

Mandela, Nelson



Picture
Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela (1918-2013) was president of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. He was the country's first black president. He was a leader in the fight to end South Africa's *apartheid* <<ah PAHRT hayt>> laws. These laws refused to give basic rights to people who were not white.

Nelson Mandela was born in Umtata, South Africa. He became a lawyer. In 1944, he joined the African National Congress (ANC). This group worked for equal rights for black people. In 1962, Mandela was jailed for crimes against the government.

While Mandela was in prison, he became a powerful symbol of the fight for justice. In 1990, he was freed and continued working for equal rights for blacks. The next year, South Africa's government ended apartheid. In 1993, Mandela and South Africa's then-President F. W. de Klerk shared the Nobel Peace Prize for their work to end apartheid.

In 1994, for the first time, people of all races in South Africa were allowed to vote. Mandela was elected president. The ANC, which Mandela headed, won a majority of seats in South Africa's Assembly.



Mandela retired as president of South Africa in 1999. After retirement, he continued to be an outspoken defender of human rights. Mandela died on December 5, 2013.

How to cite this article:

To cite this article, World Book recommends the following format:

"Mandela, Nelson." *WorldBook Kids*. World Book, 2014. Web. 17 March 2014

