

Use the words in brackets to form a new word that fits into each blank.

Malcolm X was one of the most (1) _____ (INFLUENCE) African American leaders of the civil rights era. He transformed himself from a minor (2) _____ (CRIME) into a powerful defender of the rights of blacks.

Malcolm X was born as Malcolm Little in Omaha, Nebraska. His father was the follower of a black leader who had political and

(3) _____ (ECONOMY) ties to Africa. In 1931, Malcolm's father was found dead after being run over by a streetcar. Malcolm believed white (4) _____ (RACE) were responsible for his father's death. At the age of 12 his mother was transferred to a mental hospital and Malcolm had to spend the rest of his (5) _____ (CHILD) in foster homes. During this period of his youth he became discouraged by racial prejudice (6) _____ (SURROUND) him.

In 1941, Malcolm moved to Boston where he became involved in criminal (7) _____ (ACT). In 1946, he was arrested for (8) _____ (BURGLAR) and sent to prison. There he joined the *Nation of Islam*, or *Black Muslims*, an organisation that regarded white people as devils. After being released from prison in 1952, Malcolm adopted X as his last name. The letter stood for the (9) _____ (KNOW) African name of slave ancestors.

Malcolm X quickly became the Nation of Islam's most (10) _____ (EFFECT) speaker. He urged blacks to live separately from whites and to win their (11) _____ (FREE) "by any means necessary." However, as time went on, he became (12) _____ (SATISFY) with the *Nation of Islam*, in part because the group avoided political activity.

In 1964, Malcolm X broke with the organisation. A short time later, he travelled to the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia, where he met Muslims of (13) _____ (VARY) ethnic backgrounds. He changed his name once again and came back to the United States to found a new group, the *Organization of Afro-American Unity*.

In the final years of his life Malcolm X took a more moderate view of civil rights issues. He sought (14) _____ (COOPERATE) with Martin Luther King, Jr., and other civil rights activists who favoured non-violent protests. But by this time, some *Black Muslims* had condemned Malcolm X as a hypocrite and traitor because of his (15) _____ (CRITICIZE) of the group's leader, Elijah Muhammad.

On February 21, 1965, Malcolm X was (16) _____ (FATAL) shot while giving a speech in New York City. Three members of the *Nation of Islam* were convicted of the crime. Malcolm's views reached many people after his death through the (17) _____ (PUBLISH) of his autobiography.