Nelson Mandela



Nelson Mandela was a famous leader who fought for equal rights in South Africa. He was very important in bringing an end to **apartheid** and ensuring that Black people and White people could live together and have the same rights.





Did You Know...?

Apartheid means 'apartness'. It was a set of laws in South Africa which separated White people and Black people. It lasted from 1948 to 1994.

Where Did Nelson Mandela Grow Up?

Nelson was born on 18th July 1918 in Mvezo, South Africa. The village where he lived is in a grassy valley. From the age of five, he was a herdboy and helped on the land, herding cattle and sheep. He enjoyed playing hide-and-seek and sliding down rocks near his home. He attended the village school where he learnt to read and write. Years later, he went away to boarding school. At the age of seven, his schoolteacher gave him the name Nelson – he had been born Rolihlahla Mandela but it was usual for a new name to be given at school.

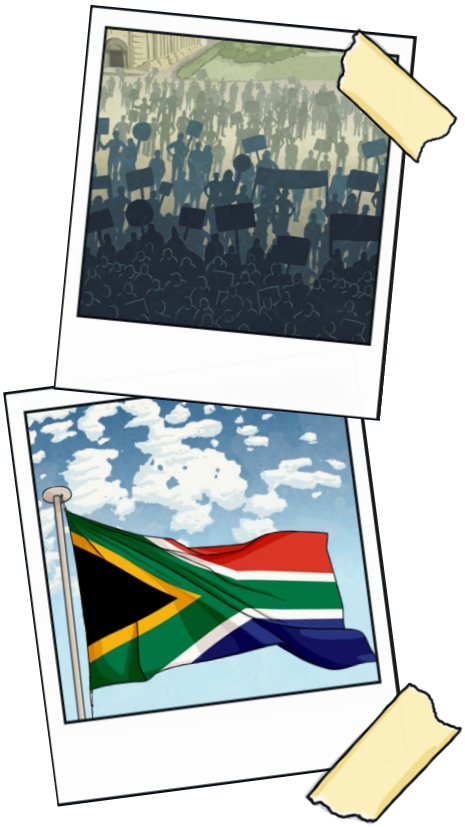
What Did He Fight For?

At university, Nelson often stood up for what he believed in, joining **protests** and **strikes**. He then joined the African National Congress (ANC): a group which campaigned for South Africa to become an **independent** country and not part of the British Empire. The ANC wanted to stop apartheid.

There were more Black people than White people in South Africa but the country was run by White people. Only White people were allowed to vote. In 1948, apartheid laws began to be introduced to further separate Black people and White people. They were not allowed to marry each other, eat together or even live in the same area.

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Why Did Nelson Mandela Go To Prison?



In 1962, Nelson Mandela was arrested and given a life sentence in prison. This was because he was part of the ANC, which **campaigned** for apartheid to be ended. The ANC used peaceful protests but government buildings were sometimes destroyed when these didn't work. They never intended for anyone to get hurt.

Nelson Mandela was in prison for 27 years. During this time, the South African government banned strikes and protests and arrested some of the people who spoke against them. Meanwhile, many people around the world united in campaigning for Nelson's release. The song 'Free Nelson Mandela' became popular in many countries and helped gain him more support.

What Did He Achieve?



In 1990, a new president called FW de Klerk finally released Nelson from prison. The two men began to **negotiate** and work together. In 1993, they were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize: a very important award given only once a year for contributions to world peace.

In 1994, Black people were allowed to vote in the national elections for the first time and Nelson Mandela was voted in as president. He was the first Black president of South Africa and he stood as president for the next five years.

Nelson Mandela used sport to unite the nation: he encouraged all South African people to come together to support their national rugby team called the Springboks. In 1995, South Africa hosted the Rugby World Cup. Nelson famously wore the Springboks' jersey and South Africa won the tournament.

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How Is He Remembered?

Nelson Mandela lived to the age of 95. Many people from around the world remember him as a hero whose actions helped to make the world a fairer place. Each year on the 18th of July, Mandela Day is celebrated around the world.



Glossary

apartheid: Laws in South Africa which separated Black people and White people.

campaigned: When people worked to bring about change.

independent: When a country rules itself.

negotiate: To find a way to agree through discussion.

protests: Organised events where people show their disagreement with something.

strikes: Organised refusals to do something.

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Questions

1. Where was Nelson Mandela born? Tick one.

   - ○ Botswana
   - ○ Zimbabwe
   - ○ South Africa
   - ○ Mauritius

2. Draw **four** lines and match each event to the correct date.

Apartheid laws started in South Africa.	1962.
Nelson was born.	1918.
Nelson was imprisoned.	1994.
Nelson became president.	1948.

3. What **two** activities did Nelson enjoy as a child?

   - _____
   - _____

4. Fill in the missing words.

   Many people from around the world remember him as a _____ whose actions helped to make the world a _____ place.

5. Look at the section called **What Did He Achieve?**

   Find and copy one word that means the same as 'set free'.

   _____

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6. **Nelson famously wore the Springboks' jersey and South Africa won the tournament.**

   What does the word 'famously' tell you about this event?

7. Summarise what you have learnt about Mandela using 35 words or fewer.

8. **Many people from around the world remember him as a hero...**

   Do you agree or disagree that Nelson Mandela was a hero? Explain why, using evidence from the text.

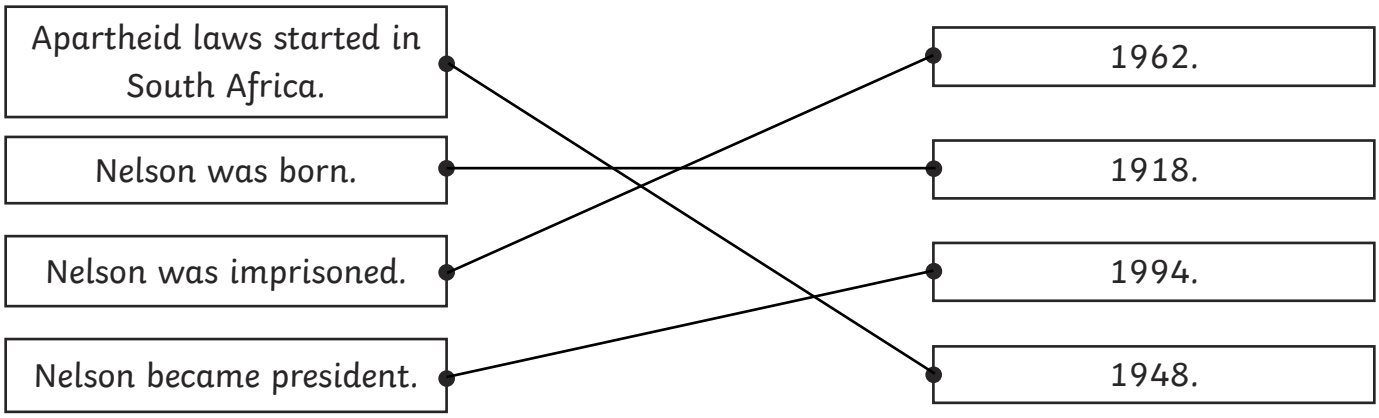
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Answers

1. Where was Nelson Mandela born? Tick one.

   ○ Botswana
   ○ Zimbabwe
   ☑ **South Africa**
   ○ Mauritius

2. Draw **four** lines and match each event to the correct date.



3. What **two** activities did Nelson enjoy as a child?

   - **hide-and-seek**
   - **sliding down rocks**

4. Fill in the missing words.

   Many people from around the world remember him as a **hero** whose actions helped to make the world a ***fairer*** place.

5. Look at the section called **What Did He Achieve?**

   Find and copy one word that means the same as 'set free'.

   released

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6. **Nelson famously wore the Springboks' jersey and South Africa won the tournament.**

   What does the word 'famously' tell you about this event?

   Pupils' own responses, such as: It tells you that it is well known that Nelson wore the Springboks' jersey and it must have been an important occasion.

7. Summarise what you have learnt about Mandela using 35 words or fewer.

   Pupils' own responses, such as: Nelson Mandela fought to end apartheid in South Africa and make life fairer. He went to prison for protesting against the government but was released and later became president.

8. **Many people from around the world remember him as a hero...**

   Do you agree or disagree that Nelson Mandela was a hero? Explain why, using evidence from the text.

   Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, he was a hero because he gave up 27 years of his life in prison to make a difference to other people's lives. He changed the voting system and allowed Black people's voices to be heard.

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Nelson Mandela



From 1948 to 1994, South Africa was run using a system of apartheid. This meant that there were laws to keep Black people and White people apart. Nelson Mandela was a key figure in ending apartheid and bringing more equality to South Africa.

Childhood



Nelson Mandela was born on 18th July 1918 in Mvezo, South Africa. The village where he lived is in a grassy valley. From the age of five, he was a herdboy and helped on the land, herding cattle and sheep. He enjoyed playing hide-and-seek and sliding down rocks near his home. He attended the village school and learnt to read and write, later going away to boarding school. At the age of seven, his schoolteacher gave him the name Nelson – he had been born Rolihlahla Mandela but it was usual for a new name to be given at school.

Politics and Prison

At university, Nelson often stood up for what he believed in. He protested about the poor quality of university food (for which he was expelled from his first university). He later took part in a march to protest about bus fares and then joined the African National Congress (ANC). This was a political group which campaigned for South Africa to become an independent country and not part of the British Empire. The ANC went on to protest against apartheid laws.



There were more Black people than White people in South Africa but the country was run by White people. Only White people were allowed to vote. In 1948, apartheid laws began to be introduced to further separate Black people and White people: they were not allowed to marry each other, they were not allowed to eat together and Black people were eventually sent to live in separate parts of the country.

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Nelson became increasingly passionate in his belief that everyone should be treated equally. As part of the ANC, he campaigned by making speeches, holding meetings, organising rallies and making plans for a better government. The ANC used peaceful protests but when these didn't work, government property was sometimes destroyed- always with the intention that nobody would be hurt. The government banned the ANC and arrested Nelson twice, finally imprisoning him with a life sentence in 1962.

Freedom



Nelson Mandela was in prison for 27 years. Meanwhile, people around the world united in campaigning for Nelson's release. In the UK, the number one single 'Free Nelson Mandela' was played around the world.

In 1990, a new president, FW de Klerk, finally released Nelson from prison. The two men began to negotiate and work together. They were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993. This is a very important award given only once a year for contributions to world peace.



In 1994, apartheid ended and, for the first time, Black people were allowed to vote in the national elections. Nelson Mandela was voted in: the first Black president of South Africa. As president, Nelson fought against poverty and inequality.

Nelson Mandela used sport to unite the nation: he encouraged all South Africans to come together to support their national rugby team, who were called the Springboks. In 1995, South Africa hosted the Rugby World Cup. Nelson famously wore the Springboks' jersey and South Africa won the tournament.

Legacy

Nelson Mandela lived to the age of 95. Many people remember him as a hero whose actions helped to make life fairer for thousands of people. Each year on his birthday, the 18th of July, Mandela Day is celebrated around the world. People remember how he devoted his life to fighting for freedom and are often inspired to take action to make the world a better place.

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Questions

1. What was apartheid? Tick one.

   ○ a rugby team
   ○ a system of laws to separate Black people and White people
   ○ a place in South Africa
   ○ a prize

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

   ☐ Nelson was imprisoned.
   ☐ Nelson Mandela and FW de Klerk jointly received the Nobel Peace Prize.
   ☐ Nelson joined the ANC.
   ☐ Apartheid ended in South Africa.

3. Find and copy **one** sentence that shows that people from different countries helped to free Nelson from prison.

   _____

4. **Nelson Mandela used sport to unite the nation...**

   What does 'unite' mean?

   _____

5. What were the **two** issues Nelson protested about while at university?

   • _____

   • _____

6. Compare Nelson's childhood with his time in prison. How were they different?

   _____

   _____

   _____

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7. **Nelson famously wore the Springboks' jersey...**

   Why do you think Nelson chose to wear the South Africa rugby team's shirt at the Rugby World Cup?

8. Describe how the author has organised this biography to make it easy to read and understand.

9. Why do you think Nelson Mandela was finally released from prison?

   Use evidence from the text.

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Answers

1. What was apartheid? Tick one.

   ○ a rugby team
   ☑ **a system of laws to separate Black people and White people**
   ○ a place in South Africa
   ○ a prize

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

   [2] Nelson was imprisoned.
   [3] Nelson Mandela and FW de Klerk jointly received the Nobel Peace Prize.
   [1] Nelson joined the ANC.
   [4] Apartheid ended in South Africa.

3. Find and copy **one** sentence that shows that people from different countries helped to free Nelson from prison.

   Meanwhile, people around the world united in campaigning for Nelson's release.

4. **Nelson Mandela used sport to unite the nation...**

   What does 'unite' mean?

   Accept any reasonable definition, such as: 'Unite' means to bring together.

5. What were the **two** issues Nelson protested about while at university?

   - **quality of food**
   - **bus fares**

6. Compare Nelson's childhood with his time in prison. How were they different?

   Pupils' own responses, such as: In his childhood, Nelson was free and in nature but in prison he lost his freedom.

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7. **Nelson famously wore the Springboks' jersey...**

   Why do you think Nelson chose to wear the South Africa rugby team's shirt at the Rugby World Cup?

   Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Nelson chose to wear the South Africa rugby team's shirt because it would show that he supported the team and encouraged other people to support them too.

8. Describe how the author has organised this biography to make it easy to read and understand.

   Pupils' own responses, such as: The author has organised this biography by using paragraphs, sub-headings and chronological order to make it easy to read and understand.

9. Why do you think Nelson Mandela was finally released from prison?

   Use evidence from the text.

   Pupils' own responses, such as: I think he was released from prison because people from around the world heard about his imprisonment and campaigned for his release. It could have also been because the new president had different opinions to the old president and wanted the country to change.

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Nelson Mandela

From 1948 to 1994, South Africa was run using a system of apartheid. During apartheid (meaning 'apartness'), there were laws to keep Black people and White people separated. Nelson Mandela, a politician and activist, was a key figure in ending apartheid and bringing more equality to South Africa.



Childhood

Nelson Mandela was born on 18th July 1918 in Mvezo, into the Thembu people. The Thembu people had their own kingdom within South Africa and Nelson's great-grandfather had been king. He lived in a small village in a grassy valley and he helped on the land, herding cattle and sheep. He later wrote, "nature was our playground" and recounted that he and his friends would enjoy sliding down rocks near his home. Although his parents were illiterate, Nelson attended the village school and learnt to read and write. At the age of seven, his schoolteacher gave him the name Nelson – he had been born Rolihlahla Mandela but it was customary for a new name to be given at school.

Politics and Prison

During his years at university and beyond, Nelson Mandela became increasingly involved in politics. He began by protesting about the poor quality of university food (for which he was expelled from his first university). He later took part in a march to protest about bus fares and then went on to join the African National Congress (ANC). The ANC was a political party which campaigned for South Africa to become independent from the British Empire and, later, for apartheid to end.

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There were more Black people than White people in South Africa but only White people were in the government and only White people were allowed to vote. In 1948, apartheid laws began to be introduced to further separate Black people and White people: they were not allowed to marry each other; they were not allowed to eat together; many Black people were eventually evicted from their homes and sent to live in separate parts of the country.

Nelson became increasingly passionate in his belief that everyone should be treated equally. As part of the ANC, he campaigned and demonstrated by making speeches, holding meetings, organising rallies and making plans for a better government. The ANC used peaceful protests; when these didn't work, government property was sometimes destroyed, always with the intention that nobody would be hurt. The government banned the ANC and arrested Nelson twice, finally imprisoning him with a life sentence in 1962.

Freedom

Nelson Mandela was in prison for 27 years. During this time, the South African government continued to take tough action against activism. Activism is when people campaign strongly for change. Strikes and protests were banned and many activists were arrested. Meanwhile, people around the world united in campaigning for Nelson's release. In the UK, the number one single 'Free Nelson Mandela' became a worldwide anthem for anti-apartheid.

Slowly, the government's approach began to change. In 1990, a new president, FW de Klerk, bowed to national and international pressure and finally set Nelson free from prison. The two men began to negotiate and work together. They were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993. This is a prestigious award given only once a year for contributions to world peace.

In 1994, for the first time, Black people were allowed to vote in the national elections and Nelson Mandela was voted in: the first Black president of South Africa. As president until 1999, Nelson worked hard to address widespread poverty and inequality. He wanted to give everyone access to basic healthcare and other social services.

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Nelson Mandela used sport to unite the nation: he encouraged all South Africans to come together to support their national rugby team, who were called the Springboks. In 1995, South Africa hosted the Rugby World Cup. Nelson famously wore the Springboks' jersey and South Africa won the tournament.

Legacy

Nelson Mandela lived to the age of 95. Many people remember him as a civil rights hero whose actions helped to make life fairer for thousands of people. He helped to bring equality to South Africa as well as a better system of government. Each year on his birthday, the 18th of July, Mandela Day is celebrated around the world. People remember how he devoted his life to fighting for freedom and often use this day to take action to make the world a better place.

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Questions

1. Draw **four** lines and match each event to the correct dates.

Apartheid laws enforced in South Africa.	1962-1990.
Nelson's lifespan.	1918-2013.
Nelson's imprisonment.	1994-1999.
Nelson's presidency.	1948-1994.

2. **The ANC was a political party which campaigned for South Africa to become independent from the British Empire and, later, for apartheid to end.**

   What does 'campaigned' mean? Tick one.

   - ○ refused to do something
   - ○ broke the law
   - ○ worked hard to change something
   - ○ disagreed with

3. Find and copy the meaning of the word 'apartheid'.

   _____

4. Find **two** methods that Nelson Mandela used in his protests against apartheid.

   - _____
   - _____

5. Summarise Nelson Mandela's achievements in 25 words or fewer.

   _____

   _____

   _____

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6. Discuss two aspects of Nelson's character, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

7. Why are Nelson Mandela's words "nature was our playground", a good way to describe his childhood?

8. Compare Nelson's childhood to his later years. How were they different?

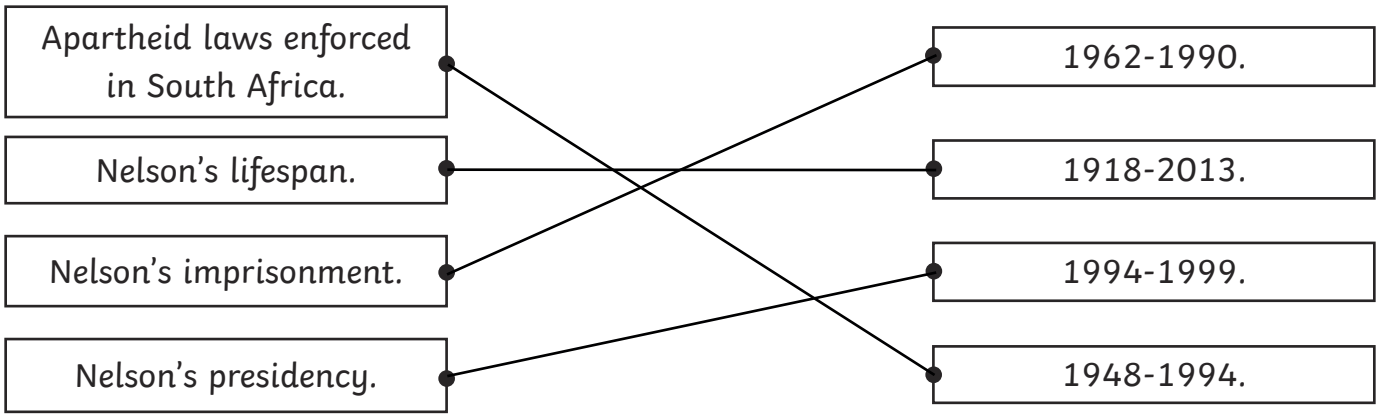
9. Why was Nelson released from prison in 1990?

10. Comment on how the author's presentation of the text aids the reader's understanding.

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Answers

1. Draw **four** lines and match each event to the correct dates.



2. **The ANC was a political party which campaigned for South Africa to become independent from the British Empire and, later, for apartheid to end.**

   What does 'campaigned' mean? Tick one.

   - ○ refused to do something
   - ○ broke the law
   - ☑ **worked hard to change something**
   - ○ disagreed with

3. Find and copy the meaning of the word 'apartheid'.

   This means that there were laws to keep Black people and White people apart.

4. Find **two** methods that Nelson Mandela used in his protests against apartheid.

   Accept any two of the following: campaigning; demonstrating; making speeches; holding meetings; organising rallies; making plans for a better government; destroying government property.

5. Summarise Nelson Mandela's achievements in 25 words or fewer.

   Pupils' own responses, such as: Nelson Mandela helped to end apartheid in South Africa and became the first Black president.

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6. Discuss two aspects of Nelson's character, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Nelson was a very strong-minded person who knew what he believed and stood up for it strongly. I know this because he protested about food, buses and then apartheid. He was also very fair-minded because he wanted all people to be treated equally.

7. Why are Nelson Mandela's words "nature was our playground", a good way to describe his childhood?

Pupils' own responses, such as: "Nature was our playground" is a good way to describe Nelson's childhood as it shows that Nelson was allowed to play out in the countryside. It makes it sound free and wild. This matches the description of his games of hide-and-seek and sliding down rocks.

8. Compare Nelson's childhood to his later years. How were they different?

Pupils' own responses, such as: In his childhood, he lived out in the open countryside but he later spent 27 years imprisoned. His family did not receive an education but he went on to university and to become a politician.

9. Why was Nelson released from prison in 1990?

Pupils' own responses, such as: He was released from prison because there was pressure from people around the world. He was also released because there was a new president who perhaps had different opinions to the previous president.

10. Comment on how the author's presentation of the text aids the reader's understanding.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The author has written the text in chronological order. This helps the reader understand the sequence of Nelson Mandela's life. The author has also used sub-headings to split Nelson's life into sections.

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