeka
kobamele

WHAT IS DEMOCRACY?



Activity:

Explain to the learners other things that democracy allows. Then ask the learners to match the slogan with its meaning.

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Freedom of Speech | Inkululeko ngokwezenkolo |
| Freedom of Religion | Inkululeko yokudlulisa nokuthola ulwazi |
| Freedom of Association | Ukukhuluma ngokukhululeko |
| Freedom of Information | Inkululeko yokuzimbandakanya |

WHAT IS AN ELECTION?

government
uhulumeni

**constituent
assembly**
isigungu esibhala
umthethosisekelo

An election is when all adults in a country choose (elect) a **government** or a **constituent assembly**. A government is the group of people who then run the country.

An election can also be held to elect a constituent assembly. A constituent assembly is a group of people who will work together for a short time to draw up the Constitution of the country. When a country decides to have a new government and wants to change the constitution, it elects a constituent assembly.

The party that most people choose, wins the election. This party will then govern the country until another election is held. Elections for the government are usually held every four or five years. In this way, an election can be a way of changing a bad government.

WHAT IS A FREE AND FAIR ELECTION?

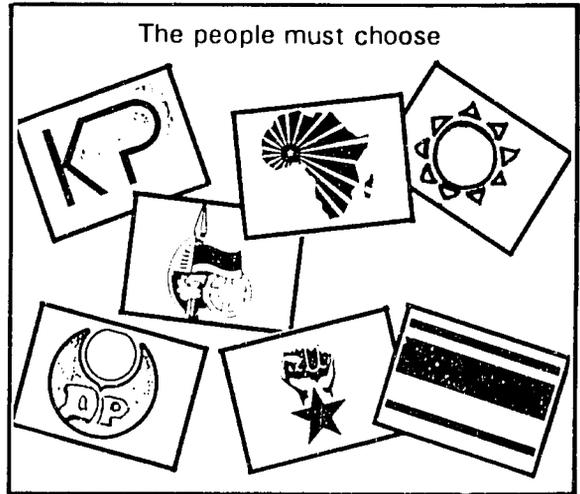
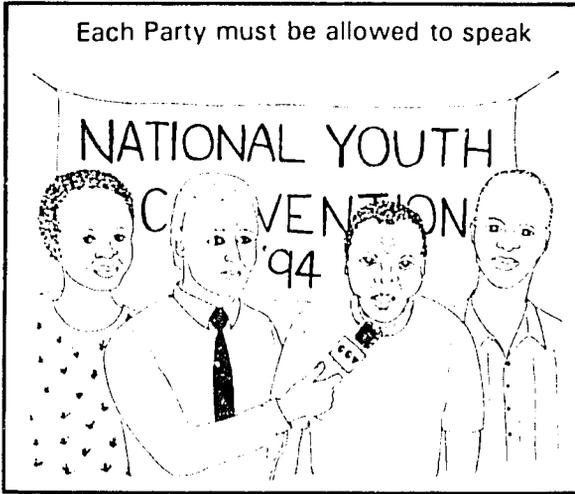
An election is **free** if the voter has the freedom to vote for the person or party of their own choice. This must be done without fear, interference or threats from anyone. Parties and candidates should also be able to hold meetings freely, without being disrupted and intimidated.

An election is **fair** if all parties have the same opportunities to explain their policies at meetings, to advertise in the newspapers, radio and TV and to have their leaders appear on TV. The people who organise the election, should make sure that all parties have equal time to speak on radio and TV.

A group of people, known as the election authority organises and supervises the election to make sure that the election is free and fair.

WORKSHEET 2

WHAT IS A FREE AND FAIR ELECTION?



Activity:

Ask the learners how often they see or hear each political party on the TV, in newspapers, or on the radio. Next to each party's name and symbol, ask the learners to write "often", "sometimes" or "never" under the three headings to show how often they see or hear the party's representatives speak. Then discuss with the learners the right of political parties to have equal access to media, and why this is important in a free and fair election.

Gcwalisa izikhala ezilandelayo ngo "often", "sometimes" or "never".

| Party | Symbol | Radio | Television | Newspaper |
|--------------|--------|-------|------------|-----------|
| ANC | | | | |
| AZAPO | | | | |
| CP | | | | |
| DP | | | | |
| IFP | | | | |
| NP | | | | |
| PAC | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

WHAT IS VOTING?

manifesto
umbhalo
wezinkolelo

Before an election each political party will have a '**manifesto**' which says what they want to do if they win the election and become the new government. People must find out all they can about the different parties and all the promises that they are making. Once people know what each party is promising, they can then make a decision as to which one they will vote for. When you listen to all the promises the different political parties are making, you must also decide whether they will be able to do the things they promise.

political party
inhlagano
yombangazwe

When you vote, you are given a paper with a list of the names of **political parties** and you have to make a mark next to the party of your choice. This paper is called a ballot paper. The ballot is secret. No-one will see who you voted for. No-one has the right to ask you who you voted for. This is the best way to vote for a government as nobody can see who voted for which party.

WHAT THE VOTE CAN DO FOR YOU?

accountable
ukubophezeleka

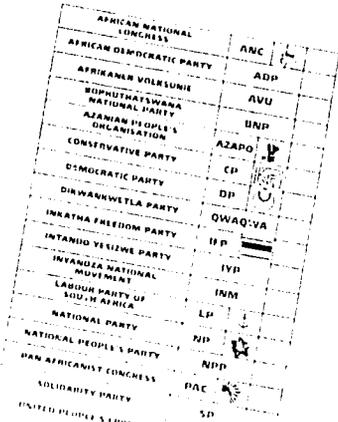
After the election, the new government is then expected to carry out its promises. It is also important to realise that the new government is then **accountable** to you. The new government should do all the things that they promised to do.

After the election, they should call meetings and report to you about what they are planning to do, then ask for your opinions. It is important that these meetings take place and that people attend them so that there are always discussions before very important decisions are made by the government.

WORKSHEET 3

WHAT IS VOTING

You are given a ballot paper



Put a cross next to the party you like



Activity:

Discuss with the learners what voting is and what voting will change. Ask the learners to cross out the incorrect words (either "will" or "will not"), in each of the sentences.

What can the vote do for me?

1. The new government **will/will not** be accountable to people.
2. Each family **will/will not** be given a house.
3. Each child **will/will not** be given a good education.
4. All the people **will/will not** choose a new government.

1. Uhulumeni **uzobophezeleka/ ngeke abophezeleke** kubantu.
2. Umndeni ngamunye **uzonikezwa/ngeke unikezwe** indlu.
3. Ingane ngayinye **izothola/ngeke ithole** imfundo enhle.
4. Bonke abantu **bazokhetha/akubona bonke abantu abazokhetha** uhulumeni omusha.

WHO CAN VOTE?

Worksheet 1: **Who Can Vote?**

Worksheet 2: **You Will Need an Identity Document**

WHO CAN VOTE?

We expect that people who will have the right to vote will be:

* Women and men who are 18 years old and older.

* South African **citizens**.

* People who have Identity Documents (ID).

citizen

isakamuzi sezwe

In some countries, people have to register with a local office before the election day. This does not happen in every country. We are not sure how it will be here, but people will have to read newspapers or listen to the radio or watch television - as the procedure will be announced.

It is very important to be informed because, even if you are a citizen and at the right age to vote, you can still miss the chance to vote if you do not know all the rules.

You do not have to join a political party to vote. You cannot be forced to join a political party to vote.

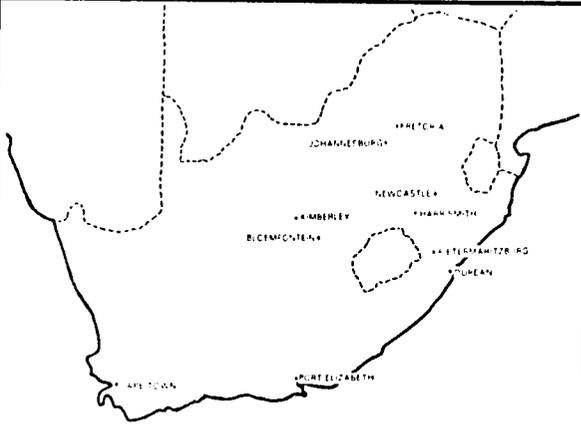
WORKSHEET 1

WHO CAN VOTE?

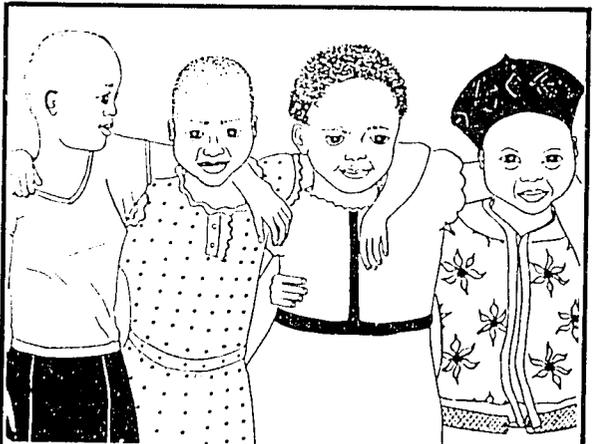
Women 18 years and over can vote



Men 18 years and over can vote



Citizens can vote



Children cannot vote

Activity:

Discuss what it means to be a citizen. Ask the learners to point to the place where they were born on the map. Discuss with the learners who they think should be allowed to vote.

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. A Swaziland citizen can vote. (TRUE/FALSE)
2. A 93 year old can vote. (TRUE/FALSE)
3. An 18 year old woman cannot vote. (TRUE/FALSE)

WHY DO YOU NEED AN IDENTITY DOCUMENT?

An ID will prove that:

- ~ you are a South African citizen
- ~ your are at the right age to vote

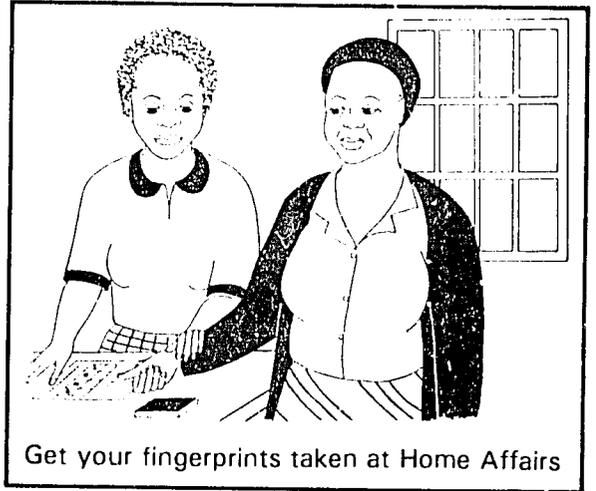
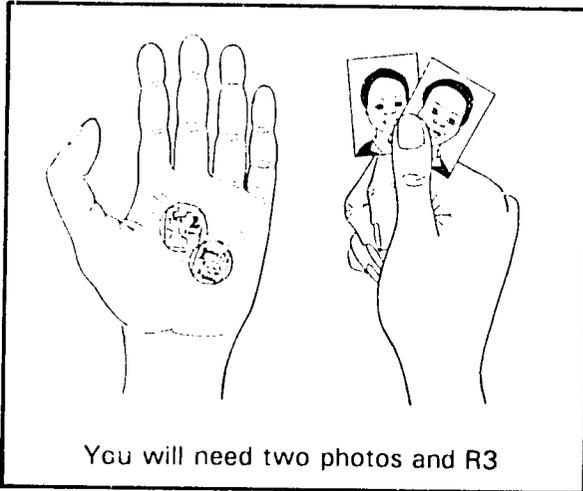
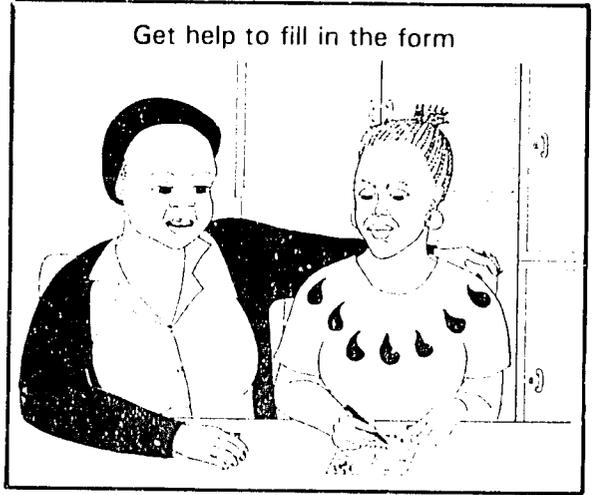
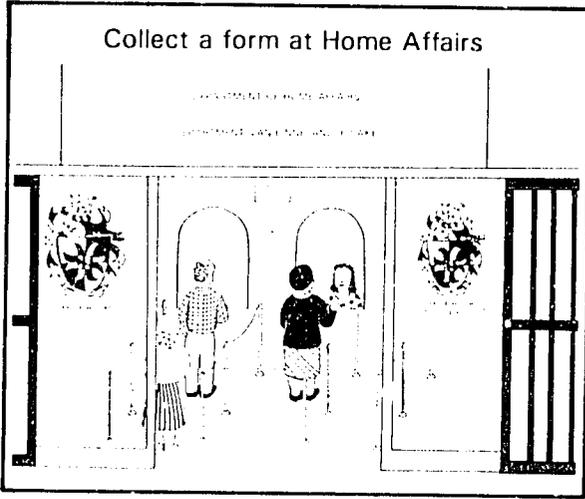
HOW TO GET AN ID:

1. You need to give the Department of Home Affairs proof of your birth.
The following documents can be used:

finger print
umnyatheliso
weminwe/
ukuginqa iziphupha

- ~ an old Reference Book
 - ~ a birth certificate
 - ~ baptismal certificate
 - ~ clinic cards from when you were a baby
 - ~ primary school letters
 - ~ an old house permit showing your name
 - ~ a letter from the inkosi of the area in which you were born
 - ~ a letter from the owner of the farm where you were born.
2. You will also need 2 identity document photographs (they are black and white).
 3. Go and fill in a form from your nearest Home Affairs office. If you cannot fill in the form, ask someone from that office to help you.
 4. Your **finger prints** will be taken.
 5. If it is your first ID, you do not have to pay. If not, it will cost R3.
 6. If all your documents are in order, it will take two to three months before you receive your ID.

YOU WILL NEED AN IDENTITY DOCUMENT



Activity:

Find out if anyone in the class has an identity document. Ask them to tell the class what they did to get it. Ask the learners to make a checklist of everything they will need.

CHECKLIST

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

WHEN AND WHERE DO YOU VOTE

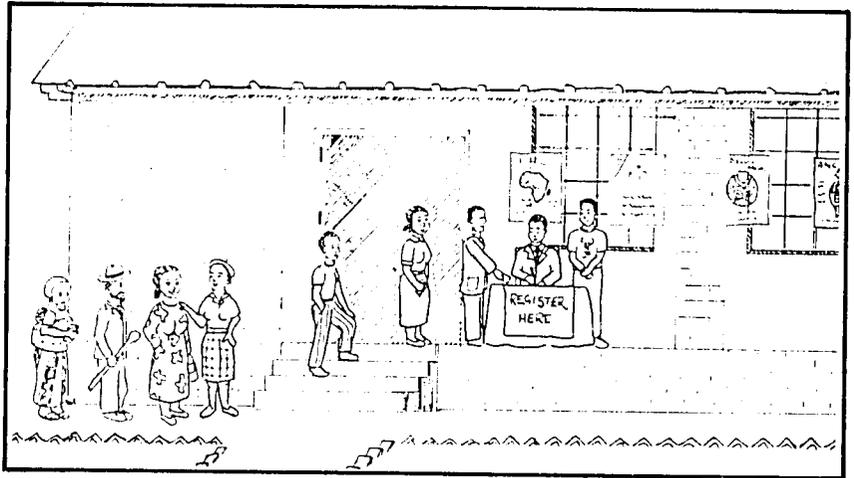
Worksheet 1:

**When Do You Vote?
Where Do You Vote?**

WHERE DO YOU VOTE ?

Polling Station -
indawo yokuvotela

Polling stations are set up in every area at different places such as schools, community centres, public buildings and church halls, so that people do not have to travel far to cast their vote. People normally vote at the polling stations closest to their homes or place of work.



WHEN DO YOU VOTE?

Polling stations are open on the day that the election takes place, from early in the morning to quite late at night. This is so that everybody is given a chance to get to the polling station to vote. In some countries, the polling stations remain open for a few days.

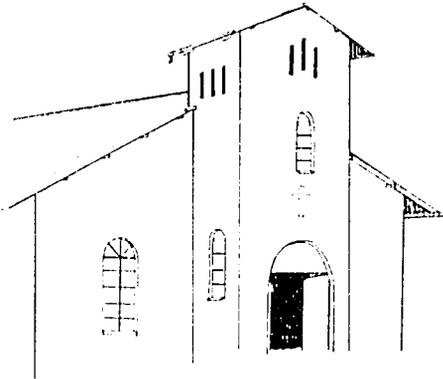
If people are ill or too old to get to the polling station, or are out of the country on the election day, they are still allowed to vote. What happens in this situation is that people are given a special vote. It is very important if you want a special vote that you contact the election authority before election day to arrange this special vote.

WORKSHEET 1

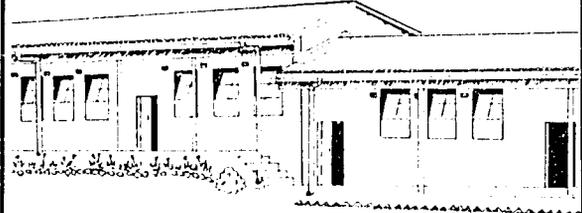
WHERE DO YOU VOTE? WHEN DO YOU VOTE?

A **polling station** is the name of the place where you vote.

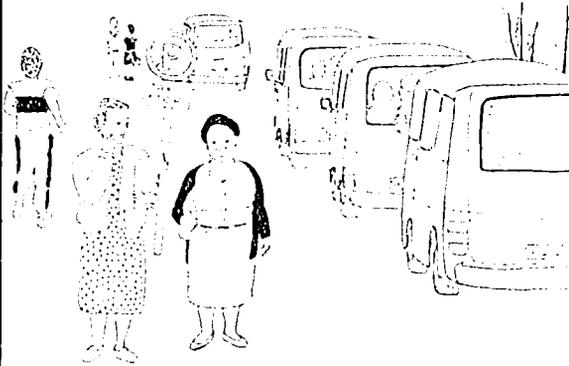
A polling station can be at a church



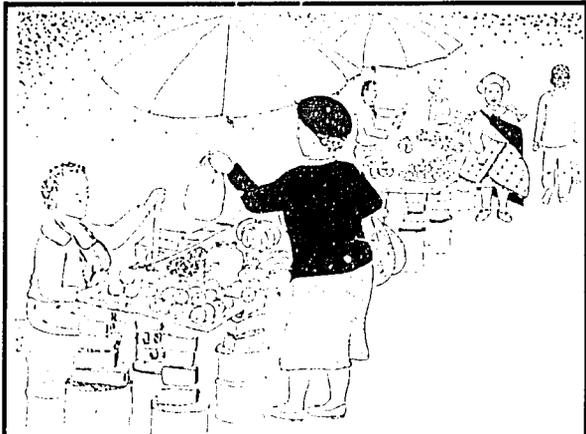
A polling station can be at a school



You can vote all day



You can vote before you go to work



You can vote after work until late at night

Activity:

Discuss with learners why polling stations will be at community halls, schools and churches.
Allow each learner to choose the best time for them to vote.

Finish the sentence:

A polling station can be at _____
(my home, a church, a community hall, a shop)

The best time for me to vote is _____
(before work, during the day, at lunch, after work)

HOW DO YOU VOTE?

Worksheet 1: **Who is Who?**

Worksheet 2: **What Do the Monitors Do?**

Worksheet 3: **Identifying yourself**

Worksheet 4: **Casting Your Vote**

Worksheet 5: **Counting the Votes**

AT THE POLLING STATION

When you arrive at the polling station the following people will be present:

to preside
ukuphatha noma
ukugamela

- * a **Presiding Officer** in charge of the polling station, whose duties are to:
 - check that voting runs smoothly
 - administer the oath of secrecy to all the people who will be busy at the polling station
 - count the number of unused ballots before voting begins
 - open the ballot box before voting begins, to show that it is empty. After this he closes it again and seals it.
 - show people where to cast their vote
 - close the polling station and announce the results at the end of the day.

- * one **official representative** from each political party to monitor the voting. Their duties are to:
 - watch the procedure and see how many people have voted
 - watch the sealing and opening of all the ballot boxes
 - watch the counting of the votes.

to monitor
ukugada noma
ukubheka

- * a number of **neutral monitors** to watch the process. These people will not be representing any political party and their duties will be the same as the official party representatives.

- * **paid election officials**

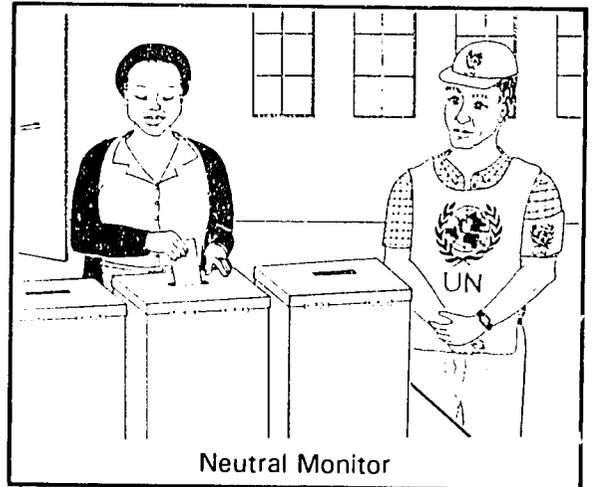
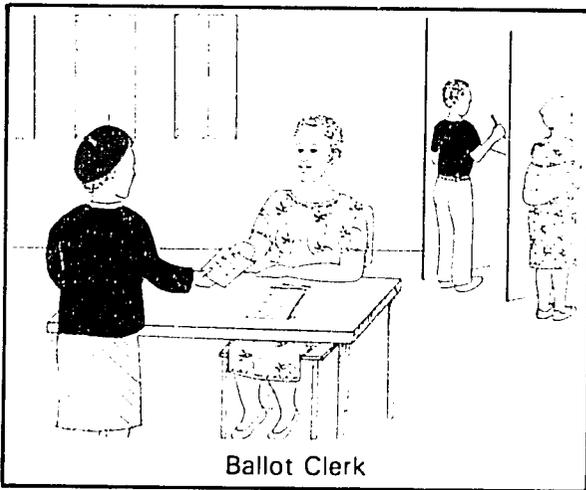
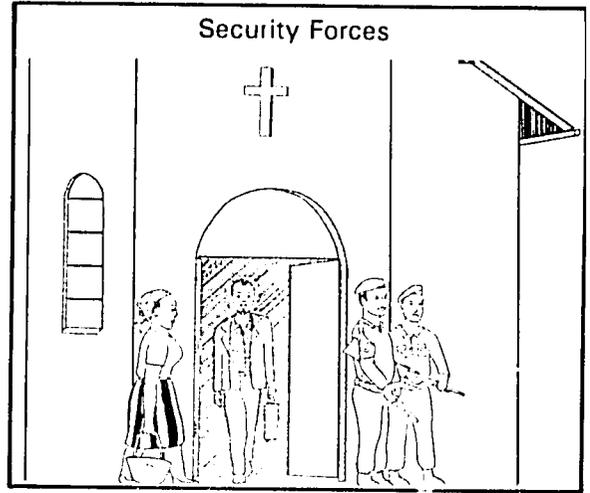
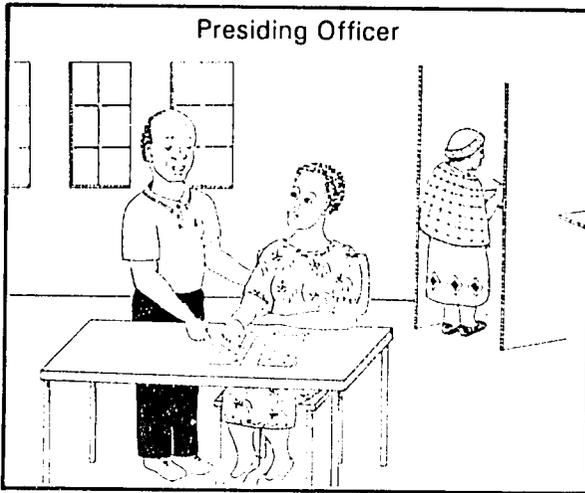
- * **security forces** who must help with the smooth running of the voting and make sure that no one is intimidated.

oath of secrecy
isifungo sokuthi
bathembeka

Note: All these people have to take an oath of secrecy.

WORKSHEET 1

WHO IS WHO?



Activity:

Explain to the learners what each official does

and why it is important for fair and free elections.

Ask the learners to circle each of the people listed below, giving them the correct number.

1. umuntu ophethe epolling station
2. umuntu onikeza amabolot papers
3. umuntu ogada ukubalwa kwamaphepha okuvota
4. umuntu ogada ukuthi kungabikho ukusabisa abantu

1. the person in charge of the polling station
2. the person who gives you the ballot paper
3. the person who watches the counting of the votes
4. the person who makes sure that no-one is intimidated

THE ROLE OF MONITORS

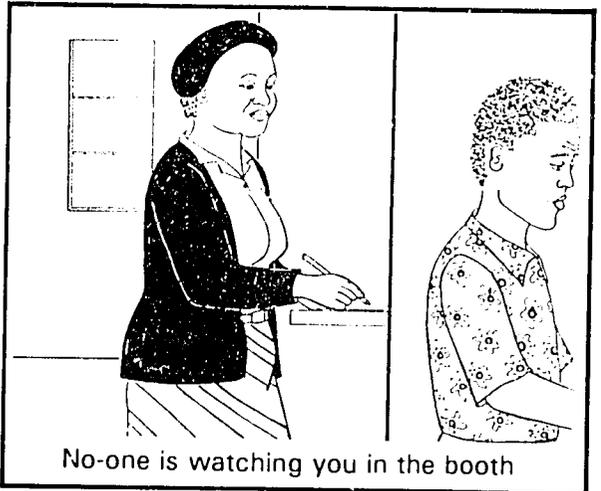
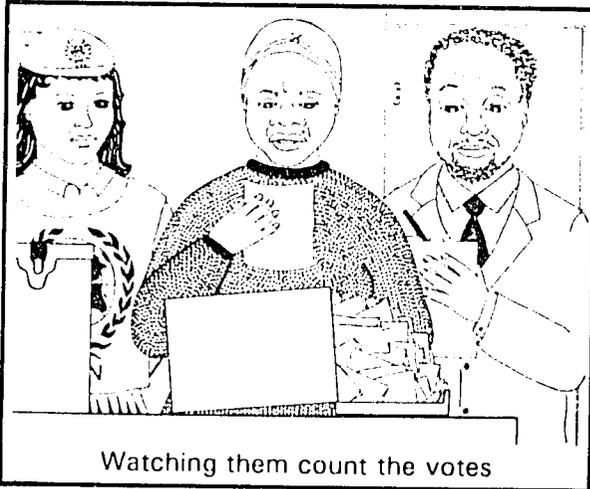
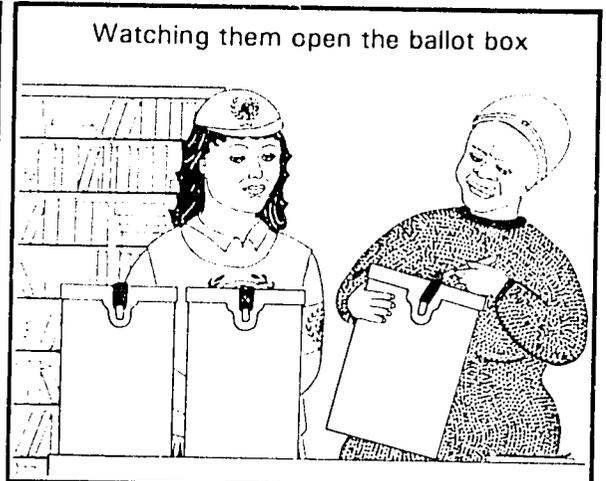
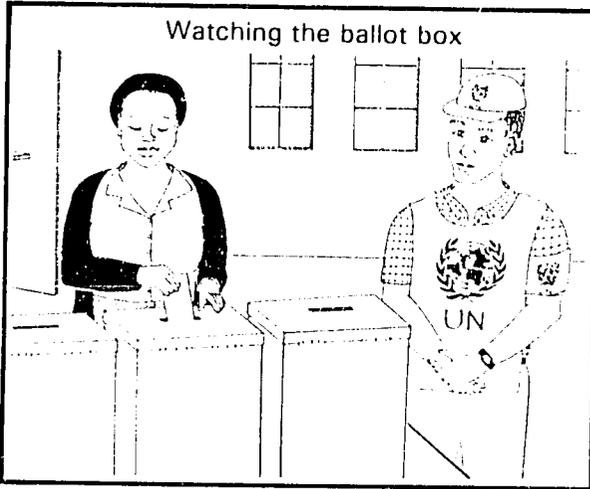
It is important to understand what monitors do and why they do it. Monitors are there to make sure that the election is free and fair. They do not represent any political party.

Their job is to make sure that:

- ~ voters are given one ballot paper
- ~ voters put one ballot paper into the ballot box
- ~ the ballot boxes are sealed as soon as voting has finished
- ~ no-one puts extra ballot papers into the ballot boxes
- ~ all the ballot boxes are handed over to have the votes counted
- ~ the votes are counted correctly
- ~ the votes are recorded correctly
- ~ the true results are announced

The monitors are **not** allowed to watch the voters in the booths when they mark the ballot paper. It is **not** their job to know who voted for which party. This is **secret**.

WHAT DO THE MONITORS DO?



Activity:

Discuss with the learners why monitors are needed in an election. Ask the learners to finish the sentence correctly, writing 'secret' or 'not secret'.

1. Counting the votes is _____.
2. Marking the ballot paper is _____.
3. Putting the ballot paper in the box is _____.
1. Ukubala amavoti _____.
2. Ukubhala ephapheni lokuvota _____.
3. Ukufaka iphepha lokuvota ebhokisini _____.

VOTER IDENTIFICATION

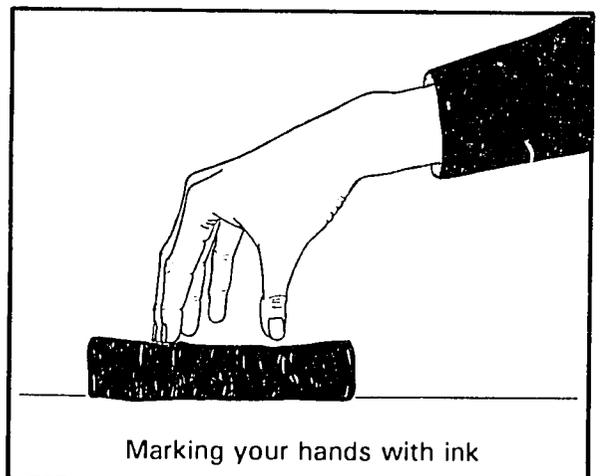
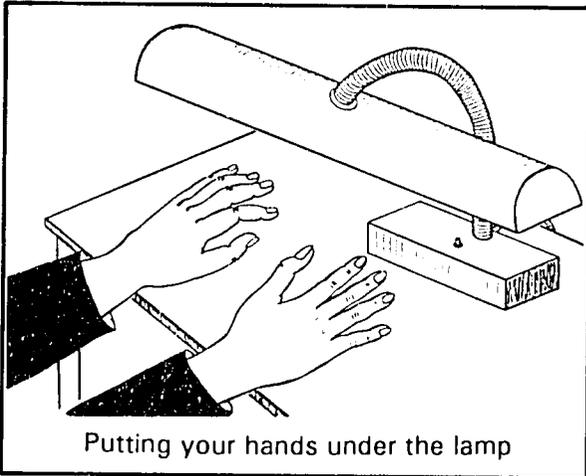
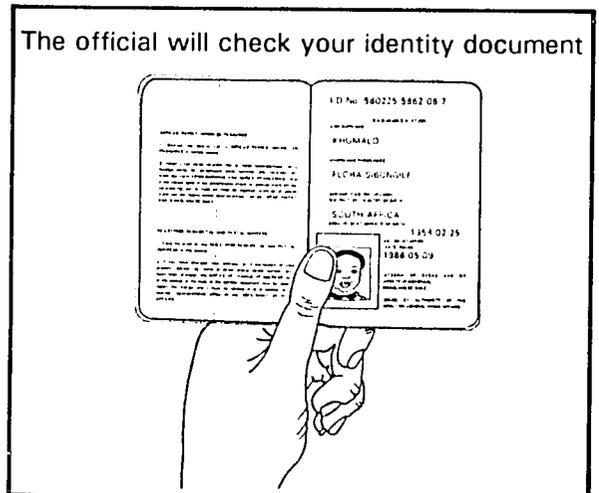
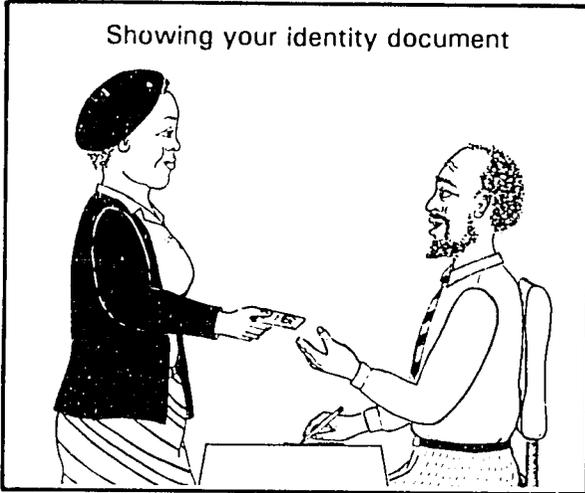
to identify yourself
isiqiniseko

1. You might have to stand in a queue when you arrive at the polling station.
2. The election officials will be sitting at tables inside the polling station. Voters need to show these officials their **identity documents** so that they can prove that they qualify to vote. That means that they are of the right age and that they are South African citizens.
3. Other forms of identification that may be used are:
 - ~ an old reference book
 - ~ a baptismal certificate
 - ~ a birth certificate
 - ~ primary school records
 - ~ an old house permit showing your name
4. The official will mark the voter's hand with **invisible ink** that is harmless. This ink will stay on your hand for a couple of days, but you will not be able to see it. Before the voter's hand is marked, the official will ask the voter to put his hands under a special light to see that the voter has not voted before. If the voter has voted before, this light will show the invisible ink and the voter will not be allowed to vote again. This is why the invisible ink is used. In some countries they do not use invisible ink.

invisible
okungabonakali

WORKSHEET 3

IDENTIFYING YOURSELF



Activity:

The week before this class, discuss with the learners about the different types of identification. Ask the learners to bring some identification with them to class next time. When they arrive, ask the learners to form a queue and mark them off the class list as they show their identification.

1. Ngingasebenzisa amakhadi aseklini ami ukufakazela ukuthi yimi uqobo (TRUE/FALSE)
 2. Uyinki ngeke usuke esandleni sami (TRUE/FALSE)
 3. Ngingavota kanye (TRUE/FALSE)
 4. Uyabonakala uyinki esandleni sami (TRUE/FALSE)
-
1. I can use my clinic cards to identify myself (TRUE/FALSE)
 2. I can vote once (TRUE/FALSE)
 3. You can see the ink on my hand (TRUE/FALSE)
 4. The ink will never come off my hand (TRUE/FALSE)

HOW TO CAST A VOTE

ballot paper
iphepha lokuvota

voting booth
indawo yokuvota

secret ballot
akekho ongabona
ukuthi uvotebani

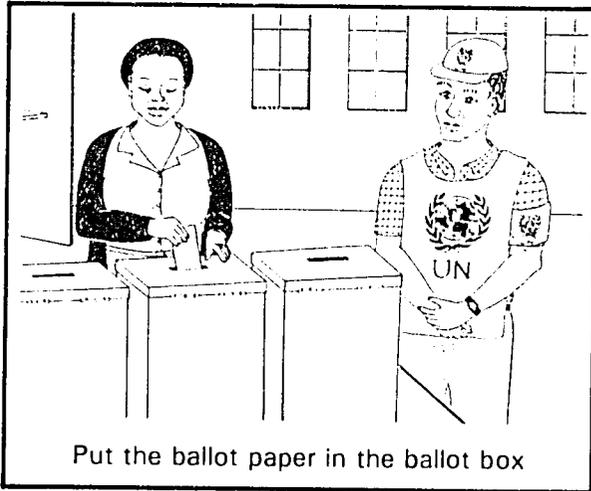
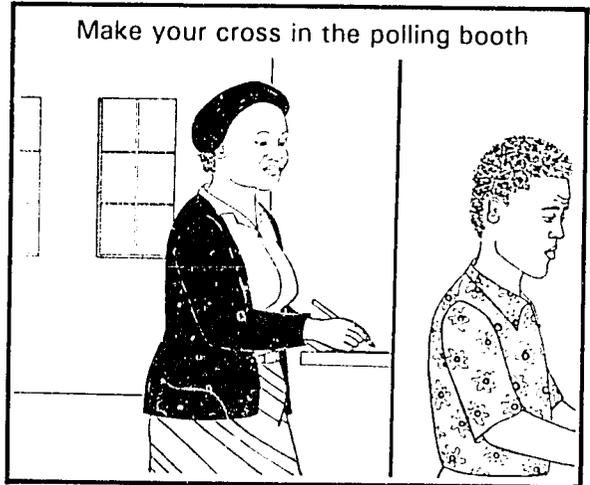
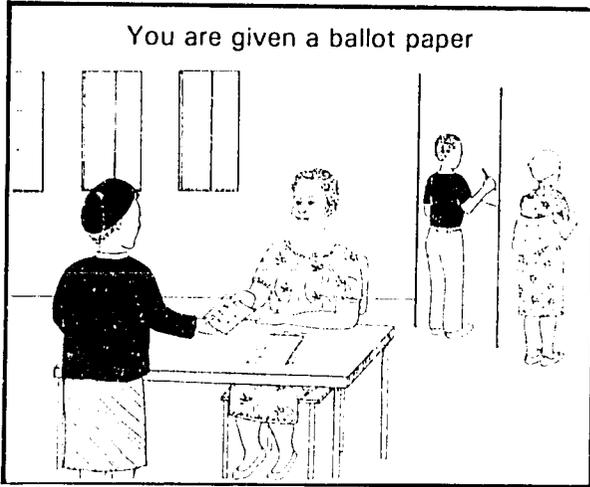
spoilt vote
iphepha lokuvota
elimoshakelo

1. The Ballot Clerk will give the voter a **ballot paper** - this is a piece of paper with all the political parties names on it, and a row of blocks next to each name.
2. The voter will take this ballot to the **voting booth**. In this voting booth, the voter will make a cross in the block next to the party that they want to vote for.
3. The voting booth is a private area where voters go to make their mark on the ballot paper. Voters must remember, this is a **secret ballot** so nobody must be with them in the booth. Disabled voters may be helped into the voting booth.
4. The voter must make sure of who they want to vote for before they make the cross. If you have made a mistake you cannot cross it out. If you do cross it out then it means that you have **spoilt your vote** and it cannot be used.
6. After the voting each voter will fold their ballot paper and then put it in the ballot box. The ballot box has been checked, sealed, and locked before voting began. No-one can touch the ballot papers until the election officials are ready to count.

Remember that the vote is secret - nobody can force the voter to vote for their party.

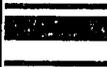
The voter's name does not appear anywhere on the ballot and therefore nobody can ever find out who they have voted for. They do not have to tell anyone who they have voted for.

CASTING YOUR VOTE



Activity:

Give each learner a ballot paper. Ask them to secretly make a cross next to the party they want. Put the papers into a box and mix them. Empty the papers onto a table. Ask the learners if they can see who voted for who by looking at the crosses. This will show that no-one can identify their paper. If there are any spoilt ballots, point them out to the learners.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|---|--|
| AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS | ANC |  | |
| AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION | AZAPO |  | |
| CONSERVATIVE PARTY | CP |  | |
| DEMOCRATIC PARTY | DP |  | |
| INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY | IFP |  | |
| NATIONAL PARTY | NP |  | |
| PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS | PAC |  | |

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER EVERYONE HAS VOTED?

seal
isishicilelo

Before the counting of the votes begins, the returning officer must show officials that the **seals** on the ballot boxes have not been broken. The returning officer is the only person who can break the seals so that the ballots can be counted under supervision.

The ballot box is opened and the votes are counted. Party officials and monitors must be present when the votes are being counted. The ballots may be counted twice to make sure that the final totals are correct.

When the counting is finished, the presiding officer tells the public the results. These are also broadcast on the radio, television and in the newspapers.

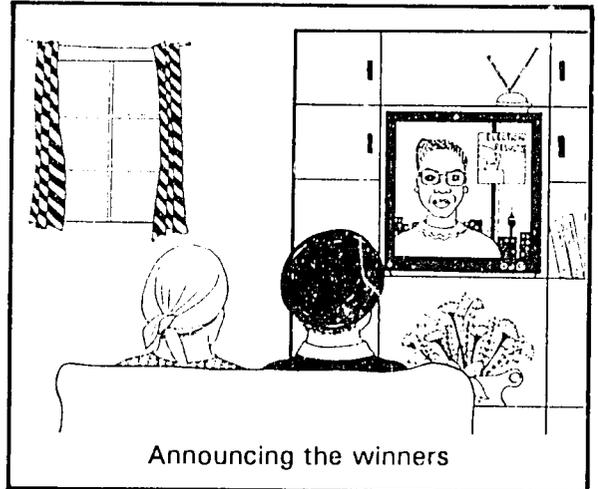
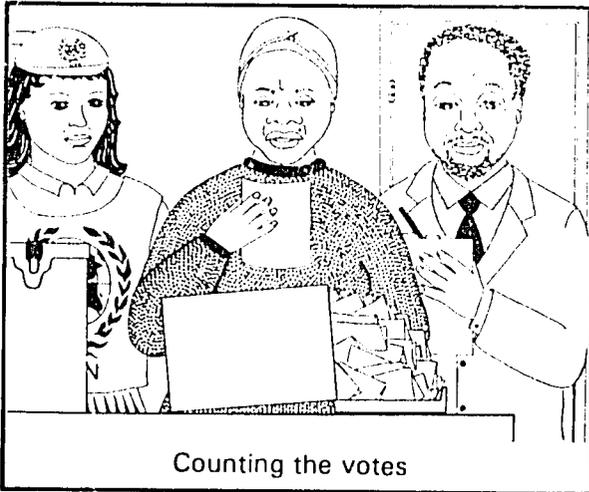
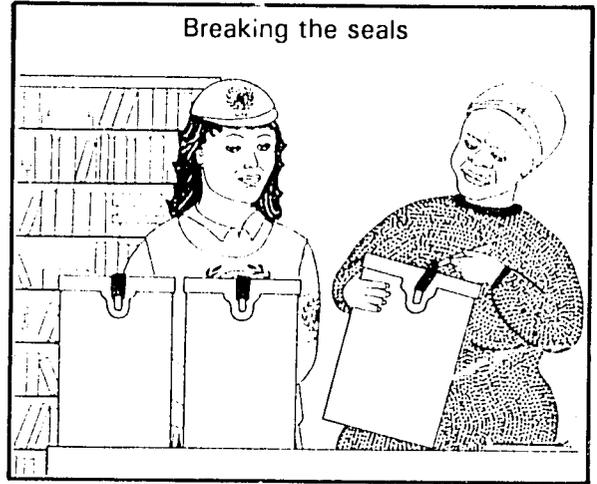
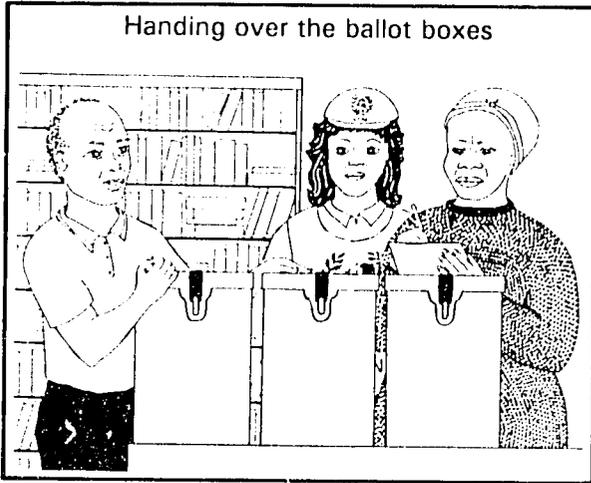
WHAT HAPPENS TO THE PARTIES THAT DO NOT HAVE THE MOST VOTES?

opposition
iqembu
elingakhethelngwa
ukuba uhulumeni

watchdog
inja yokugada umuzi

The party or parties that do not win an election, are known as the "**opposition**". Having an opposition party is what makes a democracy work. This is because the opposition then become "**watchdogs**", making sure that the government respects the constitution and prevent a government from taking too much power or abusing its power. It will also mean that not only the voices of the people who voted for the winning party will be heard in parliament.

COUNTING THE VOTES



Activity:

Explain to the learners the process of breaking the seals on the ballot boxes and counting the votes. Ask the learners to draw a circle around each of the people listed below, giving them the correct number.

1. Neutral Monitor
2. Presiding Officer
3. News Broadcaster
4. Returning Officer

WHY VOTE?

Worksheet 1: **What is Proportional Representation?**

Worksheet 2: **What is the Opposition Party?**

Worksheet 3: **What is a Constitution? (Part 1)**

Worksheet 4: **What is a Constitution? (Part 2)**

Worksheet 5: **What is a Constitution? (Part 3)**

Worksheet 6: **What is a Bill of Rights?**

WHAT IS PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION?

seat
indawo
ephalamende

percentage
ubuningi
ngekhulu

candidate
ilunga

They think that the system that will be used will be called proportional representation. This means that people will vote for a political party. The number of votes gained by the different political parties in the election determines how many **seats** each party gets in parliament. However parties need to get a **minimum percentage** (eg 3-5%) for them to be represented in parliament. This system allows more than one party to be in parliament. The party that gets the highest number of votes gets the highest number of seats in parliament. Before an election, each political party draws up a list of their **candidates**.

For example, if there are 100 seats in parliament they will have 100 names on the list. If a party wins by 60%, then it will mean that that party is entitled to have 60 people in parliament. Normally the first 60 people on the list will be chosen.

It is very important that everyone reads the newspapers or watches television, or listens to the radio closer to the time so that we all know exactly what will happen.

WORKSHEET 1

WHAT IS PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION?

Activity:

Use this exercise to help the learners to understand percentages and how these are used in proportional representation to make up parliament. Ask the learners to put an arrow and the party's name next to the number of seats they would be given, according to these election results.

ELECTION RESULTS

| | |
|---------|-----|
| Party A | 21% |
| Party B | 58% |
| Party C | 6% |
| Party D | 14% |

If there are 200 seats in parliament, how many seats will each party have?

If there are 100 seats in parliament, how many seats will each party have?

for example,

Party A →



HOW IS THE OPPOSITION PARTY FORMED?

Under a system of proportional representation, there will be a number of political parties in parliament. Any party with a minimum percentage of the votes will be given seats in parliament.

When the election results are announced, each party will be given a percentage, according to the number of votes they received in the election. The party with the most votes receives the highest percentage, and the highest number of seats in parliament. This party will become the new government.

The party with the next highest number of votes will become the **opposition party**. All the other parties who receive above the minimum percentage of votes (eg. 3-5%) will also be given seats in parliament and will join the opposition.

The role of the opposition party is very important. It must make sure that the government respects the law and the constitution, and that the government does not waste taxpayers money. Even if the party that you voted for does not become the new government, it will have an important job to play as part of the opposition.

WORKSHEET 2

WHAT IS THE OPPOSITION PARTY?

Activity:

Explain to the learners what the opposition party will do. Using these election results, ask the learners to make a list of all the parties who will make up the opposition. Ask them to circle the main party in the opposition and then to put an arrow next to the total number of seats that the opposition party will have.

ELECTION RESULTS

| | |
|---------|-----|
| Party A | 21% |
| Party B | 58% |
| Party C | 6% |
| Party D | 14% |

3. If there are 100 seats in parliament, how many seats will the opposition have?

1. Which parties will be in the opposition?

2. Circle the main party in the opposition.



WHAT IS A CONSTITUTION?

It is a written document drawn up by the representatives of the people, containing descriptions of those laws and values by which the country is run.

constitution
umthethosisekelo

A **constitution** does several things:

1. It describes the structure of the government.
A constitution describes the different sections of government and what they will do. A constitution usually divides the government into four different groups:
 - * **The Cabinet:**
The cabinet makes decisions about plans and actions, and develops policies. It includes the President (if there is a President), Ministers of Parliament and the Prime Minister. This group is called the cabinet.
 - * **The Parliament:**
The parliament or legislature makes laws. It consists of the elected representatives of the people.
 - * **The Civil Service:**
The civil service carries out the policy decisions of the cabinet and the laws passed by the parliament. It includes all those who work for the government.
 - * **The Judiciary:**
The judiciary makes sure that the laws that the legislature makes are followed. It includes those people who work in the courts, such as judges and magistrates.

WORKSHEET 3

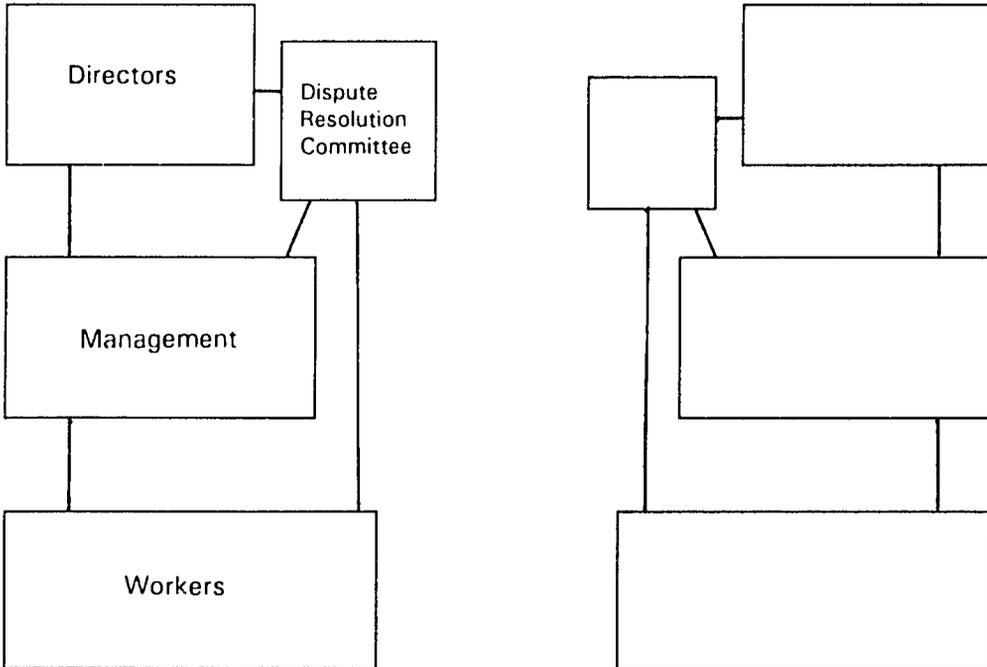
WHAT IS A CONSTITUTION?

It describes the structure of the government.

Activity:

Discuss with the learners the structure of a factory.

Compare each of the roles to the structures of a government. Ask the learners to fill in the blank boxes with "Judiciary", "Parliament", "Civil Service" and "Cabinet", according to the current government structure.



Judiciary: people who work in the courts, for example, judges and magistrates.

Parliament: the representatives that the people have elected.

Civil Service: everyone who works for the government.

Cabinet: includes the State President, Ministers of Health, Finance, Law and Order, Constitutional Affairs, etc.

WHAT IS A CONSTITUTION?

2. It describes the relationship between the four different parts of government.

- * In a democratic constitution, it is important that the **cabinet** is accountable to **parliament**.
- * The judiciary needs to be **independent** so that people outside of government can test the way that laws are applied. If the judiciary is independent, then it will be able to disagree with the laws that the government try to make, and tell the government that the law can not work.
- * A constitution must say which group has the final say on matters of constitution and law.

independent
ukuzimela

3. It describes the collection and use of finances.

This means that it must give a structure, such as parliament, the power to collect **taxes** and the rights to spend this money on running the country. This is very important as the government cannot provide things like education or pensions without this money. But a constitution should not set out any particular economic policy. We need to be able to change economic policies according to the needs of the people.

taxes
intela

WORKSHEET 4

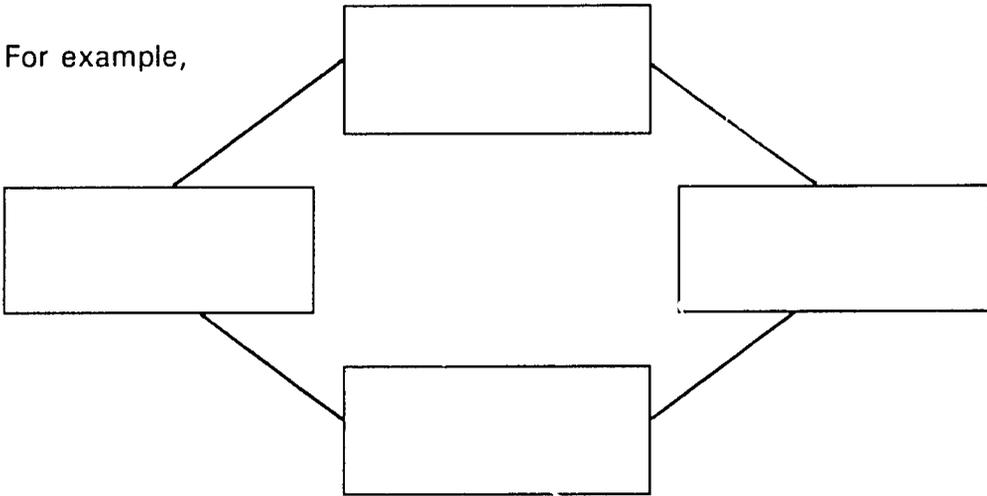
WHAT IS A CONSTITUTION?

It shows the relationship between government structures.

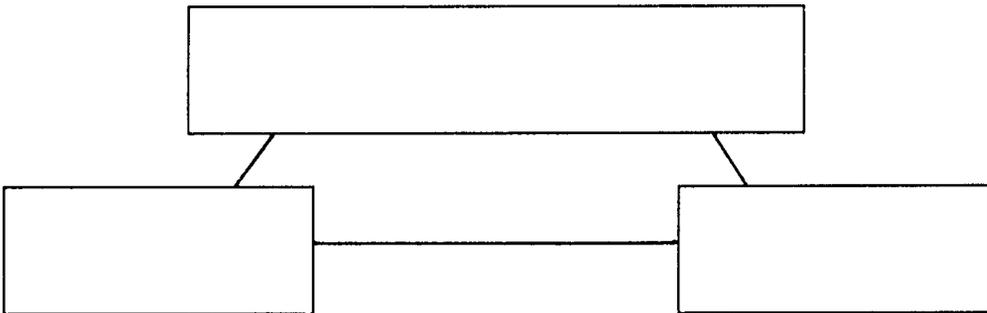
Activity:

Ask the learners to discuss the relationship between current government structures, using the diagram from the last worksheet. Who should decide how taxes are spent? Should the State President have the final say? Ask the learners to each draw a diagram for a new government structure, either individually, or in small groups. Each diagram should then be presented to the whole group. Ask the learners to discuss until a majority agrees on one structure. Explain to the learners that this exercise is similar to the work of the Constituent Assembly, as they draw up a new constitution.

For example,



or,



WHAT IS A CONSTITUTION?

4. It describes how the constitution can be changed.

To protect certain sections of the constitution from being changed without consultation, important sections should be made difficult to change. This can be done by:

- * saying that it can only be changed if **two-thirds** of the members of parliament agree to the change; or
- * it can only be changed once the people have agreed to the change in a **referendum**.

referendum

isicelo sokuthola
uvo lwabantu
bonke

5. A constitution must set out whether it will be **unitary** or **federal**.

- * A **federal** constitution gives the different regions of a country power to run their own affairs.
- * A **unitary** constitution gives the central government power over the different regions of the country.

federal

inikeza ukuzimela
kwezifunda

unitary

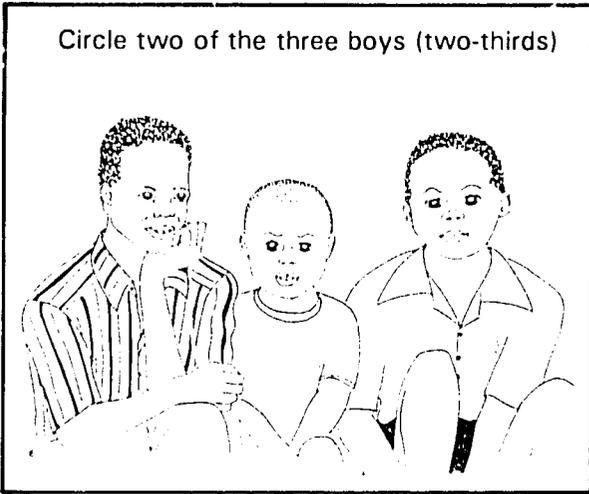
ihlanganisa
izifunda

WORKSHEET 5

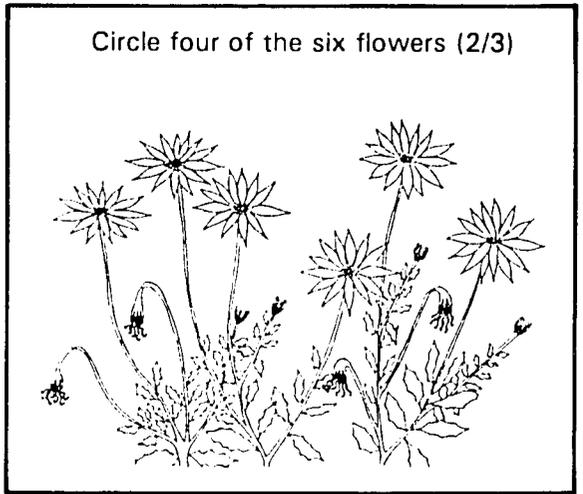
WHAT IS A CONSTITUTION?

It can only be changed by a two-thirds majority.

Circle two of the three boys (two-thirds)



Circle four of the six flowers (2/3)



Activity:

Bring several boxes of matches to class. Ask the learners to work in pairs, and give each pair a pile of matches. Ask them to count out three matches and then hold up two of those three. Explain that they are holding $\frac{2}{3}$ of the three matches. Then ask them to count out six matches and hold up $\frac{2}{3}$, then nine matches etc.

Explain that in order to change the constitution, at least two out of every three people in parliament must agree.

Circle the two-thirds majority votes

66 out of 100 votes

140 out of 200 votes

101 out of 150 votes

14 out of 51 votes

50 out of 90 votes

85 out of 120 votes

15 out of 30 votes

125 out of 200 votes

WHAT IS A BILL OF RIGHTS?

The constitution can include a Bill of Rights. This is the part of the constitution which will tell the people what rights they have and what ideas the government should follow.

In South Africa, the **Freedom Charter** and the **Women's Charter** are similar to a Bill of Rights. They list a number of basic human rights, such as the right to education, housing, freedom of speech and equality.

The United States of America has a Bill of Rights in its constitution. If the Parliament makes a law which the constitution or Bill of Rights says is wrong, the courts can tell parliament that the law is wrong and it will not be carried out. This can mean that the Bill of Rights is more powerful than the elected government. For example, in the 1960's black people in America challenged unjust laws in court because they went against what was written in the Bill of Rights. As a result, these laws were changed, making it illegal to discriminate against black people.

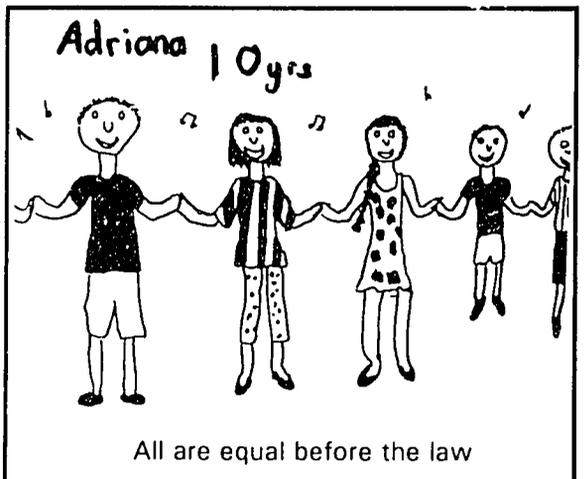
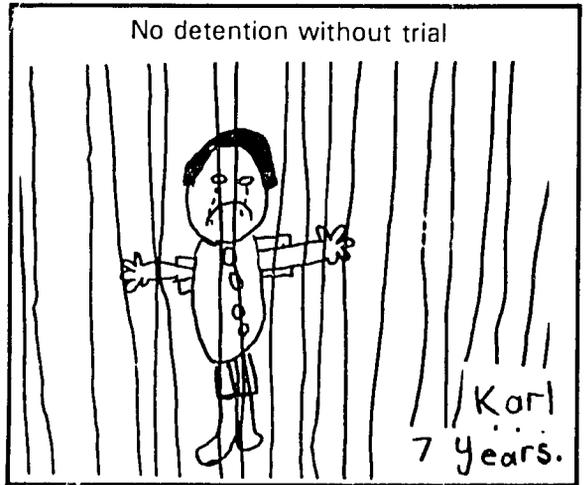
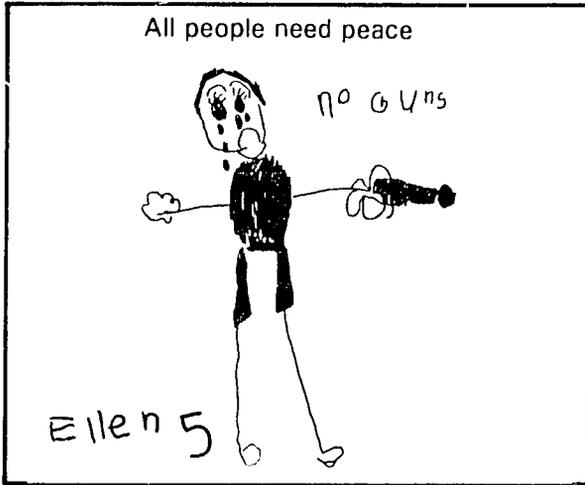
A Bill of Rights does not set out the details of laws. It can only say what ideas the country and its people believe in and think are important.

There are different types of rights that may be included in a Bill of Rights eg. Political Rights; Civil Rights; Social Rights; Women's Rights; Economic Rights; and Environmental Rights.

Many Bills of Rights protect only political and civil rights. These rights are known as "first generation rights" because they are seen as the most important. The reason for this is that some countries cannot afford to give everyone, for example, economic rights.

WHAT IS A BILL OF RIGHTS?

It is the part of the constitution that talks about human rights.



Activity:

Ask the learners to list other rights that should be included in a South African Bill of Rights. Then ask them to prioritize the list (write them in order of importance, the most important is no.1 etc.) Help the learners to decide which rights are economic, political, civil, environmental. Which rights do they think should be "first generation"? Which rights do they think a new government will be able to afford?

LIST THE HUMAN RIGHTS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____