Nelson Mandela Biography

1. Introduction

Nelson Mandela was the most important **civil rights** leader in South Africa. During Mandela's lifetime, black people did not have equal rights in South Africa. Mandela fought to give black people equal rights and he won. He even became the president of South Africa. It was hard for Mandela to fight for equal rights. It took a long time, but it was a great **victory**.

2. Early Life

Nelson Mandela was born on July 18, 1918, in South Africa. During this time, many black people were not treated fairly in South Africa. Life was difficult for black people living in South Africa because they did not have equal rights. Black people and white people were separate. The white South Africans had good jobs, homes, and schools. The black South Africans did not have good jobs, homes, and schools.

Mandela in South Africa

This was called **apartheid**, which means separate. Mandela met many **activists** who believed apartheid was wrong. Mandela decided to fight against apartheid.

3. Activism

At first, Mandela did not want violent **protests** against the government. He wanted to be peaceful, like Gandhi. After some time, Mandela did not think nonviolence worked. He decided to become violent. He wanted

to bomb government buildings. He wanted to bomb the buildings when no people were inside. He did not want any people to get hurt. The government of South Africa **discovered** Mandela's plans. They called him a **terrorist** and put him in prison on Robin Island.

4 Imprisonment

Mandela stayed in prison for twenty-seven years. The world heard about Mandela and apartheid. They heard he was in prison. They did not think apartheid was fair. They wanted Mandela to be released from prison. Eventually, the government of South Africa **released** Mandela from prison in 1990.

5. Presidency

After Mandela was released from prison, he continued to fight against apartheid. In 1993, he won the Nobel peace prize. In 1994. all races of people in South Africa, both black and white, voted in the presidential election for the first time. Before this time, only white people voted. Mandela won the election and became president of South Africa. He was the first black president.

Some people were angry that Mandela became president. They wanted to start violence, but Mandela was a very good leader. He did not let people become violent. He kept his people safe and his country at peace. As a result, the whole world was sad when he died in 2013 at the age of ninety-five years old.

6. Conclusion

Nelson Mandela was important because he fought for equal rights for people in South Africa. He was a great leader because he stayed strong during difficult times. Mandela **inspired** many people around the world to fight for what they believe is right.