



Liliesleaf

A PLACE *of* LIBERATION

Grade 5

Heritage Trails Through the Provinces of South Africa

Developing a Tour for Liliesleaf

ENGAGE



DISCOVER

REFLECT

Heritage Site | Museum | Restaurant | Archive | Conference Centre

Heritage is what we inherit from the past, the memories, languages, traditions, art, food and architecture that have passed through our families and communities for many years. Heritage can be tangible (you can touch it or pick it up), like objects, buildings and photographs. Heritage can also be intangible (you experience it rather than touch it), like dance, song, stories and religion. Our beautiful landscapes – mountains, rivers, beaches, forests and veld – are all a part of our heritage too, as are plants and herbs that are used as traditional medicines.

In South Africa there are many places that have been declared heritage sites because they are important in our history or culture or natural environment.

Liliesleaf is one such important heritage site. It is important because in the early 1960s it was one of the 'engine rooms' of the liberation movement, where the leaders of the struggle met to discuss and debate how to end apartheid rule. When the police raided Liliesleaf on 11 July 1963, it was a turning point in South African history.

Liliesleaf tells many different stories....

It tells the story of how and why Liliesleaf was bought as a meeting place and safe house for the leaders of the liberation struggle. It tells the story of the people who lived and met at Liliesleaf, including Nelson Mandela who was banned and living underground, pretending to be a worker called David Motsamayi. It also tells the story of South Africa at the time, and the events that led to the raid – the Sharpeville Massacre, the banning of the ANC and PAC, the decision by the ANC to resort to armed struggle, and how resistance to the state was taken underground.

It tells the story of the raid on Liliesleaf, what happened on that day and in the weeks that followed. It tells the story of the Rivonia Trial, which sent the senior ANC leadership to prison.

There are also other stories: a famous prison break, nosy neighbours, an underground radio station, a rebel Afrikaner, and a safari truck laden with guns.

All these stories form part of our heritage. The challenge is to make sure they are never forgotten.

ACTIVITY

- Imagine that you are a tour guide bringing a group of visitors to Liliesleaf. You have to design a tour for them, but their time is limited and you can only select four of the exhibits, or four stories.
- Work out which exhibits you want them to see or which stories you want to tell them. If you are able to visit Liliesleaf you will have advantage of engaging with the exhibits, alternately the text on the website can assist you.
- Motivate why you are choosing these particular exhibits or stories.
- Write down what you want to say about each exhibit or story. How are you going to tell the story?
- At the end of the tour, work out which exhibits you want them to see or which stories you want to tell them.