

NELSON MANDELA

Rolihlahla Mandela was born on the 18th of July 1918. His teacher, Miss Mdingane, gave him the name Nelson on his first day of school.



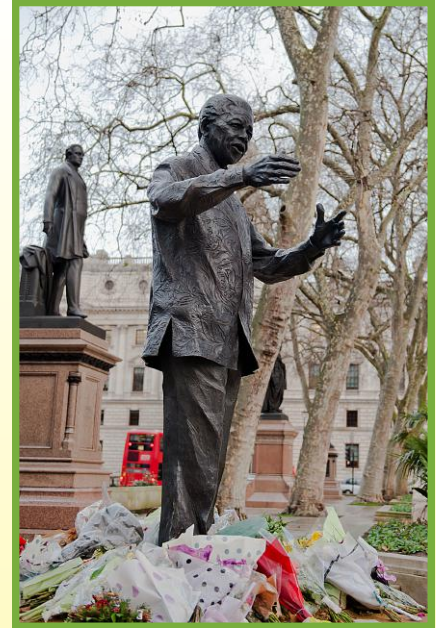
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In the Xhosa language, Rolihlahla can mean “troublemaker”. Mandela was also known as Madiba, which is the name of his clan, and Tata, which means father.



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Mandela's father was an advisor to the King of the Thembu people. He died when Nelson was young and Nelson was looked after by the Royal family.



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Mandela was expelled from Fort Hare University in 1940 for taking part in a student protest.



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Mandela gained his first university degree in 1943 and completed a law degree while he was in prison.



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Mandela spoke out and protested against the system of Apartheid. He was sentenced to life imprisonment for his actions in 1964.



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Mandela was released from prison on the 11th of February 1990 after 27 years. He spent eighteen years of that time in Robben Island prison.



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In 1991, Mandela became the leader of the African National Congress (ANC), an anti-Apartheid political party. He had been a member since 1944.



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Mandela had three wives, Evelyn Mase (from 1944 - 1958), Winnie Madikizela (from 1958 - 1996) and Graca Machel, who he married on his 80th birthday.



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In 1994 South Africa held elections where black people were allowed to vote for the first time. The ANC won the election and Mandela became South Africa's first black president.



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Nelson Mandela died at his home in Johannesburg on the 5th of December 2013. He was 95 years old.



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In 1999, Mandela retired as President of South Africa. He then founded the Nelson Mandela Foundation, which still works for social justice around the world.



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Nelson Mandela was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993. He shared it with FW de Klerk, the white president who had worked with him to end Apartheid.



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While Mandela was in prison, his mother and his eldest son both died. He was not allowed to go to their funerals.



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Mandela's favourite poem was "Invictus" by William Ernest Henley. It gave him hope and kept him strong while he was in prison.



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July the 18th is Nelson Mandela Day. People show their support by doing something to make the world a better place.



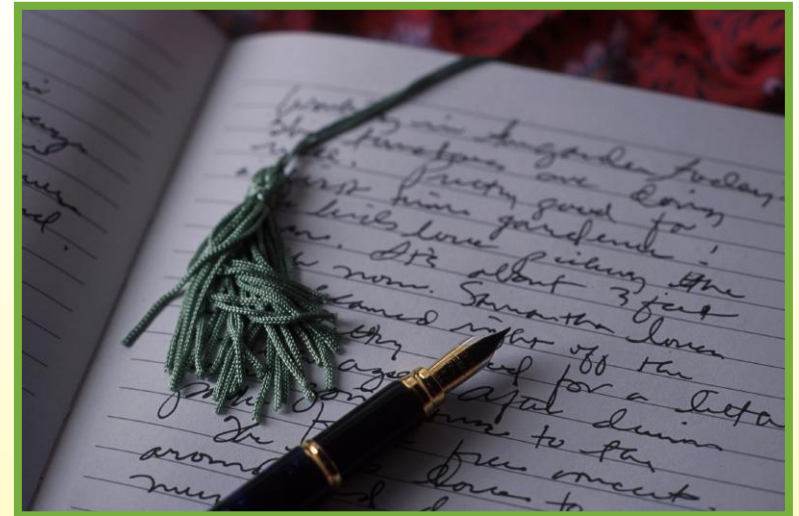
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Mandela was the first person in his family to attend school. As a child it was expected that he would become a chief in his tribe.



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While he was in prison, Mandela secretly wrote his life story. It was published as the book *Long Walk to Freedom* in 1994.



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Many things have been named after him, including a sea slug, two species of spider and an orchid.



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In 2012 the Central Bank of South Africa issued a bank note with Mandela's picture on. This was the first South African note to show a black person.



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