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CAPS content for science and technology teachers: The Planet Earth and Beyond

This 2-day course deals with the CAPS content for teachers (at a level slightly in advance of what the learners need to know), as well as skills and the knowledge of how to teach it practically.

The Subject-Matter Knowledge covers

- The way people have tried to make sense of the heavens they can see; folk-lore and indigenous knowledge of the stars and planets; navigating by the stars; seasons and celebrations that are marked by positions of the Moon or stars
- The exploration of the Moon and planets, and comparison with our planet
- The force of gravity and how it holds the solar system together
- Our galaxy and beyond; the birth and death of stars; how can we tell if there are other Earths out there in Space?
- A few of the weird things astronomers know about the Universe
- The restless Earth and its shocks, rocks and soils.

The Pedagogical Content Knowledge (knowing how to teach this lot) covers

- Children's typical misconceptions, for example, about the changing shapes of the Moon, the seasons, the passing of time, or being on a ball-shaped Earth but not falling off it
- Activities for learners that help them to understand gravity and the solar system
- Activities in which you can use calendars and compare the motions of the Sun and Moon
- Working out what people on the other side of the world can see at this moment

Assessment on the course is self-referenced assessment; in other words, your ending performance is compared to your starting performance.

The course venue: The RADMASTE Centre, Wits University Education Campus, Parktown (old JCE)

Dates: [REDACTED] September. A course day is 6½ hours of contact time, from 8:30 to 1:00 and 1:30 to 3:30. It's also possible to run the course over 4 afternoons if there is a demand for that. An afternoon is from 1:30 to 4:30.

Cost: [REDACTED] for the course. We need at least 14 people to make a course viable and we cannot take more than 22.

Closing date for registration and fee payment is [REDACTED] for the first course.

For registration forms, please fax your name, school name, cell number, email, fax and telephone number to

Setlhare Science Curriculum Trust, 086 765 5320 or 011 717 3470

or email Setlhare at peter.moodie@wits.ac.za

Trustees: Prof. JD Bradley, S Dlamini, EA Papenfus

"Setlhare" means a tree. In Africa, people meet under trees to talk about important matters and children play in trees. Curriculum must make places for teachers to meet and children's minds to play.