



Comprehension: Nelson Mandela

Read the following passage, then answers the questions that follow:

Nelson Mandela

Where was he born?

Rolihlahla Mandela was born on 18 July 1918. He was later given the name Nelson by a teacher at school. He was born in the Transkei. The Transkei has mountains, valleys and grasslands called savannas.

Growing up

Mandela's father Henry was a chief of the Tembu people. His mother was Nosekeni Fanny. The Mandelas were related to the Tembu royal family. When Nelson was 9, his father died. He was looked after by Jongintaba Dalindyebo, who was regent (acting chief) of the Tembu.

School and college

Nelson went to a mission school, and then to college. He was good at school work. He also enjoyed boxing and running. At Fort Hare University, he studied law. One of his friends there was Oliver Tambo. Nelson left the university in 1939, after student protests about the way it was run. He went on with his studies and became a lawyer in 1942.

What was the ANC?

In 1944, Nelson Mandela joined the African National Congress or ANC. The ANC wanted all South Africans to have the same human rights.

Robben Island

Mandela was sent to the prison on Robben Island in 1964. Other ANC leaders in prison there included Walter Sisulu. Oliver Tambo had left South Africa to live abroad.

Mandela leaves prison

In 1990, South Africa's new President FW de Klerk set Nelson Mandela free. Mandela and de Klerk agreed: no more fighting. Mandela called on all South Africans to work together in peace.

Mandela becomes President

In 1991, Mandela became leader of the ANC. In the 1994 elections, all black people in South Africa were able to vote for the first time. The ANC won the election. A new government took over. In May 1994, Nelson Mandela became South Africa's first black president.

Question 1: Answer the following questions in full:

1.1 When and where was Nelson Mandela born? (2)

1.2 How old was Mandela when his father passed away? (1)

1.3 Was Mandela’s family royalty? Quote from the passage to prove your answer. (2)

1.4 What is Mandela’s first name? (1)

1.5 Why was he called “Nelson”? (1)

1.6 Quote from the passage to prove that Nelson worked hard at school. (1)

1.7 What does the acronym (abbreviation) ANC stand for? (1)

1.8 Where did Mandela study after school and what did he study? (2)

1.9 Name two of Nelson Mandela’s friends that fought with him against Apartheid.(2)

1.10 Who decided to set Mandela free? (1)

1.11 What was Mandela’s message to the people after he was released from prison? (2)

1.12 What are human rights? (2)

1.13 Do you think that human rights come with responsibilities? Give an example. (2)

Question 2: Look at the image, then answer the question that follow:



2.1 What is Nelson Mandela Day and when is it celebrated? (2)

2.2 The quote by Mandela says that "it is in your hands to make a difference". What is meant by this phrase? (2)

2.3 Why does it state "Make every day a Mandela Day"? (2)

Discussion

Do you think you can make a difference in other people's lives? Remember that you don't need money to help other people. Think of ways in which you can make a difference in your community.

Question 3: Making a Timeline

A timeline is a summary of historical events or life of person, given in a structured format that is easy to read and understand.

Use the information in the text to complete the timeline. List the following events on the timeline (the first one has been done as an example):

Nelson Mandela's was born

His father passed away

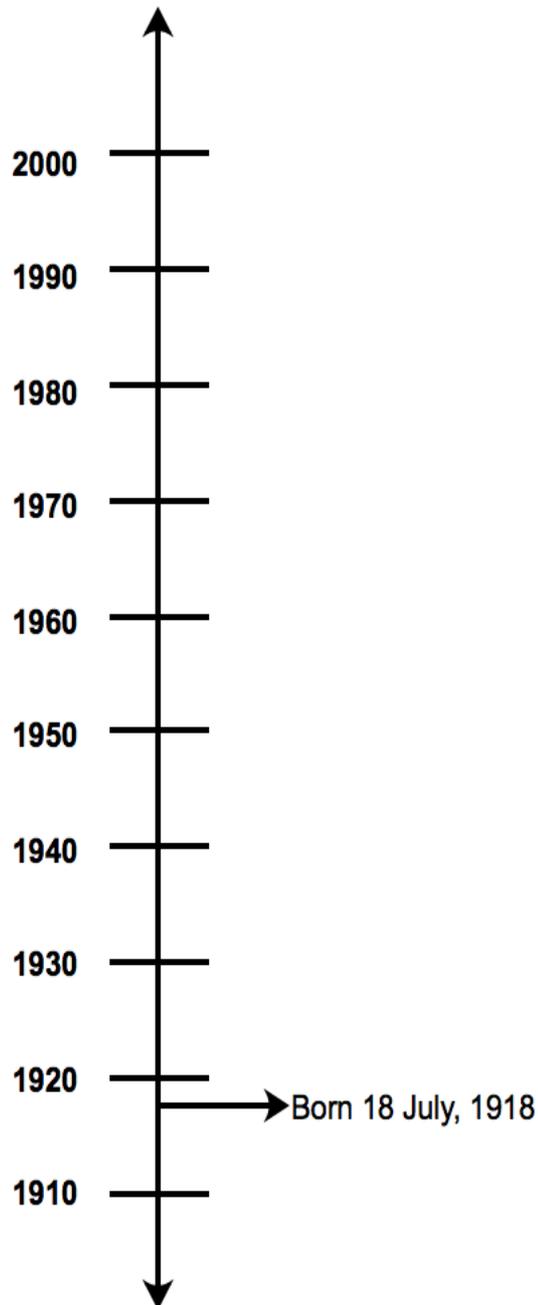
Became a lawyer

Joined the ANC

Sent to Robben Island prison for life

He was released from prison

Became president of South Africa



MEMO:**Question 1:** *Answer the following questions in full:*

- 1.1 When and where was Nelson Mandela born? (2)
18 July 1918 in Transkei
- 1.2 How old was Mandela when his father passed away? (1)
Mandela was nine years old.
- 1.3 Was Mandela's family royalty? Quote from the passage to prove your answer. (2)
Yes, "The Mandelas were related to the Tembu Royal Family."
- 1.4 What is Mandela's first name? (1)
Rolihlahla
- 1.5 Why was he called "Nelson"? (1)
A teacher at school started calling him "Nelson".
- 1.6 Quote from the passage to prove that Nelson was a good student. (1)
"He was good at school work."
- 1.7 What does the acronym (abbreviation) ANC stand for? (1)
African National Congress
- 1.8 Where did Mandela study after school and what did he study? (2)
He studied at Fort Hare University and studied law.
- 1.9 Name two of Nelson Mandela's friends that fought with him against Apartheid. (2)
Oliver Tambo and Walter Sisulu
- 1.10 Who decided to set Mandela free? (1)
FW de Klerk, the president of South Africa at that time.
- 1.11 What was Mandela's message to the people after he was released from prison? (2)
Mandela agreed that there should be no more fighting and that all South Africans should live freely together, in peace.
- 1.12 What are human rights? (2)
Human rights are the rights that all humans on Earth have. Human rights include: all people should be treated the same, regardless of the colour of your skin, all citizens should be able to vote, everyone should have access to proper housing and health care, children should have the right to proper education, etc.
- 1.13 Do you think that human rights come with responsibilities? Give an example (2)
Yes, rights come with responsibilities, e.g. children have a right to education, but they also have the responsibility to work hard, respect their teachers, respect their books and classrooms and attend school every day.

Question 2: Look at the image, then answer the question that follow:

2.1 What is Nelson Mandela Day and when is it celebrated? (2)

Nelson Mandela Day is celebrated on his birthday, the 18th of July, and is a day when we should all remember the legacy of Mandela. People are asked to take 67 minutes (in memory of the 67 years of Mandela's life spent to free his people) of their time and help people in need, animals in need or assist with community projects.

2.2 The quote by Mandela says that "it is in your hands to make a difference". What is meant by this phrase? (2)

Everyone can make a difference and you are the only one that can decide if you are going to make a difference in other people's lives.

2.3 Why does it state "Make every day a Mandela Day"? (2)

Don't just do good deeds on Mandela Day, try to do one good deed every day of your life.

Question 3: Making a Timeline

Use the information in the text to complete the timeline. List the following events on the timeline:

Nelson Mandela's was born (1918) His father passed away (when he was 9, 1927)
 He became a lawyer (1942) He joined the ANC (1944)
 Sent to Robben Island prison for life (1964) He was released from prison (1990)
 He became president of South Africa (1994)

