

Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela was a famous person from South Africa who helped Black people and White people to live together in a fairer country.



What Was His Childhood Like?



Nelson Mandela lived in South Africa. He was born in 1918 and grew up in a little village called Qunu. The village is in a grassy valley with streams running through it. Nelson enjoyed playing hide-and-seek and sliding down rocks. From the age of five, he helped to look after the cows and sheep. He went to school in the village and later went away to school.

What Problems Did He Face?

Black people and White people living in South Africa had been arguing about land for years. In 1948, there were new laws to separate Black people and White people. They were not allowed to marry each other, eat in a restaurant together or go to school together. This was called apartheid.



What Did Nelson Mandela Believe In?

Nelson believed that everyone was equal. He wanted life to be fair for Black people and White people. He joined a group called the African National Congress. He gathered lots of people together to show that they wanted the laws to change. When this didn't work, they sometimes destroyed buildings. Nelson was arrested and sent to prison. He was in prison for 27 years but he didn't give up trying to make South Africa a fairer place.



How Did He Become Famous?

People around the world started to hear about what Nelson Mandela was trying to do. He became the most famous prisoner in the world. Lots of people started telling the South African government to free him.



What Happened after He Left Prison?



In 1990, Nelson was set free from prison. Then, he worked together with the president to end apartheid and bring more peace to South Africa. They won an important prize called the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1994, Black people and White people were allowed to vote in the election. Nelson was voted in and became the first Black president of South Africa.

Many people remember Nelson Mandela as a hero because he fought for what he believed in and helped to make life fairer for lots of people in South Africa.

Did You Know...?

During the 1995 Rugby World Cup, Nelson Mandela encouraged all South African people to come together to support their team.



Questions

1. Where did Nelson live as a child? Tick one.

- Soweto
- Qunu
- Johannesburg
- Robben Island

2. Which of these activities did Nelson enjoy as a child? Tick **two**.

- ping-pong
- hide-and-seek
- sliding down rocks
- conkers

3. Look at the section **What Was His Childhood Like?**

Draw **four** lines and match each sentence starter to the correct ending.

Nelson Mandela lived...

The village is in a grassy valley...

From the age of five...

He went to school in the village...

and later went away to school.

with streams running through it.

in South Africa.

he helped to look after the cows and sheep.

4. Number the sub-headings from 1-4 to show the order they appear in the text.

- What Problems Did He Face?**
- How Did He Become Famous?**
- What Did Nelson Mandela Believe In?**
- What Was His Childhood Like?**

5. Fill in the missing words.

Nelson believed that everyone was _____.

6. Which important prize did Nelson win?

7. Explain what you have found out about Nelson Mandela in 30 words or fewer.

Answers

1. Where did Nelson live as a child? Tick one.

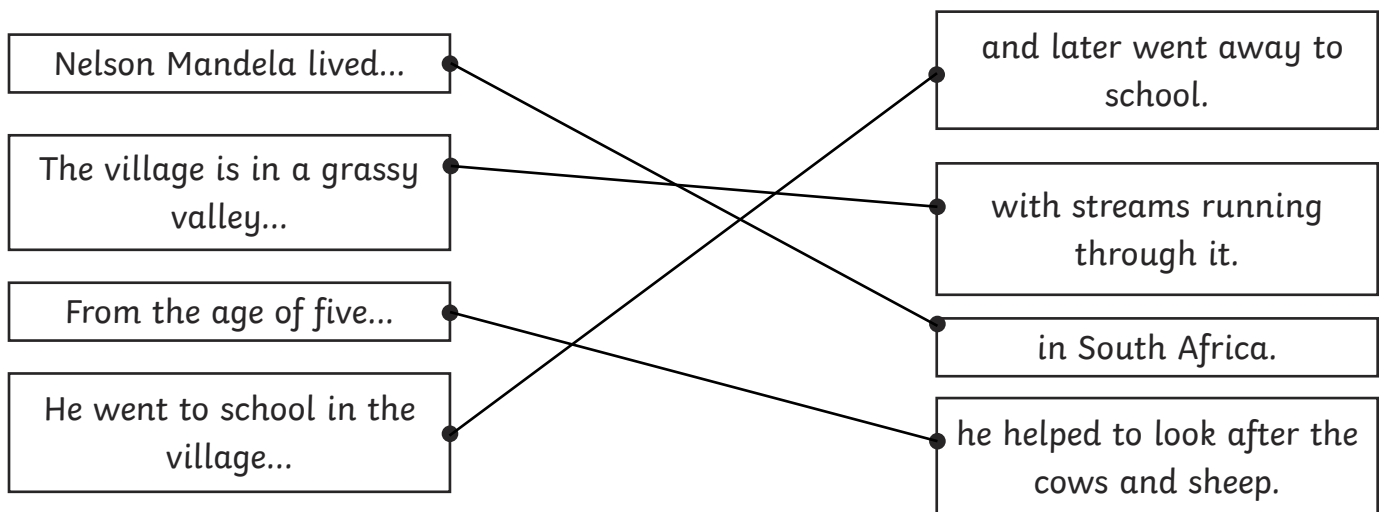
- Soweto
- Qunu**
- Johannesburg
- Robben Island

2. Which of these activities did Nelson enjoy as a child? Tick two.

- ping-pong
- hide-and-seek**
- sliding down rocks**
- conkers

3. Look at the section **What Was His Childhood Like?**

Draw **four** lines and match each sentence starter to the correct ending.



4. Number the sub-headings from 1-4 to show the order they appear in the text.

- 2 **What Problems Did He Face?**
- 4 **How Did He Become Famous?**
- 3 **What Did Nelson Mandela Believe In?**
- 1 **What Was His Childhood Like?**

5. Fill in the missing words.

Nelson believed that everyone was **equal**.

6. Which important prize did Nelson win?

Nelson won the Nobel Peace Prize.

7. Explain what you have found out about Nelson Mandela in 30 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I found out that Nelson Mandela helped make life fairer for Black people and White people in South Africa. He protested against the government then he became president.

Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela was an important person from South Africa who fought to make his country fairer for Black people and White people.



What Was His Childhood Like?



Nelson grew up in a little South African village called Qunu, which is in a grassy valley with streams running through it. Nelson enjoyed playing hide-and-seek and sliding down rocks. From the age of five, he helped out by looking after the cows and sheep in the fields. He went to school in the village and later went away to secondary school.

What Problems Did He Face?

For years, Black people and White people living in South Africa had been arguing about land. Black people were not allowed to vote and the government was made up of only White people. From 1948, laws were introduced to further separate Black people and White people. They were not allowed to marry each other, eat in a restaurant together or go to school together. This was called **apartheid**. Some Black people were forced to leave their homes and move to different areas.

Did You Know...?

The word apartheid comes from the word 'apartness'.



What Did Nelson Mandela Believe In?

Nelson believed that everyone was equal. He wanted life to be fair for Black people and White people. He joined a group called the African National Congress, which **campaigned** to end apartheid. He made speeches and gathered people together for **protests** to show the government that they wanted the laws to change. When this didn't work, they sometimes destroyed buildings. Nelson was arrested and sent to prison. He was in prison for 27 years. In prison, he didn't give up but kept working toward his dream of a fair world.



How Did He Become Famous?

People around the world started to hear about what Nelson Mandela was trying to do. He became the most famous prisoner in the world and many people campaigned for his release. A song called 'Free Nelson Mandela' got to the top of the charts in the UK.



What Happened after He Left Prison?



In 1990, Nelson was released from prison. He then worked together with the president, FW de Klerk, to end apartheid and bring more peace to South Africa. They jointly won the Nobel Peace Prize, an important award which is only given to people who have helped work towards world peace.

In 1994, Black people and White people were both allowed to vote in the election. Nelson was voted in as the first Black president of South Africa. He worked hard to make the laws fairer and to help the poor

Did You Know...?

During the 1995 Rugby World Cup, Nelson Mandela encouraged all South African people to unite to support their team.



How Is He Remembered?

Many people remember Nelson Mandela as a hero. He fought for what he believed in and helped to make life fairer for many people in South Africa.

Glossary

apartheid: Laws which separated Black people and White people.

campaigned: Worked hard to change something.

protests: Organised public events to show disagreement with something.



Questions

1. From the age of five, how did Nelson help out in his village? Tick one.

- sweeping the roads
- carrying messages
- growing vegetables
- looking after cows and sheep

2. Which sport did Nelson Mandela use to bring the people of South Africa together? Tick one.

- cricket
- rugby
- tennis
- hockey

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

1948

Nelson was released from prison.

1990

Apartheid laws were introduced to further separate Black people and White people.

1994

Nelson Mandela encouraged all South Africa people to support their team in the Rugby World Cup.

1995

Black people and White people were both allowed to vote in the election.

4. Which prize did Nelson Mandela and FW de Klerk jointly win? Tick one.

- the Nobel Peace Prize
- the Rugby World Cup
- the South Africa Prize
- the African Cup of Nations

5. Look at the section called **What Happened after He Left Prison?**

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

6. Which song helped Nelson Mandela to become famous?

7. Look at the section **What Problems Did He Face?**

Describe the problems that Nelson faced in South Africa.

8. **Many people remember Nelson Mandela as a hero.**

What do you think was the most heroic thing Nelson did? Explain why you chose this.

Answers

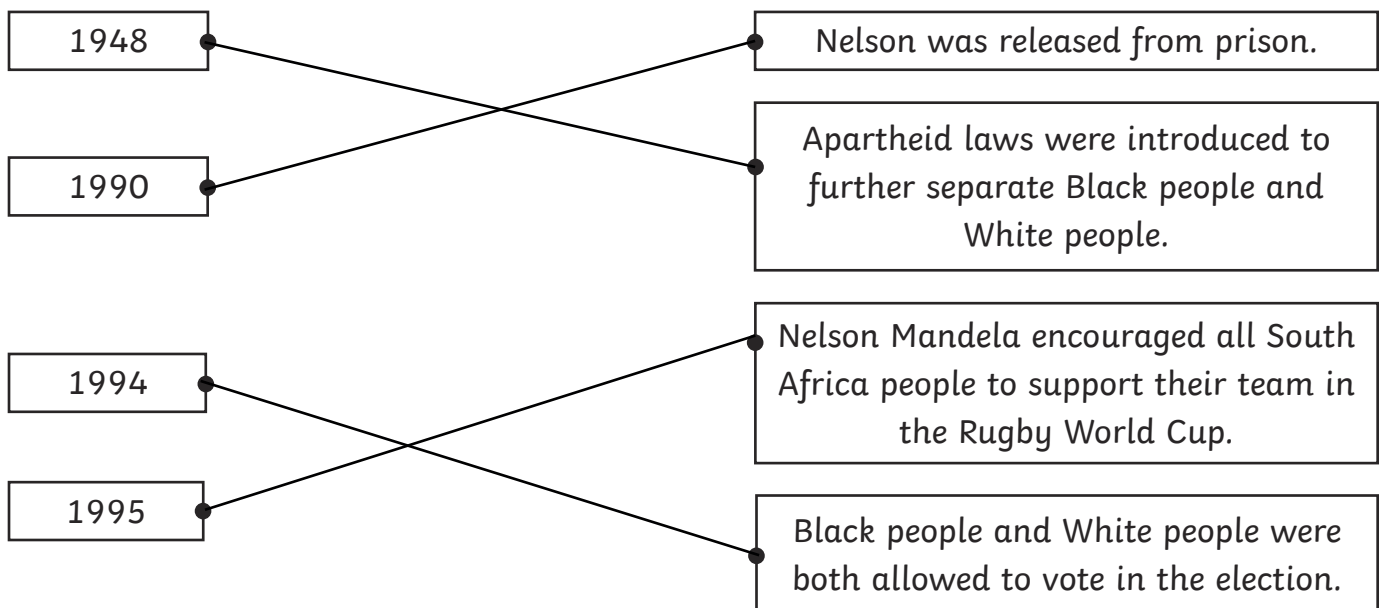
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- the Nobel Peace Prize**
- the Rugby World Cup
- the South Africa Prize
- the African Cup of Nations

5. Look at the section called **What Happened after He Left Prison?**

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

released

6. Which song helped Nelson Mandela to become famous?

'Free Nelson Mandela'

7. Look at the section **What Problems Did He Face?**

Describe the problems that Nelson faced in South Africa.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Nelson faced problems in South Africa because Black people were not allowed to vote and there were laws which stopped Black people and White people from doing things together, like going to school or eating in a restaurant together.

8. **Many people remember Nelson Mandela as a hero.**

What do you think was the most heroic thing Nelson did? Explain why you chose this.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the most heroic thing Nelson did was to go to prison for 27 years but still keep fighting. I think this because most people would have given up if they had to be in prison for this long but he didn't.

Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela was an important figure from South Africa who fought to make life fairer for Black people and White people. He was an **activist** who **campaigned** for change and even sacrificed his freedom to stand up for what he believed in.



What Was His Childhood Like?



Nelson grew up in a little South African village called Qunu, which is situated in a grassy valley with streams running through it. As a child, Nelson enjoyed playing hide-and-seek and sliding down rocks not far from his family home. From the age of five, he worked as a cowherd. He went to school in the village and later went away to a boarding school.

What Problems Did He Face?

For years, Black people and White people living in South Africa had disagreed over land ownership. More Black people were living in the country than White people. However, Black people were not allowed to vote and the government was made up of only White people. From 1948, **apartheid** laws were introduced to further separate Black people and White people. These laws meant that Black people and White people were not allowed to marry each other, eat in a restaurant together or go to school together. Some Black people were even forced to leave their homes and move to separate areas.

Did You Know...?

The word apartheid comes from the word 'apartness'.



What Did Nelson Mandela Believe In?

Nelson believed that everyone was equal. He wanted life to be fair for Black people and White people. He joined a group called the African National Congress (ANC), which campaigned to end apartheid. He made speeches and gathered people together for protests to show the government that they wanted the laws to change. When this didn't work, the ANC sometimes destroyed buildings. Nelson was arrested and sent to prison where he stayed for 27 years. In prison, he didn't give up but kept working toward his dream of equality.



How Did He Become Famous?

The news of Nelson Mandela's imprisonment spread around the world and raised awareness of what he was fighting for. Many people campaigned for his release. The song 'Free Nelson Mandela' got to the top of the charts in the UK and became known in many other countries. Slowly, the situation in South Africa began to change.



What Happened after He Left Prison?



In 1990, Nelson was released from prison. He then worked together with the president, FW de Klerk, to end apartheid in South Africa and bring more peace. They jointly won the Nobel Peace Prize, an important award only awarded to people who have helped contribute to world peace.

In 1994, both Black people and White people were allowed to vote in the election. Nelson was voted in as the first Black president of South Africa. As president, he persevered to make fairer laws and to help reduce poverty.

The 1995 Rugby World Cup was held in South Africa and Nelson used this as an opportunity to unite the nation. He encouraged everyone, Black or White, to support the Springboks, the national team. The Springboks won and Nelson wore their team kit.



How Is He Remembered?

Many people remember Nelson Mandela as a hero because he fought for what he believed in and helped to make South Africa a fairer country. Mandela Day is celebrated on his birthday each year and some people are inspired by him to take action to help others.

Glossary

activist: A person who works to make a big change.

apartheid: Laws which separated Black people and White people.

campaigned: Worked hard to change something.



Questions

1. For how long was Nelson in prison? Tick one.

- 32 years
- 29 years
- 14 years
- 27 years

2. Which prize did Nelson Mandela and FW de Klerk jointly win? Tick one.

- the Nobel Peace Prize
- the Rugby World Cup
- the South Africa Prize
- the African Cup of Nations

3. Nelson joined a group ... **which campaigned to end apartheid.**

What was the name of the group?

4. Find and copy one word which shows that Mandela Day encourages some people to want to be like Nelson Mandela.

5. Look at the section **How Is He Remembered?**

Find and copy **two** words which show that many people remember Nelson in a positive way.

- ---
- ---

6. **He encouraged everyone, Black or White, to support the Springboks, the national team.**

Why do you think Nelson did this?

7. Look at the last section, **How Is He Remembered?**

Why did the author choose to place this section at the end of the text?

8. Summarise the changes Nelson Mandela made to life in South Africa, using 30 words or fewer.

Answers

1. For how long was Nelson in prison? Tick one.

- 32 years
- 29 years
- 14 years
- 27 years**

2. Which prize did Nelson Mandela and FW de Klerk jointly win? Tick one.

- the Nobel Peace Prize**
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- the South Africa Prize
- the African Cup of Nations

3. Nelson joined a group ... which campaigned to end apartheid. What was the name of the group?

The African National Congress (ANC)

4. Find and copy one word which shows that Mandela Day encourages some people to want to be like Nelson Mandela.

inspired

5. Look at the section **How Is He Remembered?**

Find and copy **two** words which show that many people remember Nelson in a positive way.

Accept any two of the following: hero; inspired; celebrated; fairer, help.

6. **He encouraged everyone, Black or White, to support the Springboks, the national team.**

Why do you think Nelson did this?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Nelson encouraged everyone to support the South African rugby team because it would bring Black people and White people together in a fun way.

7. Look at the last section, **How Is He Remembered?**

Why did the author choose to place this section at the end of the text?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The author has put this at the end because it talks about the time after Nelson's life and the text is in time order. Also, this paragraph summarises his life and what he achieved and a summary is normally at the end.

8. Summarise the changes Nelson Mandela made to life in South Africa, using 30 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Nelson Mandela was very important in ending apartheid in South Africa and allowing Black people and White people to live and work together. He also helped improve poverty.