

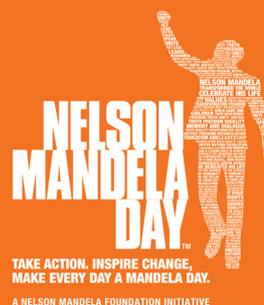


LEARNERS GUIDE

How do YOU make every day a Mandela Day?
Share your actions & join the global community of Mandela Day changemakers.

ACTIONAGAINSTPOVERTY

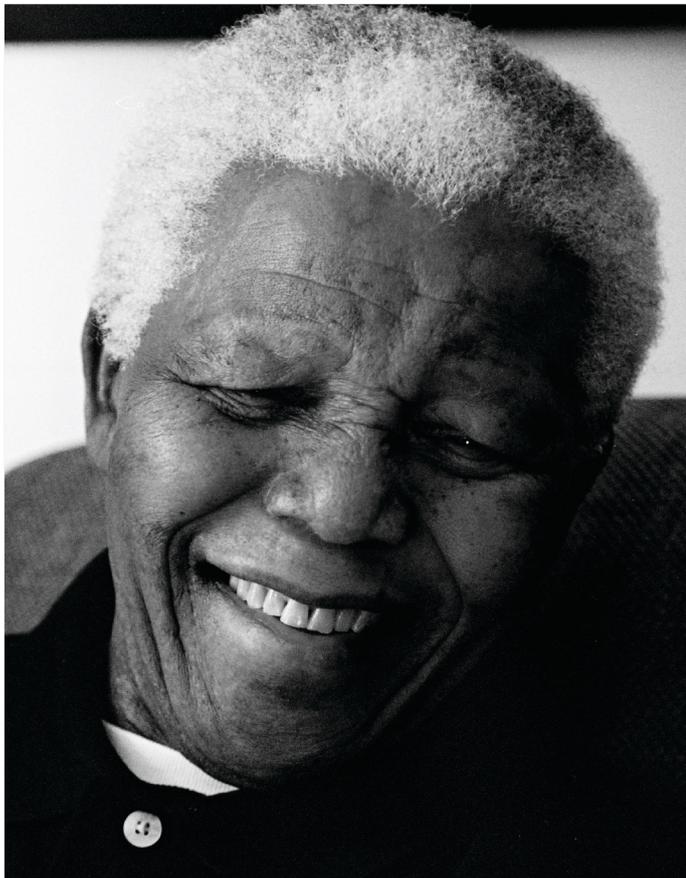
MANDELADAY



NELSON MANDELA BIOGRAPHY

MANDELADAY

ACTIONAGAINSTPOVERTY



Rolihlahla Mandela was born into the Madiba clan in Mvezo, Transkei, on July 18th 1918.

His mother was Nonqaphi Nosekeni and his father Nkosi Mphakanyiswa Gadla Mandela was the main advisor of the Acting King of the Thembu people, Jongintaba Dalindyebo.

He received the name 'Nelson' on his first day in primary school from his teacher Miss Mdingane. When he was 12 his father died and he was raised by the Regent at the Great Place in Mqhekezweni. He was sent to the best schools available and began a BA at Fort Hare University.

When he was expelled for joining a student protest, the Regent told him to return or get married. So he ran away to Johannesburg with his cousin Justice. His first job in 1941 was as security guard on a gold mine and then as a legal clerk in the law firm Witkin Edelman and Sidelsky. At the same time he completed his BA through the UNISA.

In 1943 he enrolled for an LLB at Wits University. He was a poor student and became more involved in politics from

1944 after he helped to start the ANC Youth League. He married in the same year and needed money to support his family.

By mid-1952 when the university asked him to pay the 27 pounds he owed or leave, he already had three children. He only started studying again in 1962 in prison. He finally graduated with an LLB through Unisa 27 years later.

Later in 1952 he became the National Volunteer-in-Chief of the Defiance Campaign against apartheid laws. He and nineteen others were later charged and sentenced to nine months, suspended for two years. In August he and Oliver Tambo started South Africa's first black law firm, Mandela and Tambo. In those days one could practice as an attorney with a two-year diploma.

Later that year he was banned for the first time. He had to ask the government for permission whenever he needed to leave Johannesburg. After the adoption of the Freedom Charter in 1955 156 people were arrested and charged with treason. The trial lasted four-and-a-half years until 29 March 1961 by which time all were acquitted. The ANC and PAC were banned after

Mandela called on the government not to turn South Africa into a republic on 31 May 1961 but to discuss a non-racial constitution. He was ignored so he called for a strike on 29, 30 and 31 March. In June 1961 he was asked to lead the ANC's armed wing, Umkhonto weSizwe and it launched on 16 December that year. On 11 January 1962, Mandela secretly left South Africa to undergo military training and to get support from African countries for the armed struggle. He was arrested on 5 August and charged with leaving the country illegally and encouraging the strike. He was convicted and sentenced on 7 November 1962 to five years' in prison.

On 11 July 1963 a secret hide-out he once used was raided by police. On 9 October 1963 he joined ten others on trial for sabotage in the Rivonia Trial. On 12 June 1964 he and seven others were sentenced to life imprisonment. While he was in prison his mother and his eldest son died. He was not allowed to attend their funerals.

He spent 18 years on Robben Island and while at

Pollsmoor Prison in Cape Town in 1985 he had to go to hospital. When Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee visited him he had an idea: to see if the government wanted to talk about one day meeting with the ANC.

In 1988 he was taken to hospital for tuberculosis. Three months later he was moved to Victor Verster Prison where he spent his last 14 months in prison. He was released on Sunday 11 February 1990, nine days after the unbanning of the ANC and the PAC.

Other political prisoners were freed and exiles returned. The ANC began talking to the government about South Africa's future. For this work he and President FW de Klerk won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 and on 27 April 1994 Mandela voted in South Africa's first democratic elections. On 10 May 1994 he was inaugurated South Africa's first democratically elected President and stepped down after one term. In his retirement he worked on building schools and clinics, highlighting HIV, children and leadership. He died at his home in Johannesburg on 5 December 2013.

15 QUESTIONS FOR LEARNERS

MANDELADAY

ACTIONAGAINSTPOVERTY

1. In your own words, write a few lines about how Nelson Mandela got the name Nelson.
 2. What were some of the difficulties he encountered while studying to be a lawyer?
 3. When and how did he become politically involved?
 4. What was a great challenge Nelson Mandela faced when he worked as a lawyer in the 1950s?
 5. Give details of the two sentences for which Nelson Mandela had to serve time in prison.
 6. When his organisation the African National Congress was banned what sort of thing did Nelson Mandela do to further the struggle against apartheid?
 7. How do you think Nelson Mandela felt being locked up every night in a cell the same size as the glass replica?
 8. What is your favourite Nelson Mandela quote in the exhibition and why?
 9. When did Nelson Mandela start talking with the apartheid regime and what did it lead to?
 10. Why do you think Nelson Mandela and his colleagues rejected President PW Botha's offer of release in 1985 and how did he reveal his decision to the world?
 11. Find the photograph of Nelson Mandela's first cabinet in 1994. What do you notice? What does the picture say to you about the kind of person Nelson Mandela was?
 12. What did Nelson Mandela do after he stepped down as President of South Africa in 1999?
 13. What comes to mind when you stand in his office?
 14. What do you think Nelson Mandela meant when he said, "We have not taken the final step of our journey, but the first step on a longer and even more difficult road"?
 15. How do you think young people can honour the memory of Nelson Mandela?
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NELSON MANDELA TIMELINE

MANDELADAY

ACTIONAGAINSTPOVERTY

1918	Jul 18	Is born
1930		His father dies and he is taken to be raised by the acting king of the Thembu people
1934		Undergoes initiation; enrolls at Clarkebury Boarding Institute at Engcobo
1937		Enrolls at Healdtown, the Wesleyan College at Fort Beaufort
1939		Enrolls at the University of Fort Hare in Alice
1940		Is expelled from the University of Fort Hare
1941		Runs away to Johannesburg
1942		Completes his BA through Unisa
1943		Enrolls for an LLB at Wits University
1944		Co-founds the ANC Youth League; marries Evelyn Mase
1948		Is elected National Secretary of the ANC Youth League
1951		Is elected President of the ANC Youth League
1952		Is Volunteer-in-Chief of the Defiance Campaign; is sentenced to nine months in prison suspended for two years with 19 others for their role in the campaign; is banned for the first time; is asked to leave Wits over unpaid debt; starts South Africa's first black law firm Mandela & Tambo
1955		Watches in secret as the Freedom Charter is adopted in Kliptown
1956		Is arrested and charged with high treason with 155 others
1958		Divorces Evelyn Mase and marries Winnie Madikizela
1960		ANC and PAC are banned after the Sharpeville Massacre
1960		Is acquitted in Treason Trial; goes underground; calls on Verwoerd to set up talks on a non-racial future for South Africa; calls for a threeday strike in May over South Africa becoming a republic; is selected as Commander-in-Chief of Umkhonto weSizwe

1962	Secretly leaves the country for military training and to get support for the armed struggle; arrested on 5 August; Sentenced to five years in prison for leaving the country without a passport and encouraging the strike
1963	Joins ten others on trial for sabotage in the Rivonia Trial
1964	Sentenced with seven others to life imprisonment
1986	Starts meeting with the government to persuade them to talk to the ANC
1988	Is treated for TB in hospital for three months
1989	Graduates with an LLB from Unisa
1990	Released from Victor Verster Prison; leads ANC delegation in talks with the government
1993	Is jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize with FW de Klerk for their efforts to end apartheid
1994	Votes in South Africa's first democratic election; is inaugurated as President; his autobiography Long Walk to Freedom is published
1995	Starts the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund and donates to it a third of his presidential salary
1999	Steps down after only one term as president; starts the Nelson Mandela Foundation
2003	Starts the 46664 campaign to highlight HIV and AIDS; starts the Mandela Rhodes Foundation to build leadership in Africa
2004	Finally retires saying 'Don't call me, I'll call you'
2008	Says to the youth 'It's in your hands to create a better world' prompting the formation of Mandela Day
2009	Nelson Mandela International Day is proclaimed by the United Nations
2010	Publishes his book Conversations with Myself
2011	Publishes his book Nelson Mandela By Himself: The Authorised Book of Quotations
2013	Passes away peacefully at his home in Johannesburg aged 95