

Nelson Mandela - Teacher's notes **B1**

This year marks the centenary of Nelson Mandela's birth, on 18 July 1918. In this B1 article your students will learn about Mandela and his part in the abolition of apartheid and the building of a democratic South Africa until his death in 2013. The current situation in the country is not mentioned here, but your more able students could read short articles from broadsheet papers as a follow-up activity. For those with a lower level of understanding, you could start with Mandela's biobox video quiz.

Vocabulary and grammar

■ *homelands, townships, ghettos, apartheid, sentenced to life imprisonment, released.*

■ *Oppose + object*

■ *Passive voice (was born, was controlled, were banned, was arrested, was sentenced, was elected)*

■ *by +BV+ing*

Pronunciation

■ *Word stress in Mandela, apartheid, government, Africa, government, constitution, democratic, election.*

■ *Pronunciation of sabotage, violence, nation, receive.*

Introductory Activity

■ We have provided a short "Who Am I?" video quiz (Biobox) which you can download to use as a standalone activity from **A2** level, or as an introduction to this sequence.

■ The clues become progressively easier, so if pupils can't guess from the first ones, let the video progress. Once they have discovered who the mystery person is, it will be easier to go back to the beginning and work collectively towards a more detailed understanding.

I was born in 1918.

I grew up in a small village in Transkei.

My father died when I was nine years old.

In my 20s I became actively involved in the anti-apartheid movement.

For 20 years, I directed a campaign of peaceful, nonviolent defiance against the racist policies of my country's government. I spent 27 years in prison for political offenses.

I won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.

I was elected the first black president of South Africa in 1994.

I died in 2013, at the age of 95.

I am Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

Speaking, reading, writing.

■ In **Activity A**, we suggest videoprojecting the photo of Nelson Mandela delivering a speech to the United Nations in order to brainstorm a few facts as a starting point to the production of unanswered questions leading to reading with a purpose in **Activity B**. Divide the class into pairs or small groups and have one student or group of students focus on general information while the other has to relate dates and events.

■ **Activity C** starts with describing two photos that show evidence of apartheid before defining the word and finding more examples in the text.

■ **Activity D** starts with an easy task that should enable every pupil to understand Mandela's positions before and during his imprisonment.

■ **Activity E** starts with a reference to Mandela and De Klerk's Nobel Prize in 1993, and gradually moves on to understanding and writing about "the Rainbow Nation". Before proceeding any further, we suggest dividing the class into groups and asking them either to recap or make a quiz for their friends, so that what they have learned can be recycled (formative assessment).

■ Depending on your students' learning profiles, you can then either end the lesson after **Activity F** or have them do **Activity G** as well, which requires more flexibility and autonomy on their part.

■ Since both options for **Activity G** involve visiting websites, it could be prepared as homework. The video in **Option 1** is Nelson Mandela speaking towards the end of his life. His accent is very distinctive and it is a great opportunity for pupils to hear his voice. He speaks very slowly and the message is relatively simple. The Mandela Day website works better on some web browsers than others. We have made the video available for download if you prefer to use it off-line.

■ Here is the transcript:

We are humbled by the call for an annual Mandela Day in our honour. Our struggle for freedom and justice was a collective effort. Mandela Day is no different. It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it. Mandela Day will not be a holiday, but a day devoted to service. It is our hope that people will dedicate their time and effort to improve the conditions within their own community. We thank you for participating in Mandela Day.

Answers.

A. Here are some examples of predictable answers:

Nelson Mandela is dead. He lived (used to

live) in South Africa. He was in prison for a long time. He became President of South Africa. He was against racism / segregation...

B.1. Country: South Africa

Real name: Rolihlahla

Information about his father: African chief

Education: School + university

Qualification/Profession: He was a lawyer

Political party: African National Congress

2. 1918: Date of birth

1964 to 1990: In prison

1993: Nobel Peace Prize with FW De Klerk

April 1994: Elected president

1999: Retired from politics

2013: Death

■ Possible oral productions (depending on what was already known): *I learned that Nelson Mandela's real name was Rolihlahla and that he was named Nelson by teachers. Because his father was a chief he was allowed to go to school and university, and he became a lawyer. He was a member of the African National Congress.*

I learned that Mandela was born in 1918 and was imprisoned in 1964. He was sentenced to life imprisonment but he was released in 1990 after 27 years in prison. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize together with FW De Klerk who was the President of South Africa. I learned that Mandela was elected president in 1994 and retired from politics 5 years later. He died in 2013.

C.1.a. *This photo shows three black men outside a public toilet. The sign on the toilet says "non Europeans", which means that toilets are segregated. Only white people can use "European" toilets / Toilets with the sign "Europeans".*

b. *This photo shows a beach in South Africa. The sign says this beach is for white persons only. Non-whites are not allowed on the*

beach and cannot use the amenities. I think the amenities are for instance deckchairs, huts or ice cream shops.

2.a. This system is called apartheid.

b. It is a social organisation in which people have different rights according to their skin colours. They live apart from each other. It means (implies) racial segregation and discrimination against non-Whites.

c. Black people could not choose where they lived.

They had to live in townships/ghettos near their place of work / in rural homelands.

They were not allowed to vote.

They could not choose their education.

D.1. The ANC was an opposition movement - fought against apartheid - started as a non-violent movement - started using sabotage after opposition movements were banned by the government

2.a. He would have to stay in prison for the rest of his life/ a very long time.

b. He refused to be freed because he was the symbol of resistance to apartheid.

E.1.a. I recognize Nelson Mandela and I think the man on the right is FW De Klerk.

b. I think this photo was taken when Mandela was elected president of South Africa, after FW De Klerk

c. I think the date was in April 1994.

2. I think the Nobel Peace Prize was given to them together because they both worked to end the apartheid regime and make South Africa a democratic country.

3. Helpful words: White – black – coloured - equal rights for all colours

Paragraph: A rainbow is an arch of various colours which can be seen in the sky after rain. The Rainbow Nation is a metaphor for the unity of all South Africans after apartheid. It means hope for peace and a bright future for all, whatever the colour of

their skins.

F. The people on the photo are making preparations for Mandela Day on 18 July 2011. I think they are volunteers. There are posters in the bags to inform people.

G. Here are some examples:

Option 1: Notes:

Struggle for freedom=collective effort / Mandela Day=no different / create a better world for all / in your hands / not a holiday / a day devoted to service in community / time and effort / thank you for participating in Mandela Day

In his speech Nelson Mandela thanks the people who are participating in Mandela Day. He says it's not a holiday, but a collective effort like the struggle for freedom in South Africa. That special day is devoted to service in people's communities. He says that it is in our hands to create a better world for all with time and effort.

Option 2: Notes: Every year on 18 July / around the world / the United Nations / take action / inspire change / 2018=NM's centenary / celebrate NM's contribution to peace and freedom.

This year Mandela Day is special because the United Nations will celebrate Nelson Mandela's centenary. Every year on 18 July his contribution to peace and freedom is celebrated around the world. People everywhere are encouraged to take action and inspire change.

I would like to help out at an animal shelter. I could walk dogs and feed them. I love animals and I think it's very sad to see them abandoned.