

## The Life and work of Nelson Mandela 1918-2013

1918-1940	1941-1944	1948-1958	1960-1964	1964-1990	1991- 2013
<p>Born in a small village in the Transkei – a <b>rural</b> area in the south east of South Africa. His father is a chief of the Tembu people, part of the <b>Xhosa</b> nation. Given the name ‘Nelson’ by his first school teacher. On completion of his secondary education, enrolls at Fort Hare University where he begins to study law. Leaves without completing his degree after becoming involved in student protests about the way the university is run.</p>	<p>Moves to the city of Johannesburg to avoid an arranged marriage. Starts working for a law firm and studies at night to complete his degree. Begins attending <b>African National Congress</b> meetings. The ANC want Black South Africans to have the same rights as White South Africans. In 1944 helps set up the <b>ANC Youth League</b> (ANCYL).</p>	<p>In 1948 the White South African government introduces <b>Apartheid</b> – a system aimed at separating people according to race in all areas of life, including education; housing; transport and sport. White and Black people are not allowed to marry each other. To enforce this system, a new law requires Black and Non-White South Africans to carry a Pass containing a range of personal information. The penalty for not having your Pass with you is arrest and jail. The ANC begin a campaign of <b>defiance</b> in 1952. Mandela is arrested and receives a <b>suspended sentence</b>. He becomes ANC deputy president and opens South Africa’s first Black law firm with Oliver Tambo.</p>	<p>At a demonstration against Pass Books in the Black Township of Sharpeville, police shoot and kill 69 people. The government blames the ANC for causing unrest and bans the organisation. The ANC continues its work <b>underground</b>. Mandela goes into hiding and becomes leader of a secret army. He travels to other countries to ask for support for the ANC, but following his return to South Africa, is arrested and charged with <b>treason</b>. He is given a <b>life sentence</b> and sent to Robben Island prison.</p>	<p>Spends 18 years on Robben Island enduring very harsh conditions and is later moved to Pollsmoor Prison in 1982. During his time in jail, the ANC struggle for equality continues while internationally, the <b>Anti-Apartheid Movement</b> grows bigger and louder – demanding freedom for Nelson Mandela. Eventually, the South African Government begins to make changes. The Pass Laws – which have led to more than 17 million arrests – are <b>repealed</b>. At last, in 1990, the ANC is <b>unbanned</b> and Mandela is released from prison.</p>	<p>Mandela becomes leader of the ANC. In 1993 he is awarded the <b>Nobel Prize</b> for Peace alongside then South African president, FW de Klerk. Mandela publishes his memoirs entitled: <i>Long Walk to Freedom</i>. In 1994, Black South Africans vote for the first time ever and Mandela is elected President. He promises to build a ‘Rainbow Nation’ – where people of all ethnic backgrounds can live and work together. Retires as President in 1999, but continues to be honoured all over the world for his leadership and contribution to the cause of human rights.</p>

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