

## **NELSON MANDELA**

Nelson Mandela is one of the most revered (onorato) statesmen in the world. He led the struggle to replace the apartheid regime of South Africa with a multi-racial democracy. He was born in the eastern Cape of South Africa in 1918. He became a lawyer and in the 1950s he started campaigning against apartheid, joining the left-wing African National Congress political party. In 1964 he was sentenced to life in prison. In 1980 an international campaign was launched to release him. In 1990 he was released from prison and in 1993 he won the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1994 for the first time in South Africa's history people of all races voted in democratic elections and Nelson Mandela was elected president. He stepped down (dimettersi) as president in 1999. Since then, he has campaigned against HIV/AIDS and helped to secure South Africa's right to host the 2010 football World Cup.

- 1 Who is Nelson Mandela?
- 2 What did he do?
- 3 When was he born?
- 4 Did he become an engineer?
- 5 Which political part did he join?
- 6 What happened in 1964?
- 7 When was he released from prison?
- 8 What did he win in 1993?
- 9 When was he elected president of South Africa?
- 10 What has he done since he stepped down as president?

## **APARTHEID**

The National Party, who governed South Africa, from 1948 to 1993, enforced Apartheid, which is legal racial segregation. During Apartheid the white minority population controlled the country and put people into four groups: black (71%) white (16%) coloured (10%) and Asian (3%). They banned marriages between whites and people of other races. They segregated education, health care and other public services. Services for black people were inferior to those for white people. The Government passed Land Acts which gave more than 80% of the country to the white minority. Non-whites carried pass books with their fingerprints, a photo, and information on access to non-black areas. There was strong and constant opposition to Apartheid from inside and outside South Africa. There were trade embargos from other countries.

The ANS (African National Congress), who wanted equal rights for all citizens, promoted a campaign against Apartheid.

Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo set up South Africa's first black law firm where poor people came to them for help. The government put many anti-Apartheid leaders in prison on Robben Island. In 1990 Mandela was finally a free man and President F.W. de Klerk began negotiations to end Apartheid