

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Boers

In 1652, a group of people from Holland settled in South Africa. Holland is a region of the Netherlands, a nation in northwestern Europe. The people of Holland speak “Dutch.” These settlers came to be known as Boers because Boer means farmer in Dutch, the language spoken in Holland.

When the Boers initially arrive in South Africa, they thought new home was empty. In fact, it was a homeland for the nomadic Bantu people. Nomads travel from place to place in search of food. They need a large area to dwell in because they do not cultivate crops. The Bantus attempted to fight for their land, but their spears were no match for the Europeans’ guns. The Boers enslaved many of the Bantus and forced them to work on the colonists’ farms.

Great Britain assumed control of South Africa in 1795, after the Napoleonic Wars in Europe. The Dutch settlers were unhappy with British rule and became even angrier when the British outlawed slavery in 1835. The British government paid owners for their slaves, but the Boers complained the payments were too small.

Large numbers of people from Great Britain settled in South Africa after gold and diamonds were discovered. The resulting tensions led to the three-party “Boer Wars” among the British, the Boers, and the Bantus. that lasted from 1899 to 1902. The superior training and weaponry of the British army brought victory, but at a terrible cost.

The wars destroyed economy of South Africa. The British realized that war would continue unless they offered some self-government to the South Africans. In 1910, the British formed the Dominion of South Africa, granting rights to the white Boers and British settlers, but not to the Bantu majority.

In the years that followed, white South Africans would impose repressive Apartheid laws on the Bantu majority, where more than eighty percent of South Africa’s land was set aside exclusively for whites. After years of domestic violence and international pressure, the South African dismantled the apartheid system. In 1994, all South Africans were allowed to vote for their first time. They selected Nelson Mandela, the first black leader of the nation since the beginning of the Colonial era.

Fill in the Blanks

The Boers were E_____s who settled in southern Africa and lived as f_____ and h_____. B_____ is the D_____ word for farmer. Many of the B_____ were Huguenots, who believed they were allowed by God to c_____ the new homeland. The nomadic natives of southern Africa, the B__n__us, attempted to fight for the land, but their *w_____p__ns were inferior to guns of the European B_____.

The B_____ gained control of South Africa in 1795, and angered the B_____ by outlawing s_____. The Boers were also unhappy that many British *n_____ began moving to South Africa after the discovery of g_____ and d_____. The *c__n__l__cts between the B__i__i__h settlers and the Boers led to the B_____ Wars of 1899-1902, where the British soundly defeated the B_____.

Answer in complete sentences

Afrikaans is one of the official languages spoken in South Africa today. It is the language of the Boers and a pidgin, or mixture of two or more languages. What do you think are the two primary contributing languages to Afrikaans? Defend your answer.
