



2000 Freedom Award
International Recipient
Nelson Mandela



PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY

Biography

As a young student, Nelson Mandela became involved in political opposition to the white minority regime's denial of political, social and economic rights to South Africa's black majority. In 1942 he joined the African National Congress and became the co-founder and commander of its armed wing in 1961. He was arrested for his use of guerrilla tactics targeting the military and government; after being imprisoned for twenty-seven years, he was released in 1990 due to international pressure on the South African government. During his presidency from 1994 to 1999, Mandela oversaw the transition from minority rule and apartheid.

What is Nelson Mandela's profession? (circle your answer or answers)

- A. Politician
- B. Humanitarian
- C. Soldier
- D. Electrician

Answers:
A & B – Mandela is both a humanitarian and politician.

Vocabulary

Humanitarian: One who promotes human welfare.

Apartheid: An Afrikaans and Dutch word meaning “separation,” it was the name for strict South African laws of racial segregation

Guerilla: A person who engages in irregular warfare typically as a member of an independent unit carrying out sabotage and ambushes

Name two people besides Nelson Mandela who you think might be humanitarians.



1.



2.



3.



4.

Can you identify the images above?

1. _____ 3. _____

2. _____ 4. _____

Answers:
1. World Map 2. Africa 3. South Africa 4. South African Flag



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POST-VISIT ACTIVITY

Nelson Mandela was born into the Thembu tribal culture. Stereotypes, racism, and the mockery of African culture shaped his political awareness. Widespread racism became institutionalized with the enactment of apartheid laws in 1948. Race laws touched every aspect of social life, including a prohibition of marriage between non-whites and whites, and the sanctioning of “white-only” jobs. In 1950, the Population Registration Act required that all South Africans be racially classified into one of three categories: white, black (African), or colored (of mixed decent). The colored category included major subgroups of Indians and Asians. Classification into these categories was based on appearance, social acceptance, and descent. All blacks were required to carry “pass books” containing fingerprints, photo and information on access to non-black areas.

Mandela is currently the highest profile ambassador campaigning against HIV/AIDS. He has established the 46664 campaign to fight the spread of HIV. Over five million people in South Africa were HIV positive at the end of 2003; it is estimated that HIV/AIDS has affected 28% of the population. Discrimination against those with HIV has plagued the countries efforts to fight the disease.

Write three new facts you learned about South Africa:

How were the racial tensions in South Africa during apartheid similar and different from those in the United States during the civil rights movement?

Vocabulary

AIDS: A severe immune system disorder resulting in increased risk of infectious disease and cancer.

Use one of the four new vocabulary words in a sentence about Africa:
