

Nelson Mandela: world leader and hero

Nelson Mandela is one of the most famous people in the world. On 10 May, 1994, he became the first black President of South Africa. It was the first time that ALL South Africans over the age of 18, were allowed to vote.

1  24 Read 'Nelson Mandela – a life in pictures', and put the story in the correct order.



a ①

Rolihlahla Dalibhunga Mandela was born on 18 July 1918 in a small village in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. He was one of 13 children.

Nelson Mandela – a life in pictures

b ○

In 1993 Mandela and De Klerk won the Nobel Peace Prize. A year later, he became the first black President of the new South Africa.



d ○

When Mandela was nine years old, his father died, and Mandela became the royal leader of his tribe*.



c ○

After he finished school, Nelson Mandela studied law at university. He also enjoyed boxing and running.



f ○

At the age of seven, he became the first member of his family to go to school. At that time, all black children were given English names by their teachers. Rolihlahla became Nelson.



g ○

In 1990, Mandela was released* from prison by the Prime Minister, Mr FW De Klerk.

e ○



In 1964, he was sent to prison for life, for 'trying to bring down' the government'. He spent 18 of his years in prison on Robben Island.

h ○

As a lawyer and member of the African National Congress, he fought against the system of apartheid* in South Africa.





- 2** Read the words of the song and fill in the missing words. Some words are used more than once.

ANC blind deaf
feet mind speak 21

The Nelson Mandela 70th Birthday Tribute Concert, held on June 11 1988 in Wembley Stadium in London, was watched by an audience* of 72,000 – and on TV screens all over the world, by almost a billion people in more than 60 countries. The all-star line-up* included Stevie Wonder, Hugh Masekela, Dire Straits, Eurythmics, and, of course, Jerry Dammers of The Specials singing 'Nelson Mandela'.

- 3** Work in pairs and answer the questions.

- 1** Why was Nelson Mandela in prison?
- 2** Why did so many people want him to be freed from prison?
- 3** Why do you think the Prime Minister did release him from prison eventually?
- 4** Why is he a hero?

Personal project

Look up information about someone you think is a hero. What makes this person a hero?

Nelson Mandela

Jerry Dammers

Free Nelson Mandela
Free, Free, Free, Nelson Mandela
Free Nelson Mandela

1..... years in captivity

His shoes too small to fit his **2**.....

His body abused but his **3**..... is still free

Are you so **4**..... that you cannot see

I say Free Nelson Mandela
I'm begging you
Free Nelson Mandela

He pleaded the causes of the **5**.....

Only one man in a large army

Are you so **6**..... that you cannot see

Are you so **7**..... that you cannot hear his plea*

Free Nelson Mandela
I'm begging you Free Nelson Mandela

8..... years in captivity

Are you so **9**..... that you cannot see

Are you so **10**..... that you cannot hear

Are you so dumb* that you cannot **11**.....

* What is it in your language? Find out!