

Biography Years 7 - 9: Chronological biography of Nelson Mandela

Rolihlahla Mandela was born on July 18, 1918 to parents Nanqaphi Nosekini and Nhosi Mphakanyiswa in Murzo Franchei. On a friends advice Mandela was baptised at the Methodist Church and went on to become the very first in the family to attend school. However, due to the British education system he was given his new name: Nelson. At the tender age of nine years old Nelson lost his father, and his life would be changed in a pivotal way.

After his father's death Mandela was taken in by another tribe due to a favour that his father had done for the chief. He spent a small portion of his life living with him. He continued with his schooling and eventually received his junior certificate at Clarkeland boarding institute. Mandela went on to begin his Bachelor of Arts degree at the university college at Fort Hare. However, he would go on to join in student protests which would result in his expulsion and he eventually ended up completing his degree at the University of South Africa. While at university he jointed a student representative council, and attempted to get more power and rights for the students. After this was denied Mandela resigned from the council only to be threatened with expulsion by a teacher, Dr Kerr, if he didn't return to it. Mandela chose expulsion and returned home to face the angry chief who attempted to force him into an arranged marriage. Forced to flee to Johannesburg, it is here that he finished his law degree.

In 1962 Mandela became involved in the African National Congress (ANC) after forming the ANC Youth League. He formed this because of the way that he saw the African people were treated in Johannesburg. He set up a law firm with his friend Oliver Tambo to defend his people against injustice.

Mandela began to host various non-violent protests that would continue for twenty years. Seeing that these protests were not having the desired effect, Mandela began to contemplate starting a more effective struggle. In 1961 he held a national strike for three days, which led to five years imprisonment for he and some of his colleagues the next year. However, in 1963 when Mandela and his friends attempted to gain a retrial they were sentenced to life in prison for espionage and sabotage.

Whilst in prison, Mandela finished a degree from the University of London via correspondence. During his incarceration there was an escape plot discovered by British intelligence to break Mandela from prison only to arrest him again. Fearful of him, Mandela was given a hard time by guards and staff at the prison and in 1982 he was eventually moved to Pollsmoor prison so the South African government could monitor him. In 1985 a new president was elected and Mandela was released. He then began on his path towards the presidency.

Begins with full name, date and place of birth.

Uses past tense

Information provided as to how he became known by his popular name 'Nelson'.

Use of transition words to sequence the text

Use of third person

Use of locations

Grouping of information on education together as part of the chronology

Acronyms placed in brackets to explain term which will be referenced throughout
Explains ideas which led to his rise to prominence in the country

Use of dates to sequence the text

Begins to explain his importance to governments outside of Africa

<p>After his release, Mandela urged other countries to continue his struggle until they got the majority vote. In 1991 after more than twenty years of struggle Mandela became the South African president. Working with the former president and in the face of armed resistance Mandela fought for democratic elections.</p> <p>In 1994, Mandela was inaugurated as South Africa's first black president. In that same year he would go on to publish his autobiography, <i>Long Walk to Freedom</i>. Mandela worked tirelessly to achieve equality with voting rights in the Republic of South Africa. Unfortunately, a civil war broke out in the nation and Mandela was forced to act as mediator between the warring factions.</p> <p>Mandela did many charitable works such as opening schools and medical clinics and worked to improve the living conditions of the nation's people. This was until 2001 when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer which forced him to withdraw from his public life and settle in his old village. One of his final acts was to call various world leaders to a meeting and while there he would form a group, 'The Elders' which were dedicated to finding ways to solve various issues across the globe. His last appearance would be at the 2010 World Cup held in South Africa. Mandela was hospitalised with an infection in 2011 and received on-going medical treatment until his death in December 2013.</p> <p>Nelson Mandela continues to act as a leader for various civil rights movements across the globe. His life has been full of problems but he has overcome them all to become one of the most influential figures in history. Through all his challenges he never forgot his goal or stopped working to help his fellow citizens. This journey took him from humble beginnings, to prison and eventually to be one of the greatest South African presidents and world leaders.</p>	<p>Use of transition words</p> <p>States importance of appointment to presidency and references an important event in his life, the publishing of his autobiography</p> <p>Other life achievements recognised</p> <p>Use of present tense to evaluate and discuss Mandela's on-going contribution and impact on movements around the world</p> <p>Concluding statement which sums up the story of his life</p>
<p>From: Student work sample from <i>Craigieburn Secondary College</i> 2013.</p>	