



The Mini Page

Betty Debnam, Founding Editor and Editor at Large



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Nelson Mandela

An Inspiring Voice Set Free

Many of us can point to a person in history who has been a hero or who has inspired us. Who inspires you?

Twenty-five years ago, Nelson Mandela was released after a 27-year prison term in South Africa. Mandela received a life sentence in 1964 for working against the government in that country.

This week in The Mini Page, we study Mandela's inspiring life and work against inequality.

South Africa

Nelson Mandela was born in 1918. His family was part of the Thembu tribe, and his father was a chief.



In the region where he was born, native Africans could still own land and continue their traditional ways of life.

But in the 1600s, Dutch people had settled in other parts of South Africa. Later, in the 1800s, Britain claimed South Africa as a colony.

Although they were the minority, white Europeans had most of the power in South Africa's government.



© Rich Marchewka Photography

Nelson Mandela after his presidency ended in 1999.

What is apartheid?

After World War II, the government in South Africa used a system called **apartheid** (uh-PAR-tide), an Afrikaans word that means "apart." Among other things, these laws forced black people to live in certain parts of cities and limited the kinds of jobs they could get.

Restricting Africans

As the British and **Afrikaners**, or descendants of Dutch settlers, gained more power, they took land away from native Africans. Black people couldn't get a good education and could live and travel only in certain areas.

In 1912, black Africans started their own political party, the African National Congress (ANC).

Mandela joins the fight

As a young man, Mandela moved to Johannesburg in 1941. He found a



Nelson Mandela in about 1937.

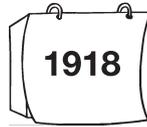
job as a clerk in a white law firm. He also joined the ANC. He wanted to fight for **social justice**, or fairness, for all people in South Africa.

Mandela continued his education while working. He earned his bachelor's degree and began studying to become a lawyer.

Mandela became more involved with the ANC in Johannesburg, helping to start the group's Youth League in 1944.

Mandela's Life and Times

Nelson Mandela was born as Rolihlahla Mandela on July 18, 1918. His first name meant "troublemaker."



His home was in the Transkei region of South Africa on the southeastern coast. His family home had mud walls, a dirt floor and a grass roof. As a little boy, he helped herd his family's goats and sheep.

When he was 7 years old, Mandela started school. The teacher gave the students English names. She called him Nelson.

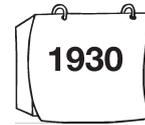
Heritage

In Mandela's tribe, it was important to learn about your ancestors and traditions. His mother and father told their children about the tribe's customs and beliefs.

His family belonged to the Madiba clan, founded by a ruler from the 1700s. Later, Mandela would often be called Madiba as a sign of respect and affection.

Watching a king

After Mandela's father died, the 12-year-old went to live with the king of the Thembu people, Jongintaba. He raised Mandela with his family.

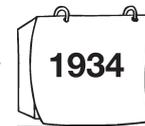


In the village, Mandela received a better education. He started wearing more modern clothing. He began to attend the Methodist church.

He also learned about leadership from the king. Watching the leader helped Mandela form his ideas about democracy and equality.

Continuing education

After Mandela turned 16, he was sent to boarding school. He graduated after just two years and moved on to junior college and then to the University College of Fort Hare, where black students were allowed to study. He played soccer and joined the cross-country team.



Running away

In 1941, Mandela returned home after being expelled from the university over a protest. The king's son Justice also had returned from school. The king was furious and said he had arranged marriages for both of them. But Mandela and Justice didn't like the idea. They ran away to Johannesburg, the biggest city in South Africa.

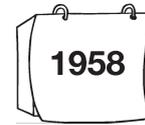


Finding his own way

In 1944, Mandela married Evelyn Mase. They had two boys and two girls. (One of the girls died as a baby.) But Evelyn didn't agree with his work with the ANC, and they divorced during his treason trial.



In 1958, Mandela met and married Winnie Madikizela. He and Winnie had two daughters.



Ready Resources



The Mini Page provides ideas for websites, books or other resources that will help you learn more about this week's topics.

On the Web:

- nelsonmandela.org/content/page/biography
- bbc.in/1DPMYI4
- bit.ly/1wPGm7S

At the library:

- "Nelson Mandela: World Leader for Human Rights" by Matt Doeden
- "Nelson Mandela" by Barbara Kramer
- "Days of Change: The Release of Nelson Mandela" by Kate Riggs



Basset
Brown's

Try
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Find

Nelson Mandela

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Words that remind us of Nelson Mandela are hidden in the block above. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find: AFRIKANER, AIDS, APARTHEID, DE KLERK, DISGUISE, DUTCH, EDUCATION, HERO, LAWYER, LEADER, MADIBA, MANDELA, NELSON, POLITICAL, PRESIDENT, RELEASE, ROBBEN, THEMBU, TRANSKEI, TREASON.



Mini Spy

Years ago, Mini Spy was lucky to get Nelson Mandela to sign his book for her. See if you can find:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> snail | <input type="checkbox"/> whale | <input type="checkbox"/> letter L | <input type="checkbox"/> kite |
| <input type="checkbox"/> safety pin | <input type="checkbox"/> letter D | <input type="checkbox"/> word MINI | <input type="checkbox"/> sock |
| <input type="checkbox"/> needle | <input type="checkbox"/> turtle | <input type="checkbox"/> letter Z | <input type="checkbox"/> fish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pencil | <input type="checkbox"/> ladder | <input type="checkbox"/> ice cream cone | <input type="checkbox"/> ax |
| <input type="checkbox"/> letter A | <input type="checkbox"/> banana | <input type="checkbox"/> number 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> cherry |



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Rookie Cookie's Recipe Granola With Carob Chips

You'll need:

- Cooking spray
- 1 cup rolled oats (not instant)
- 1 cup whole-grain O-shaped cereal
- 1/2 cup slivered blanched almonds
- 1/4 cup honey
- 2 teaspoons canola oil
- 1/2 cup carob chips

What to do:

1. Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Coat a large baking pan with cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, combine oats, cereal and almonds.
3. In a small bowl, whisk together honey and oil. Add honey mixture to oat mixture and toss to coat. Spread out mixture on prepared baking sheet.
4. Bake for 30 minutes, stirring every 10 minutes, until mixture is toasted and golden brown. Let cool slightly before stirring in carob chips. Serves 6.

You will need an adult's help with this recipe.

Adapted from "The Robin Takes 5 Cookbook for Busy Families" with permission from Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com).

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Meet Rosario Dawson



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Rosario Dawson is an actor, singer and producer who is the voice of Nyx in the Disney home-release movie "Tinker Bell and the Legend of the NeverBeast."

Rosario, 35, was born in New York City. Her first acting job was a small role on "Sesame Street" when she was a child. She has appeared in several movies, including "Men in Black II," "Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief" and "Zookeeper." She speaks Klingon, a made-up language from the "Star Trek" shows.

Rosario supports several human rights and environmental causes, including Save the Children, the Nature Conservancy and Doctors Without Borders.

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Goldie Goodsport's Supersport



Height: 5-9
Age: 20
Hometown: Charlotte, North Carolina

Tiffany Mitchell

from The Mini Page © 2015 Universal Uclick

As a child, Tiffany Mitchell didn't much care for sports. But she did notice her older brother's basketball trophies — and wanted some of her own. She joined her first basketball team at age 10 when her mother signed her up in a local all-boys league. Like her favorite superhero, Spider-Man, Tiffany wasn't afraid to compete against bigger and stronger opponents. She's been on the court ever since.

Tiffany, a junior guard for the University of South Carolina, helped her Gamecocks to an 18-0 start through mid-January, as well as the nation's No. 1 ranking. She led all USC scorers by averaging 15.2 points per game, and made a phenomenal 48.1 percent of her 3-point attempts.

Tiffany was named South Carolina's first-ever Preseason All-America selection, and also received Southeastern Conference's Preseason Player of the Year honors.



Mighty Funny's Mini Jokes

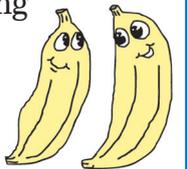
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All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

- Barry:** Why do bananas have to use suntan lotion?
Ben: Because bananas peel!



- Bill:** Why did the policeman give the banana a speeding ticket?
Bonnie: Because he was caught peeling out of the parking lot!



- Bara:** What do you call two bananas?
Barbara: A pair of slippers!

A Symbol of Hope

'Black danger'

In 1948, the National Party won elections in South Africa. Its candidates talked a lot about "black danger," the idea that black people were gaining political strength.

Nationalists introduced apartheid and passed laws to keep the races separate. People were forced to move from their homes, and black people could work only in certain places.

Many South Africans were against apartheid, and Mandela and others protested its policies. He had to be secretive about his work with the ANC and often went out in disguise to keep from being arrested.

In 1956, Mandela and others were charged with **treason**, or trying to take over the South African government. Their trial lasted for four years, but they were found not guilty.

On the run

Even after the trial ended, Mandela felt threatened by the government. He went into hiding and traveled under a false name to other countries to speak against apartheid and to gain support for the ANC.

Mandela couldn't hide for long. In 1962 he was arrested for leaving the country without a passport and **inciting**, or stirring up, protests. He received a sentence of five years in prison. A year later, in a second trial, Mandela was sentenced to life in prison.

The Mini Page thanks Verne Harris, director of research and archive, Nelson Mandela Foundation, Johannesburg, for help with this issue.

Robben Island

Mandela and other ANC leaders were housed at Robben Island, a prison used mostly for political prisoners. While there, Mandela used his time to study Afrikaner nationalism, study different forms of political resistance, and learn more about leadership.

After 18 years, Mandela and three other prisoners were moved to Pollsmoor Prison near Cape Town. The food and living conditions were much better there.

The world watches

Other countries around the world began to notice the struggles in South Africa. Many countries and companies cut off trade with South Africa in response to the ongoing policy of apartheid.

A new president

Frederik Willem de Klerk was elected president of South Africa in September 1989. Mandela spoke with him about future talks between the ANC and the government.

Early in 1990, de Klerk declared that he would release all political prisoners and give blacks their civil rights.

Next week, The Mini Page is about NACA, which grew into NASA.



Mandela's cell on Robben Island.

photo courtesy of Carl Fleischhauer, Library of Congress

A historic release

On Feb. 11, 1990, Mandela was released from prison. He had become a symbol all over the world for equality. In a speech that day, he said: "Today, the majority of South Africans, black and white, recognize that apartheid has no future. It has to be ended ..."

South Africa moves ahead

For three years, whites and blacks worked together on a new constitution for South Africa that guaranteed equal rights for all.

In 1994, all South Africans were allowed to vote, and Nelson Mandela was elected president.

As president, Mandela tried to build unity between blacks and whites. South Africa became respected again in the world.



Mandela speaks to striking mine workers in Pretoria, South Africa, in 1996.

photo courtesy U.S. Department of State

Later years

Mandela retired in 1999 from the presidency and politics. He and Winnie had divorced in 1996, and he had married Graca Machel in 1998.

In his retirement, Mandela continued to work for better education and in the fight against AIDS.

Mandela died at age 95 in December 2013. World leaders gathered at his funeral, and people all over the world remembered the man who had become a symbol of equality.

The Mini Page Staff

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