

Educator Workshops – Northern Cape

Educator workshops began on the 15th and ended on the 17th of May 2012. Three districts were covered, Fraserberg, Williston and Sutherland. Twenty three educators attended the workshop in total. The workshops were based on the stories from the Southern Skies. Educators engaged in several practical activities on the moon and sun which was part of the package given to them. The workshop was held to show Foundation Phase educators how to use cultural stories to teach concepts of astronomy in the curriculum.

In Foundation Phase Life Skills curriculum the educators are expected to integrate the activities with other learning areas. The activities are not only linked to visual arts and physical education but also to Numeracy and Literacy, the key components of learning in the classroom. The workshop gave the educators' insight into the fact that astronomy is not a difficult concept to teach and can easily be taught through a story and simple practical activities. All of the activities are developed to accommodate learners who have different learning abilities and learning styles.

It is hoped that educators continue the programme, especially in the fourth term when they will do Earth and Beyond in the Life Skills curriculum. Karel Klein the Educator Officer in the Northern Cape, will continue to monitor and provide support, when possible in the 3 districts.