NELSON MANDELA DAY

ON 18 JULY every year, we invite you to mark **Nelson Mandela International Day** by making a difference in your communities. Everyone has the ability and the responsibility to change the world for the better! Mandela Day is an occasion for all to take action and inspire change.

67 years in service of humanity

Nelson Mandela devoted his life to the service of humanity — as a human rights lawyer, a prisoner of conscience, an international peacemaker and the first democratically elected president of a free South Africa.
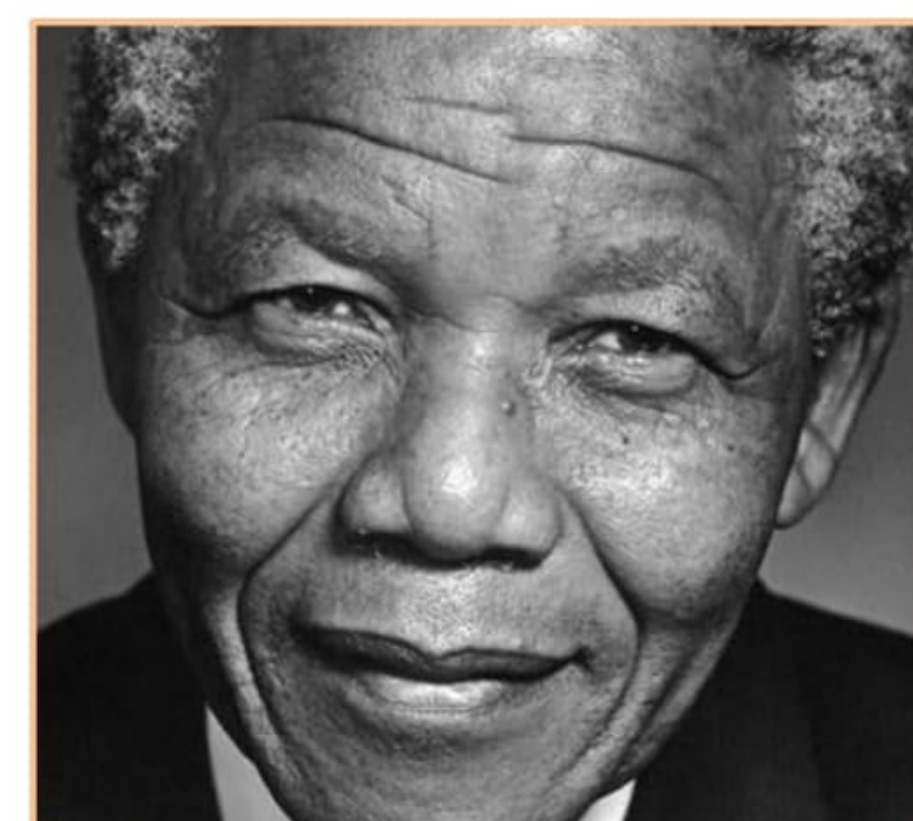
"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela
1918 - 2013

THE PRESIDENCY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

How did the day come about?

November 2009 - in recognition of the former South African President's contribution to the culture of peace and freedom, UN General Assembly declares 18 July "Nelson Mandela International Day". Resolution A/RES/64/13 recognizes Mandela's values and his dedication to the service of humanity in: conflict resolution; race relations; promotion and protection of human rights; reconciliation; gender equality and the rights of children and other vulnerable groups; the fight against poverty; the promotion of social justice. The resolution acknowledges his contribution to the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world.

Source: Nelson Mandela International Day, July 18, For Freedom, Justice and Democracy. (n.d.). Retrieved June 22, 2020, from https://www.un.org/en/events/mandeladay/index.shtml

Nelson Mandela – Biography and timeline cards. (n.d.). Retrieved June 23, 2020, from https://www.teachitprimary.co.uk/resources/y3/information-retrieval-non-fiction/reading-comprehension/nelson-mandela-biography-and-timeline-cards/28758

Nelson Mandela biography

Nelson Mandela was born in South Africa on 18th July 1918. At birth, he was given the name Rolihlahla. It was a Primary School Teacher who gave him the Christian name Nelson.

Mandela took an interest in politics and in 1944 he became a member of the African National Congress (ANC). This group wanted to stop the unfair laws against black people in the system of apartheid.

Mandela studied law at University and went on to open the first black law practice in 1952 with Oliver Tambo. In June of that year, Mandela helped to launch the Defiance Campaign. Black people across South Africa broke apartheid laws. For example, some people burned their pass books, a special book that black South Africans had to carry which contained their photograph, their address and their fingerprints. Others went to 'white only' places.

In December 1956, Mandela was arrested along with 155 other people and they were charged with treason. It was a long trial but they were found not guilty in 1961.

On 12th June 1964, Mandela was found guilty of planning to take over the government by force. He was sentenced to life imprisonment. In the late 1980s, the government were put under a lot of pressure from the South African people to release Mandela from prison. They believed a civil war may break out so they decided to release him from prison on 11th February 1990.

Mandela went back to work with the ANC when he was free. He was voted the President of the group in July 1991. He fought for the rights of black and 'coloured' people to vote and he was able to reach an agreement with the government. He and Frederick Willem de Klerk had worked so hard to put a peaceful end to apartheid that they were given the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.

The first fair election for people of all races was held on 27th April 1994. This was the first time Nelson Mandela had ever voted in his life. This important date is now a national holiday in South Africa and it is known as Freedom Day. It is a celebration for the end of apartheid.

The ANC won the election and Mandela became the first black President of South Africa on 10th May 1994 until his retirement on 14th June 1999.

In 2008, Nelson Mandela turned 90. To celebrate his life and his birthday, a special tribute concert was held for him in Hyde Park, London on 27th June 2008. Lots of celebrities took part such as Will Smith, Amy Winehouse and Brian May. Mandela made a speech asking the rich people in the world to help the poor people.

Nelson Mandela passed away after an illness on 5th December 2013. He will always be remembered for his incredible work.

"ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT THINGS IS NOT TO CHANGE SOCIETY—BUT TO CHANGE YOURSELF."

" AS WE LET OUR OWN LIGHT SHINE, WE UNCONSCIOUSLY GIVE OTHER PEOPLE PERMISSSION TO DO THE SAME. "

" AFTER CLIMBING A GREAT HILL, ONE ONLY FINDS THAT THERE ARE MANY MORE HILLS TO CLIMB."

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