



science  
& technology

Department:  
Science and Technology  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SAASTA  
South African Agency for Science  
and Technology Advancement

## NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

Deepening our Democracy through Science

28 July – 4 August 2018



<b>Organisation:</b>	Split Second Science	<b>Project Leader:</b>	Felix Spies	<b>Province/s:</b>	WC
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### National Science Week events and activities:

DATE & TIME	VENUE & LOCATION	ACTIVITY	AUDIENCE	CONTACT DETAILS	BOOKINGS REQUIRED?
30 July – 4 August 2018	West Coast Fossil Park	<p><b><u>Science shows are AWESOME!!</u></b></p> <p>The show combines different chemistry principles with more advanced experiments which have been engineered to be interactive and entertaining. The show contains pH changes, oxidation, a smoke bubble blower, we make fire using water, create a hydrogen balloon and yes, we do ignite it. We also work with other elements and chemicals such a dry ice, liquid nitrogen, helium and oxygen. This science shows aims to create awareness of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers and how they can be used in a creative manner to create employment.</p>	Primary Schools, grade 5 to 7 learners	N/A	Attendance is per invite only.

30 July – 4 August 2018	West Coast Fossil Park	<p><b><u>Up-sci-cling Workshops</u></b></p> <p>Up-sci-cling is a skill set and mind-set that allows participants trash and repurpose these items to be used to display scientific principles or create scientific equipment. Up-sci-cling follows an Asset Based and Community Drive Education (ABCDE) approach and focuses on using what a community/school has to meet their desired outcomes. This allows learners to use STEMI as a recreational tool, create different objects for entertainment, and build an understanding of the consequences of environmental degradation.</p>	Primary Schools, grade 5 to 7 learners	N/A	Attendance is per invite only.
30 July – 4 August 2018	West Coast Fossil Park	<p><b><u>Make your Own Fossil</u></b></p> <p>After a discussion on various types of fossils where learners handle different types of fossils which formed in different ways, the learners experience a hands-on activity where they can see how fossils formed millions of years ago. After this learner make their own fossils in a fun and interactive activity. This activity creates awareness of palaeoscience, indigenous knowledge systems and biodiversity and to allow the public to understand the role of social sciences and these indigenous knowledge systems can have on their lives.</p> <p>Participants will manipulate modelling clay and use a shell to create a mould, demonstrating how a cast fossil is formed. The mould is then filled with Plaster of Paris. Leaves are pressed into the clay and covered with another layer of clay to form an imprint, illustrating the formation of sedimentary layers trapping delicate organisms and plants. Open the two layers, and the imprint should be visible on both sides as an imprint. A thin layer of Plaster of Paris is poured over the clay and left to dry. Learners press their hands into the clay to leave an impression. This is then filled with Plaster of Paris. This demonstrates the formation of a trace fossil and the example will be used of the Footprint of Eve found locally in the West Coast National Park, and the facts surrounding the finding and identification of the footprint will be revealed. (Cultural History). The learners take the casts home.</p>	Primary Schools, grade 5 to 7 learners	N/A	Attendance is per invite only.
30 July – 4 August 2018	West Coast Fossil Park	<p><b><u>Owl Pellet Dissection</u></b></p> <p>The learners each receive an owl pellet. They are guided through a range of observations such as noting leaves and any other material sticking to the outside. They are then asked</p>	Primary Schools, grade 5 to 7 learners	N/A	Attendance is per invite only.

		<p>to deduct where the pellet may have been found. They then weigh the pellet, writing down the weight on a paper provided. The children put on gloves, and using a toothpick carefully separate the bones from the hair, fur and feathers. The fur, feathers, hair and other material is weighed separately, and placed in separate plastic bags. The bones are then sorted and placed on an identification chart, in the correct spaces. When the activity is nearing an end, the bones belonging to each specific animal are placed in separate bags, and weighed.</p> <p>Discovering the smaller bones is fascinating! Learners and adults learn to look at the structure of bones, and how they differ in different animals. This gives them insight into how the animals move and teaches them to look carefully at the bones to spot differences. They learn to identify the bones belonging to different animals based on the bone and its position in the body, and its function. They are also exposed to basic scientific method, using sorting and labelling in the correct manner.</p> <p>This activity popularise science and mathematics through a stimulating, exciting and relevant daily life interaction with local wildlife. Through this activity, participants are shown how STEMI contributes to the protection of local wildlife and the sustainable future thereof</p>			
30 July – 4 August 2018 Daily at 11:00	West Coast Fossil Park	<p><b><u>Mock dig and tour</u></b></p> <p>The park has been open for a few years, on the site of an old potash mine, close to Saldanha. A visit to West Coast Fossil Park is amazing and truly informative. The informative tour guide will take learners on a mock dig tour and provide them with various facts about the region and valuable educational insights. The tour guides include information like first-hand stories of when the fossils were discovered and their own journeys of how they started working at the Park. Tours will be done in English and Afrikaans. After visiting the mock dig site, a brief tour of the brand new buildings (opened Dec 2017) - reception, shop, cafe, and museum.</p>	High school, Grade 8 & 9 learners	Bookings can be made by e-mailing <a href="mailto:info@splitsecondscience.co.za">info@splitsecondscience.co.za</a> . A maximum of 50 learners can be accommodated. First come, first serve.	Yes