

# Freedom Day is about voting

## Why do people vote?

What do you know about voting?  
 Maybe your parents have said they are going to vote for a person or a political party in the next election.  
 Maybe you have heard someone say they will vote for a certain person to become the next president.

Have you voted at school to decide which learner in your class made the best poster or the best speech?  
 Maybe you have even voted for somebody to become a learner representative, or the class or group leader.

Voting is an important right of every South African because it gives us a chance to say what we feel about important things that affect our lives: Important things like more hospitals or less spending on weapons or more spending on the environment.  
 When you are eighteen, you will be allowed to vote in local and national elections.  
 By voting, you can make sure that our political leaders know what you think about the things that affect your life.

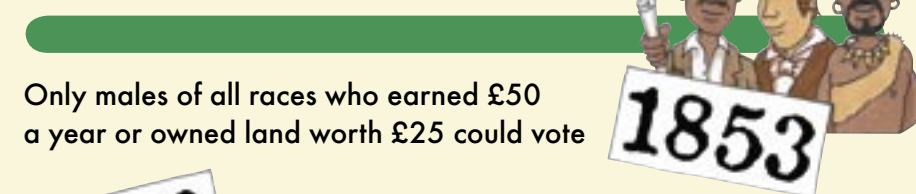
## FREEDOM DAY

Our first democratic election was on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1994. All South Africans were allowed to vote. As a result Nelson Mandela became the president.

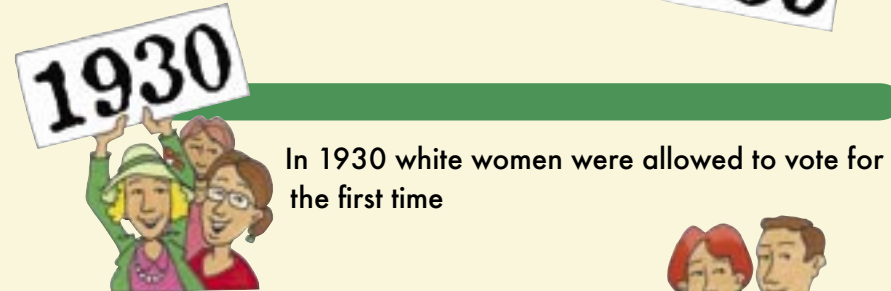


## Step into a voting time machine

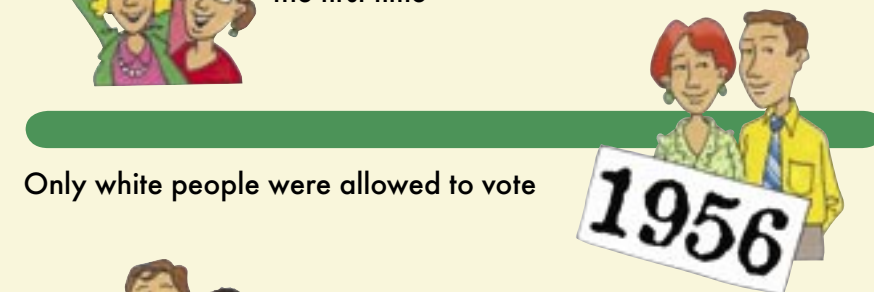
In the past, some South Africans were allowed to vote, others were not.



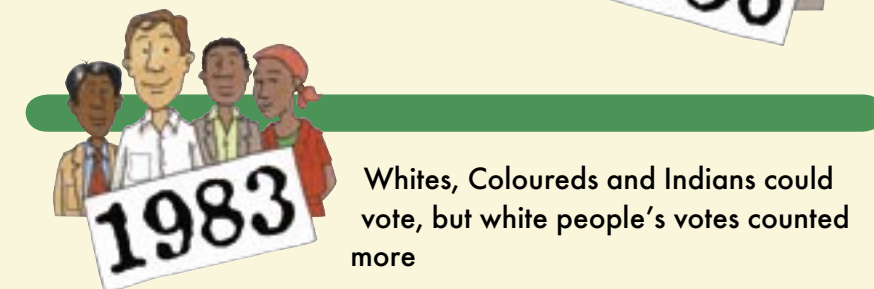
Only males of all races who earned £50 a year or owned land worth £25 could vote



In 1930 white women were allowed to vote for the first time



Only white people were allowed to vote

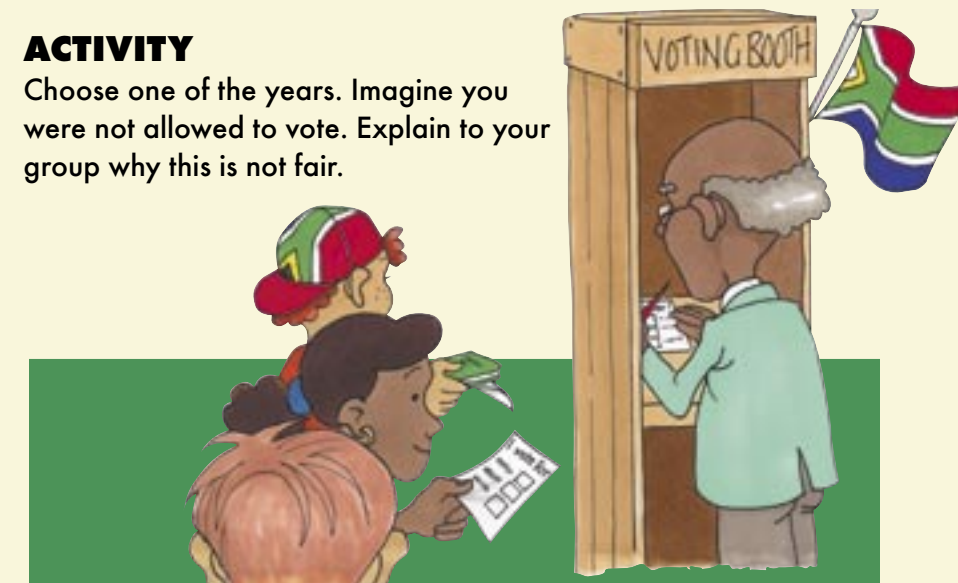


Whites, Coloureds and Indians could vote, but white people's votes counted more

In 1994 all South Africans of all races were allowed to vote

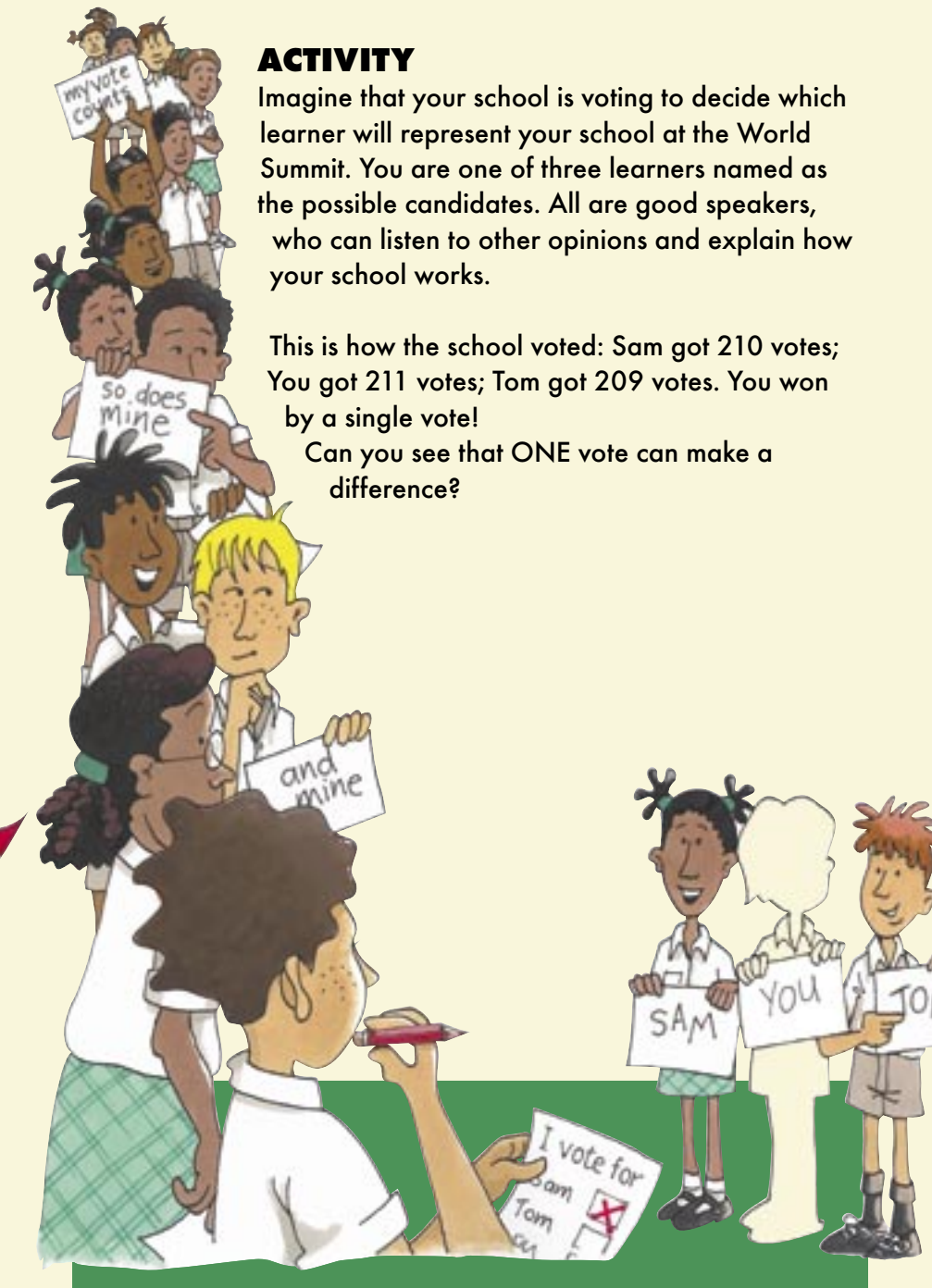
## ACTIVITY

Choose one of the years. Imagine you were not allowed to vote. Explain to your group why this is not fair.



## Every vote counts

Every South African's vote now counts equally. Your voice is heard when you vote.



## ACTIVITY

Imagine that your school is voting to decide which learner will represent your school at the World Summit. You are one of three learners named as the possible candidates. All are good speakers, who can listen to other opinions and explain how your school works.

This is how the school voted: Sam got 210 votes; You got 211 votes; Tom got 209 votes. You won by a single vote!  
 Can you see that ONE vote can make a difference?

## Make your voice heard

### ACTIVITY

Imagine all the girls in your school have a problem with the Girls Toilet. The doors do not lock.  
 How can a large group of girls share this problem with adults who can solve the problem? If all the girls tried to talk to the Principal, the message would not be clear. What do you do?

1. Form a group and discuss your common problem.
2. Choose someone in the group to lead the discussion. Choose someone else to write down the main problem and possible solutions.
3. Then vote for someone to represent the group and take the problem to someone in authority like the Principal, a head teacher or community leader.
4. Then the chosen representative, with an adult, can go to the person in authority, to help solve the problem.

### REMEMBER

Representatives need to change according to the needs of the group and the job they are expected to do. Eg. Lead the discussion, write down the notes from meetings, approach adults to help solve problems.  
 Remember that the representative is communicating the opinions of the group and not their own opinions!

Challenges that need ACTION – what can your group / class do?

- Learners who have no food at school
- Muslim or Jewish learners whose religion is not treated equally at the school
- Learners who want to take a subject not offered at the school.
- Teachers' whose property is not safe at the school
- Learners who are bullied at school
- Girls who are not safe at the school
- Learners who want to hold a talent show to raise money for a TV for the school.

School TV is shown on SABC 2 every weekday from 9:30 – 11:30

### Contact School TV

Write to us with comments or suggestions on School TV  
 The School TV Project Manager  
 SABC Education  
 P.O.Box X41  
 Auckland Park, 2006

Fax us on (011) 714 6687

E-mail us on: schooltv@sabc.co.za

Fill in our questionnaire on our website: www.schooltv.co.za

### Phone us on:

- Educator's Hotline – phone 086 222 2006
- Learner's Hotline – phone 086 222 2005

## Watch School TV for Social Science Programmes

### Let's Meet

Time: Tuesdays at 10.55

Let's Meet provides learners with real role models, whose achievements have directly contributed to childrens' freedom and their right to life.



### Looking Back Moving Forward

Time: Tuesdays at 11.10

Looking Back Moving Forward is a Social Science programme that takes us through a journey of South African history ending with our current democracy



### Remember the Day

Time: Wednesdays at 10.55

Remember the Day explores the events that led to South Africa's different days of commemoration eg. Freedom Day.

