

# SET IN THE PAST



## Remembering Nelson Mandela



Nelson Mandela was born on July 18, 1918, in South Africa. He became actively involved in the anti-apartheid movement in his 20s and joined the African National Congress in 1942. For 20 years, he directed a campaign of peaceful, nonviolent defiance against the South African government and its racist policies. He spent a total of 27 years in prison. In 1993, Mandela and South African President F.W. de Klerk were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to dismantle the country's apartheid system. Twenty-six years ago, in 1994, Mandela was inaugurated as South Africa's first black president. In 2009, Mandela's birthday (18<sup>th</sup> July) was declared "Mandela Day" to promote global peace and celebrate the South African leader's legacy. Mandela died on December 5, 2013, at age 95. His death worried some South Africans. The day after his death, a newspaper headline read: "South Africans united in mourning for Nelson Mandela yesterday, but some feared the anti-apartheid hero's death could leave their country vulnerable again to the racial and social tensions he struggled to pacify." That was seven years ago but the situation is still tense today. Last year *The Guardian* published an article entitled "Why are South African cities still so segregated 25 years after apartheid?"

### A. Comprehension 1. True or False? Click on the correct answer, T or F.

Mandela became an activist when he was 18. T F He won the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize alone. T F

He was politically active in the 1940s. T F

In the 1990s, Mandela became president of South Africa. T F

He fought against racism for two decades. T F

"Mandela Day" was declared after he died. T F

2. Drag the following extracts from the text below the statements to which they correspond in ex 1. (Glisse les extraits du texte suivants sous les phrases de l'ex1 auxquelles ils correspondent.)

In 1994, Mandela was inaugurated as South Africa's first black president.

He joined the African National Congress in 1942.

"Mandela Day" was declared in 2009, and he died in 2013.

For 20 years, he directed a campaign of peaceful, nonviolent defiance against the South African government and its racist policies.

In 1993, Mandela and South African President F.W. de Klerk were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

He became actively involved in the anti-apartheid movement in his 20s.

## B. The top five historical events of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Listen to the recording and choose the correct top five events.

*Dans un sondage Gallup, on a demandé aux américains de nommer spontanément les événements les plus importants du 20<sup>ème</sup> siècle. Les analystes ont trié cette première liste et en ont établi une seconde de 18 événements à classer par les américains. Écoute l'enregistrement et sélectionne les 5 événements qu'ils ont classés en tête de liste.*

Click [here](#) to listen to the recording.

### Event 1

Landing a man on the moon in 1969

The US Great Depression in the 1930s

World War II

### Event 2

The assassination of Dr Martin Luther King, Jr.

The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989

The Nazi Holocaust during World War II

### Event 3

The assassination of President Kennedy in 1963

The dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima in 1945

The Vietnam War in the 1960s and early 1970s

### Event 4

Charles Lindbergh's transatlantic flight in 1927

The right to vote for women in 1920

World War I

### Event 5

Charles Lindbergh's transatlantic flight in 1927

The Civil Rights Act of 1964

The launching of the Russian Sputnik satellites in the 1950s

## C. Grammar: past expressions

Pour indiquer quand quelque chose a eu lieu, on utilise le simple past (prétérit). On utilise également un certain nombre de mots et d'expressions pour préciser à quel moment du passé une action ou une situation a eu lieu. Nous avons déjà vu **time reference + ago**

Twenty-six years ago, Mandela was inaugurated as South Africa's first black president.  
Il y en a d'autres.

### last + time reference (le/la ... dernier/dernière)

Nelson Mandela struggled to pacify racial tensions in the last century.  
mais aussi: last night, last month, last January, last Christmas, last summer, last year...

### yesterday

Pour dire hier.

Last year The Guardian published an article entitled "Why..."  
Mais aussi: yesterday or yesterday + morning / afternoon / evening

### at, in, on

in: years, decades, and centuries

on: specific dates

at: times

He became actively involved in the anti-apartheid movement in his 20s.  
Mandela died on 5 December 2013

Answer five of the following questions using different past expressions. and adding a piece of information.

Ex: I went swimming three months ago. I swam for 45 minutes.

When was the last time you....

			
went swimming?	watched a soccer game?	wrote a letter?	went to the restaurant?
			
cleaned your room?	had a party?	got a present?	played football?
			
danced?	went to the cinema?	went shopping?	talked to an old friend?

Write your answers here.