

Nelson Mandela



Nelson Mandela was a very important person in the South African anti-apartheid movement having spent twenty-seven years in prison for fighting against the government. He was also the first Black South African President from 1994–1999.

Apartheid (say: a-part-ide) was the separation of Black people and White people in South Africa.

Early Life

Nelson Mandela was named Rolihlahla Mandela when he was born in Mvezo (say: m-vay-zo), South Africa on 18th July 1918. He was given the name Nelson by his teacher at school.

He did well at school and went to the University of Fort Hare. However, he was expelled because he joined a student protest. When he returned home, his family told him they would arrange a marriage for him if he did not return to Fort Hare to finish his degree. Mandela ran away to the city of Johannesburg (say: Joe-han-ez-burg) where he managed to finish his degree through the University of South Africa and eventually became a lawyer.

Politics and Prison

From 1942, he was becoming more and more involved with politics and by 1944, he helped create the youth section of the African National Congress (ANC), a political party in South Africa. Later, in 1952, he was chosen as the National Volunteer-in-Chief of the Defiance Campaign which was a movement to fight against apartheid.



The following years were full of fighting and arrests because they were trying to stop apartheid. In 1962, he was arrested again and given a life sentence in 1964. Whilst he was in prison, the rest of the world was also trying to stop apartheid in South Africa.

Freedom and the President

In 1984, Nelson Mandela was the world's most famous prisoner and the UK number one single 'Free Nelson Mandela' became a worldwide anthem for the anti-apartheid movement – you might even like to listen to the song and read the lyrics. By 1988, things were starting to change as Black students were let into the same universities as White students and in 1990, South Africa's new president, FW de Klerk, set Nelson Mandela free. The two men agreed that the future should be peaceful and people should work together.

In 1994, Black people were allowed to vote in a government election for the first time and they voted Nelson Mandela, leader of the ANC, as their first Black president.

His work as president was groundbreaking and he used sport to bring people together. South Africa hosted and won the 1995 Rugby World Cup and Nelson Mandela wore the South African Springboks shirt. The Springboks, up until then, had been an all-White team and this went a long way to uniting South Africa.

Later Years

Nelson Mandela was revered as a great man and world-class statesman for the work he had done in his lifetime and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.

He gave up politics in 2004 to spend quiet time with family. He lived with his third wife in Johannesburg where he died on the 5th December 2013.



Questions

1. How long was Mandela imprisoned for? Tick one.

- 5 years
 12 years
 18 years
 27 years

2. Find and copy a word that means **the separation of Black people and White people in South Africa**.

3. Tick the boxes to say whether the statements below are **true** or **false**.

Sentence	True	False
In 1942, he helped create the ANC (African National Congress).		
In 1984, the song 'Free Nelson Mandela' was released and became a worldwide anthem.		
In 1988 Black students were allowed to attend the same universities as White students.		
In 1990, Mandela escaped from prison.		

4. In the **Politics and Prison** paragraph, Nelson Mandela was seen as a criminal and trouble maker involved with fighting and protests. How is he seen differently in the **Freedom and the President** section?

5. How many years was it from the release of the song 'Free Nelson Mandela' to when he was actually released?

6. Why do you think FW de Klerk (the South African President) set Nelson Mandela free in 1990?

7. Why do you think he wore the Springboks shirt during the rugby World Cup in 1995 when the team up until then had been all-White?

8. Why has the author written '(say: a-part-ide)' after the word apartheid?

9. If you had had the chance to meet Nelson Mandela, what would you ask him and why?

Answers

1. How long was Mandela imprisoned for? Tick one.

- 5 years
 12 years
 18 years
 27 years

2. Find and copy a word that means **the separation of Black people and White people in South Africa**.

Apartheid

3. Tick the boxes to say whether the statements below are **true** or **false**.

Sentence	True	False
In 1942, he helped create the ANC (African National Congress).		✓
In 1984, the song 'Free Nelson Mandela' was released and became a worldwide anthem.	✓	
In 1988 Black students were allowed to attend the same universities as White students.	✓	
In 1990, Mandela escaped from prison.		✓

4. In the **Politics and Prison** paragraph, Nelson Mandela was seen as a criminal and trouble maker involved with fighting and protests. How is he seen differently in the **Freedom and the President** section?

Pupils' own responses, that refers to the text, such as: In the Freedom and Leading South Africa paragraph, he is seen as a leader and peace maker worldwide because he became president and helped make things better between White people and Black people and South Africa.

5. How many years was it from the release of the song 'Free Nelson Mandela' to when he was actually released?

It was six years from when 'Free Nelson Mandela' was released in 1984 to when he was actually released in 1990.

6. Why do you think FW de Klerk (the South African President) set Nelson Mandela free in 1990?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the South African president set Nelson Mandela free because he knew it was wrong that he had been imprisoned for fighting for the rights of Black people. Things had been changing in South Africa and Black people were getting more rights, so I think more people believed Mandela should be set free.

7. Why do you think he wore the Springboks shirt during the rugby World Cup in 1995 when the team up until then had been all-White?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think he wore the Springboks shirt to show that that team was now black and white and also to show South Africa and the world that South Africa was changing and working together. (He was leading by example.)

8. Why has the author written '(say: a-part-ide)' after the word apartheid?

The author has written '(say: a-part-hite)' after the word apartheid to show you how to say the word because it is a tricky word to read.

9. If you had had the chance to meet Nelson Mandela, what would you ask him and why?

Pupils' own responses.