

Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our web site at www.LibraryVideo.com

- www.anc.org.za/ancdocs/history/mandela/
“Mandela Speaks” contains hundreds of full-text speeches by anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela.
- archives.cbc.ca/IDC-1-71-703-4125/conflict_war/apartheid/clip9
The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation provides a video clip of Nelson Mandela's release from prison.
- www.robben-island.org.za/departments/heritage/heritage.asp
The Robben Island Museum in South Africa offers an extensive history of the notorious prison where Nelson Mandela was held.

Suggested Print Resources

- Abrams, Irwin (ed.) *Words of Peace: Selections from the Speeches of the Winners of the Nobel Peace Prize*. Newmarket Press, New York, NY; 2000.
- Chidester, David (ed.) *Nelson Mandela: In His Own Words*. Little, Brown and Co., New York, NY; 2003.
- Mandela, Nelson. *Long Walk to Freedom: the Autobiography of Nelson Mandela*. Little, Brown and Co., Boston, MA; 1994.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Jeffrey Litzke, M.Ed.

Curriculum Specialist, Schlessinger Media

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GREATEST SPEECHES
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NELSON MANDELA

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Historical Overview

Apartheid's institutionalized suppression of millions was well documented for its viciousness and was designed to prevent the black majority from attaining economic or political independence. After having been hidden behind a curtain of segregation for a quarter century, Nelson Mandela emerged from captivity in 1990 and addressed the hopes and fears of South Africans. The largest audience he ever had listened to his visionary speech that called for aggressive mass action to achieve the goal of a democratic and free society. By 1994, he would speak to a worldwide audience as the first black head of state in South African history.

Time Line

- 1652** — The first Dutch settlers arrive in South Africa.
- 1795** — The British establish a presence in the Cape Colony.
- 1886** — Gold and diamonds are discovered in South Africa.
- 1902** — The British are victorious in the Boer Wars.
- 1912** — The African National Congress (ANC) is founded.
- 1918** — Nelson Mandela is born in a small village in South Africa.
- 1948** — The Afrikaner National Party wins control in an all-white election.
- 1952** — The ANC launches the Defiance Campaign.
- 1964** — Nelson Mandela is sentenced to life imprisonment.
- 1990** — The ANC is legalized and Nelson Mandela is released from prison.
- 1994** — Nelson Mandela is elected president of South Africa.

Vocabulary

apartheid — The policy of white South African governments to enforce strict racial segregation and discrimination.

African National Congress (ANC) — A South African political group formed in 1912 that led the anti-apartheid struggle and subsequently ruled the country.

colonialism — The policy of a dominant country conquering and ruling a weaker country, usually for the purpose of exploiting the weaker country's natural resources.

sanctions — International restrictions in the buying and selling of goods with a country considered to have broken international law.

Natives Land Act — A 1913 apartheid law dispossessing and limiting land ownership rights of black South Africans.

pass laws — The laws of the apartheid South African government that forced all people to carry passports that identified their race. These were used to restrict where black Africans could live and work.

Tembu — A Bantu-speaking people of South Africa. Nelson Mandela was the son of a Tembu chief.

Afrikaaner — Northwestern European settlers who arrived in South Africa beginning in 1652 and lived under the administration of the Dutch East India Company.

(Continued)

Umkonto We Sizwe (MK) — A separate military wing of the ANC, whose name means “Spear of the Nation,” which was organized by Nelson Mandela in 1961 after the failure of nonviolent protest.

The Rivonia Trial — The trial that took place in South Africa between 1963 and 1964, which resulted in the conviction and life imprisonment of Nelson Mandela and other ANC leaders.

Robben Island — Site of the infamous prison off the coast from South Africa where Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners were held.

Nobel Peace Prize — An international award presented annually to the person who does the most to preserve world peace.

Presidential Medal of Freedom — A medal given by the president of the United States to recognize distinguished civilian service.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the African National Congress?
2. How were many countries dealing with South Africa by the 1980s? What were the exceptions to this policy?
3. What was the effect of the Natives Land Acts?
4. As a youth, how was Nelson Mandela taught to view white society?
5. What happened in Sharpeville on March 21, 1960?
6. How did the South African government respond to the “Free Mandela” campaign in the 1980s?
7. What initiatives did Nelson Mandela undertake after his retirement?

Discussion Questions and Activities

- After he walked out of prison after 27 years of captivity, Nelson Mandela delivered one of the most anxiously awaited speeches in modern history. Ask students to analyze the text of Mandela's 1990 speech and describe its tone, use of language and message. Students may discuss Mandela's views on the anti-apartheid struggle and evaluate the words he repeated from his 1964 Rivonia Trial speech. Mandela's speech on his release from prison in 1990 may be found at the following web site:
www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1990MANDELA.html
- Nelson Mandela was the son of an African chief and grew up hearing stories about African pride and anti-colonial resistance. In a 1990 speech to quell political violence between ANC supporters and the Inkatha Freedom Party, Mandela promoted African unity. Ask students to read the text of Mandela's 1990 Durban speech and to create detailed time lines that include activists, leaders and battles from South African history. The full text of Mandela's Durban address may be found at the following web site:
www.anc.org.za/ancdocs/history/mandela/1990/sp900225-1.html
- After his election as president in 1994, Nelson Mandela faced the challenge of governing a nation transitioning from an apartheid state to a modern constitutional democracy. Ask students to research and list Mandela's achievements and disappointments as the first black leader of South Africa. What social and economic challenges was he able to overcome? What were his most intractable problems?