The South African Caste System

Apartheid and the Emergence of the ANC

Research Simulation Task | Grades 6 to 12

First and Last Name _____ Date _____

Inquiry: How did South Africa enforce a racial caste system, and how did the ANC and other resistance movements challenge it?

Standards connections: NJSLS Social Studies 6.2.12.HistoryCC.5.d: relate colonial legacies to economies and national identities. NJSLS ELA RI.CR.6.1 and RI.CI.6.2: evidence and central ideas. CCSS/CCLS RH.6–8.1, RH.9–10.1, RH.11–12.1 and WHST.6–8.1, WHST.9–10.1, WHST.11–12.1: historical evidence and argument. Grade 6 skills provide scaffolds; high school analysis adds source evaluation and complexity.

Day 1 Do Now

What is the difference between unequal treatment by a person and unequal treatment required by law?

Source A Colonial Segregation and the ANC

A1. Colonial conquest and settlement reshaped land ownership and power in southern Africa long before 1948. Indigenous African communities faced dispossession, while mining and farming interests depended on their labor. The Union of South Africa was established in 1910 under white minority rule. Most Indigenous African people were excluded from national political power. Segregation therefore preceded the government policy later called apartheid.

A2. On January 8, 1912, leaders gathered in Bloemfontein to establish the South African Native National Congress. Founders included John Dube, its first president, and Pixley ka Isaka Seme. They sought unity across African communities and challenged exclusion through organized political action. The organization became the African National Congress, or ANC, in 1923. Its early methods included petitions, delegations, and appeals to authorities.

Intellectual Property of Ma’at Cultural Curriculum Consultants LLC | Est. 2017 | © 2026

Day 1 Evidence and Quick Write

A3. The Natives Land Act of 1913 restricted African land purchase and occupation, reserving roughly 7 percent of the country for African ownership. A 1936 law expanded the designated share to about 13 percent. These restrictions strengthened a system that limited African economic independence. Land loss and labor control were connected: families with fewer resources had greater pressure to seek paid work away from home.

A4. The ANC was already organizing before the 1913 law, and decades before apartheid became official policy in 1948. In 1944, the ANC Youth League formed. Young organizers, including Nelson Mandela, Oliver Tambo, and Walter Sisulu, pushed for broader popular participation. Studying this chronology helps explain why apartheid was both a new stage of state control and an expansion of older racial domination.

Source type: original instructional synthesis based on the references on page 8.

Use source letters and paragraph numbers in your answers.

1. State the ANC’s original name, founding year, and first president.

2. Explain a cause and an effect of the 1913 land restrictions.

3. Calculate the years between the ANC’s founding and official apartheid in 1948. What does this interval reveal?

Quick Write: Explain why the ANC emerged before official apartheid. Connect one political cause and one economic condition from Source A.

Intellectual Property of Ma’at Cultural Curriculum Consultants LLC | Est. 2017 | © 2026