

SCIENCE EDUCATION

facilitator's notes

Indigenous Knowledge Systems

Did you know?

- Indigenous knowledge is the local knowledge that is unique to a given culture or society. The local government uses it as a basis for local level decision making in agriculture, health care, food preparation, education, natural resource management and a host of other activities in rural communities (Warren, 1991)
- Indigenous knowledge is the information base for a society, which facilitates communication and decision-making. Indigenous information systems are dynamic and are continually influenced by internal creativity and experimentation as well as by contact with external resources. (Flavier et al. 1995:479)

Why is Indigenous Knowledge important?

It allows people to understand their environments and is passed down from generation to generation. It gives us an understanding of our indigenous vegetation that was once an integral part of our mountain. On Table Mountain alien vegetation has taken over previously occupied space of indigenous vegetation. The alien vegetation reproduces freely across our country, drinks our precious groundwater and invades these areas. On Table Mountain an example of indigenous vegetation is the BUCHU plant which has medicinal properties.

Some strategies people employ with their indigenous knowledge for their development include:

- Agriculture
- Ethnic veterinary medicine
- Use and management of natural resources
- Primary health care
- Saving and lending
- Community development
- Poverty alleviation

