

Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela helped end apartheid in South Africa and became the country's first black president. He was born in the village of Mvezo in 1918. His birth name was Rolihlahla, and a teacher later gave him the name Nelson.



As Mandela grew up, black South Africans faced unfair treatment. In 1948, the government introduced apartheid, a system of laws that separated people by race. These laws controlled where people could live, work and attend school. Black people could not vote in national elections, although they formed most of the population.

Mandela became a lawyer and helped people challenge unfair treatment. He joined the African National Congress, or ANC, which campaigned for equal rights. At first, he helped organise protests and strikes. After the government used violence against protesters, he also supported sabotage - damaging property to challenge the government.

Mandela was arrested and, in 1964, sentenced to life in prison. Altogether, he spent twenty-seven years imprisoned, much of that time on Robben Island. Conditions were harsh, and he was often separated from his family. However, he continued to believe that South Africa could become a fairer country.

Around the world, people called for his release. In 1990, Mandela was freed. He worked with President F. W. de Klerk and other leaders to negotiate an end to apartheid. Mandela and de Klerk shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.

In 1994, South Africa held its first national democratic election in which adults of all races could vote. Mandela became president and encouraged people to work together rather than seek revenge.

He stepped down in 1999 and died in 2013. His life is remembered for courage, determination and the difficult work of building peace.



Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela helped end apartheid in South Africa and became the country's first black president. He was born in the village of Mvezo in 1918. His birth name was Rolihlahla, and a teacher later gave him the name Nelson.



As Mandela grew up, black South Africans faced unfair treatment. In 1948, the government introduced apartheid, a system of laws that separated people by race. These laws controlled where people could live, work and attend school. Black people could not vote in national elections, although they formed most of the population.

Mandela became a lawyer and helped people challenge unfair treatment. He joined the African National Congress, or ANC, which campaigned for equal rights. At first, he helped organise protests and strikes. After the government used violence against protesters, he also supported sabotage: damaging property to challenge the government.

Mandela was arrested and, in 1964, sentenced to life in prison. Altogether, he spent twenty-seven years imprisoned, much of that time on Robben Island. Conditions were harsh, and he was often separated from his family. However, he continued to believe that South Africa could become a fairer country.

Around the world, people called for his release. In 1990, Mandela was freed. He worked with President F. W. de Klerk and other leaders to negotiate an end to apartheid. Mandela and de Klerk shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.

In 1994, South Africa held its first national democratic election in which adults of all races could vote. Mandela became president and encouraged people to work together rather than seek revenge.

He stepped down in 1999 and died in 2013. His life is remembered for courage, determination and the difficult work of building peace.

Questions

1. Where and in which year was Nelson Mandela born?
2. What was Mandela's birth name?
3. What was apartheid?
4. What parts of people's lives did apartheid laws control?
5. What job did Mandela do before becoming president?
6. What did the African National Congress campaign for?
7. How many years did Mandela spend in prison altogether?
8. In which year was Mandela released?
9. Who shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Mandela in 1993?
10. What made South Africa's national election in 1994 different from earlier elections?



Nelson Mandela

Questions

1. Where and in which year was Nelson Mandela born?
2. What was Mandela's birth name?
3. What was apartheid?
4. What parts of people's lives did apartheid laws control?
5. What job did Mandela do before becoming president?
6. What did the African National Congress campaign for?
7. How many years did Mandela spend in prison altogether?
8. In which year was Mandela released?
9. Who shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Mandela in 1993?
10. What made South Africa's national election in 1994 different from earlier elections?



Nelson Mandela

Answers

1. He was born in Mvezo, South Africa, in 1918.
2. His birth name was Rolihlahla.
3. It was a system of laws that separated people by race and treated them unequally.
4. The laws controlled where people could live, work and attend school.
5. He worked as a lawyer.
6. It campaigned for equal rights.
7. He spent twenty-seven years in prison.
8. He was released in 1990.
9. He shared it with President F. W. de Klerk.
10. Adults of all races could vote in the national election.



apartheid	campaign	courage	democracy	determination	election	equality
government	imprisonment	lawyer	negotiate	president	reconciliation	strike

1. A former system of laws in South Africa that separated people by race and denied black people equal rights.

2. A person trained to explain the law and help people with legal problems.

3. An organised effort to achieve a goal or make a change.

4. The idea that everyone should have the same rights and opportunities.

5. The group of people responsible for running a country and making decisions about it.

6. A protest in which workers stop working to ask for change.

7. The state of being kept in prison.

8. The strength to face fear, danger or difficulty, even when you feel afraid.

9. The firm decision to keep working towards a goal, even when it is difficult.

10. To discuss a problem with others and try to reach an agreement.

11. A system in which people have a say in how their country is run, usually by voting for representatives.

12. An organised vote to choose someone for a position, such as a country's leader.

13. The head of a country that has this title instead of a king or queen.

14. The process of rebuilding a peaceful relationship after conflict or disagreement.



Nelson Mandela

Timeline Challenge

Nelson Mandela fought against apartheid, a system of unfair laws in South Africa that treated people differently because of their skin colour. He spent many years in prison but continued to stand up for equality and freedom. He later became South Africa's first Black president and helped bring people together peacefully.



Can you put these key events from Nelson Mandela's life into chronological order?

Mandela and F. W. de Klerk receive the Nobel Peace Prize for their work to peacefully end apartheid.	Nelson Mandela is born in Mvezo, South Africa. As a child, he enjoys learning about African history and traditions.	After spending 27 years in prison, Mandela is finally released. He continues working to end apartheid peacefully.	Mandela studies law and joins the African National Congress (ANC). He wants Black South Africans to have equal rights.
Mandela becomes South Africa's first Black president after people of all races are allowed to vote.	The government introduces apartheid, a system of unfair laws that separates people by skin colour. Mandela works to change these laws.	Mandela is sentenced to life in prison because of his fight against apartheid. He spends many years imprisoned on Robben Island.	Mandela helps organise protests against apartheid and opens a law firm with Oliver Tambo to help Black people who are treated unfairly.

Link each event with one of the dates below. Use the information to make a timeline.

1918	1944	1948	1952	1964	1990	1993	1994
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

