

Important Vocabulary

Segregation - where the law or officials keep people apart for different reasons

Apartheid - law in South Africa that kept people apart because of the colour of their skin

Johannesburg - South Africa's largest city

Robben Island - a small island in South Africa where the government kept political prisoners

Prison - building where criminals are kept

President - the head of state of a country that has no king or queen.

Government - group of people in charge of running a country who make rules and laws

Protest - a complaint or objection against an idea, act or a way of doing things

Vote - choice made by a person

Election - people vote to choose a person or group to be in an official position

A.N.C. - a political party that stands for African National Congress

Year 2 South Africa (History)



Life as Adult

After university in 1941, Nelson moved to Johannesburg to become a lawyer. He didn't like how black people were treated unfairly because of Apartheid and segregation laws. Black people had to live in poor townships and go to different shops and churches. He joined the ANC to protest against this. In 1964, he was sent to prison on Robben Island for life for protesting.

Key dates in the life of Nelson Mandela



Nelson Mandela's Early Life

He was born on 18th July 1918 in a small village in South Africa. He was named Rolihlahla which meant trouble maker. At 7 years old he went to school and his teacher gave him the name English name Nelson. His father died when he was 9 years old so he went to live with his father's friend.

Life After Prison

People all around the world began to call for the release of Nelson Mandela from prison. In 1990, he was finally released after 27 years. In 1994, black people in South Africa were finally allowed to vote for the first time alongside white people when Apartheid ended. Nelson Mandela was elected as the first black president of South Africa.