



Name _____

Date _____

NELSON MANDELA

Nelson Mandela was born in Transkei, South Africa, on July 18, 1918. He was the first member of his family to attend school. A Methodist teacher gave him the name “Nelson” at school. He continued in school and later attended the University of South Africa in Johannesburg. He became a lawyer representing those who would otherwise go without legal assistance.

Mandela was first involved in nonviolent protests but was eventually arrested for treason and placed in prison. He was fighting against the apartheid and the treatment of his people. Apartheid was the practice of keeping the races separated in South Africa. Locked in his cell for years on end, Nelson’s spirit was not broken. Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in prison. Most of this time was spent in a tiny cell on Robben Island. His captivity became widely publicized. He was considered a terrorist when he was imprisoned, but as time wore on, it became apparent that he was treated unjustly in his fight to end apartheid.

Once released from prison, Nelson Mandela went on to receive hundreds of awards. He received the Nobel Peace Prize which many felt was also a tribute to the people of South Africa as much as to him. On April 27, 1994, Nelson Mandela was elected President of South Africa. He served until 1999. He continues to work today pushing for peace throughout the world. In South Africa, he is known as Madiba, which is an honorary title. Nelson Mandela continues to inspire many.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What can you infer about why Nelson was so successful in life?
 - a. People felt sorry for him and took pity on him.
 - b. He eventually got the vision of his life.
 - c. He learned great lessons and was able to overcome obstacles and work hard.
 - d. He was able to become president.
2. What is the meaning of the word *treason* as used in the passage?
 - a. disloyalty
 - b. selfishness
 - c. violence
 - d. protest
3. Which of the following statements is true after reading the passage?
 - a. Nelson Mandela spent his life seeking restitution for his treatment.
 - b. Nelson Mandela was a perfect person.
 - c. Nelson Mandela went on to inspire millions because of his experiences.
 - d. Apartheid no longer exists on the African continent.