

# Land reform in Scotland and South Africa

## Purpose

To draw comparisons between land issues in Scotland and South Africa.

## Preparation

- ✘ Copies of **Student sheet 1 – Land in Scotland and South Africa** (*one for each pair*)
- ✘ Copies of **Student sheet 2 – Land in Scotland and South Africa** (*three sheets*).

## Procedure






- ◆ Cut up the paragraphs on **Student sheet 2** and put into envelopes, one set for each pair in the class.
- ◆ In pairs, pupils should try to match one paragraph on Scotland and one on South Africa for each heading in the chart.
- ◆ As a class, compare the completed charts.

## Teacher prompt

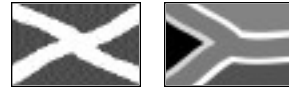
- ◆ *Talk about the similarities in the two countries.*
- ◆ *Why is control over the land so important?*
- ◆ *The reasons why people have taken action over land?*



# Land in Scotland and South

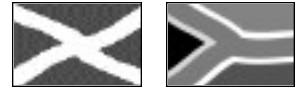
	Scotland 	South Africa 
 Resettlement in rural areas »»		
 Resettlement in urban areas »»		
 People taking action »»		

# Land in Scotland and South Africa



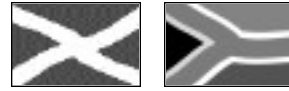
- A.** In Scotland 1000 people own 66% of the land. This unequal distribution dates back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century when feudalism was introduced. Scotland is the only land in Europe which still operates this system. It gives landowners a lot of power. It is also very difficult to be clear in Scotland exactly who owns what land.
- B.** In South Africa 13% of the population owns approximately 82% of the land. South African history is one of colonisation – mainly by the Dutch and the British. They drove the native peoples off their land especially the good farming land and coastal areas for trading ports.
- C.** The Highland Clearances in the 19<sup>th</sup> century is a major injustice in our past – a decision made for economic reasons with no thought for the people. Landowners decided that sheep farming would bring in much more income than the rent and crops of the crofters. Thousands of families were driven from their homes. They moved to the cities, to the coastal edges and overseas.
- D.** South Africa too has a long history of inequality, reflected in a number of laws. In 1913 an act was passed which divided land in Africa into what land could be owned by blacks (7%) and what could be owned by whites (all the rest). Some blacks were allowed to stay on white farms because of needed labour. During the years 1948-79 Apartheid Laws gave power to the government to move millions of black families. In Natal alone, 3.5 million people were forcibly moved.

# Land in Scotland and South Africa



- E.** Clearing of the city centre slums has led to large housing schemes far away from work and shopping. Some people were glad to move because the condition of their houses was so bad but they quickly realised that there were many problems with the new schemes. Often people's homes were removed to make way for roads and businesses.
  
- F.** Areas within cities were declared 'white' during the Apartheid years and thousands of black and coloured families were moved into townships at the edge of the cities. These have few or poor services. People travel up to three hours to get to work. Other families pushed off farms ended up in shanty settlements with no services.
  
- G.** The Scottish Parliament was formed in 1999 and the first Bill prepared for it was on land reform. Today much of our land is owned by foreign individuals and trusts and is generally sold and resold without the locals knowing. There are two major issues to be resolved by the Bill – firstly, the right of communities to buy land and secondly, the right of access to enclosed land.

# Land in Scotland and South Africa



- H.** The first democratic parliament in South Africa was elected in 1994 and the promise was to restore land to the thousands of blacks who had been forcibly removed. The progress of the land reform is very, very slow. The government has bowed to pressure to have a policy of 'willing buyer/willing seller' – this means that land comes on the open market and is usually beyond the means of small farmers.
- I.** Kathy has fought for over ten years to get the local council to agree that their houses have a dampness problem. She has been laughed at and avoided but she now has the experts on her side. She has had to learn how to fight the system and organise local people into taking action.
- J.** It is hard for people who have been oppressed for a long time to take action. Yvonne is part of the housing committee in Cape Town trying to get back their land and to make sure that everyone has a right to build their own house. Money is available from the government but things move slowly and local people do not trust their motives.