



origins centre

MORE THAN A MUSEUM

Workshop

Contact us

The workshop can be booked as a separate education activity or can include a tour of the museum. The workshop is approximately 2 hours, but can be modified to fit your requirements. Booking must be made in advance and payment confirmation of the booking is required prior to arrival.

WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

- + Understand ancient ochre use in Africa
- + Learn about ancient hunter-gatherer lifeways
- + Produce ochre powder
- + Create ochre paint
- + Make your own 'ancient art'

Venue: Origins Centre,
Wits University
(Cnr Yale & Enoch Sontonga
roads, Wits University,
Braamfontein, 2050,
Johannesburg, South Africa).

Education enquiries:
Tammy Hodgskiss
tammy.hodgskiss@wits.ac.za
+11 717 4700

Book Tickets:
bookings.origins@wits.ac.za

COLOURING Africa

The use of pigment in the Middle and Later Stone Age

This workshop is open to all age groups, parents and children. The workshop for this programme is designed to extend on the Grade 5 content 'Hunter-gatherers and Herders of the Later Stone Age'. We invite learners, teachers and the public to come and learn about how ochre pigment was made and prepared in the past, and how this can give clues on how people lived thousands of years ago.



NATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR THE HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND,
JOHANNESBURG

What is ochre?

Ochre is soft stone that can be ground to make coloured powder. Most ochre pieces found in archaeological sites are red and yellow, but pink, brown and purple ochre is also found.

Evidence of ochre use in our past

Ochre use dates back to 300 000 years ago in the archaeological record and by 100 000 years ago Homo sapiens around South Africa were using this material regularly. In the archaeological past it also appears to have been used for both functional and symbolic purposes, for example, hafting adhesives, paint manufacture and for design/symbol creation. Today, ochre is still used around the world. It is used as body paint for rituals, decoration, sunscreen, as pigment, and even as a food supplement.



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Optional extras

Optional extras (additional costs may apply):

- + Wits Bus Services will be available by arrangement through Origins Centre management.
- + Lunch packs are available through our restaurant, Café Fino. Arrangements to be made in advance with Origins Centre management.

