

Term 2 -History -Grade 4

Learning from Leaders

Key words

Qualities: parts of a person's character

Respect: to show that you care about the feelings, views and ideas of others

Character: the kind of person that you are

What makes a good leader?

Leaders have important qualities in their characters in order to lead people.

Some of the qualities of good leaders are: They are fair, respectful, listen to what people need before making decisions and stand up for what is right.

Nelson Mandela

Key words

Apartheid: a way of keeping black, coloured and Indian South Africans apart from white people.

Charter: a written paper that says what everyone should be allowed to do

Protest: an action, such as a march, to show disagreement about something

Nelson Mandela was South Africa's first black president. He was a leader who fought against apartheid in South Africa. He spent 27 years in jail because he stood up for what he believed was right.

The story of Nelson Mandela's Life

Nelson Mandela was born on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1918 in a small village in the Eastern Cape. He lived a simple life. He looked after the family's sheep and goats. He slept on a mat on the floor and the family cooked food that they grew themselves.

Mandela saw that life in South Africa was not fair. The government had divided South Africa into different race groups. During apartheid, South African's were referred to as either white , non-white or black.

White South African's were treated differently to the other groups. They had better homes, jobs and facilities. Black and White people could not sit together on the busses or the train. Black people were also not allowed to vote for the leaders of South Africa.

Apartheid was not fair. Nelson Mandela and his friends wanted to change things in South Africa. They led protest marches through the streets. They also drew up a document called: The Freedom Charter. It said: "South Africa belongs to all who live in it, Black and White."

The South African government could see that Nelson Mandela was a leader. They did not like this. He was prepared to stand up for what was right. He and seven of his friends were arrested. The judge ordered that they should spend their entire lives in prison. People who are sent to jail because they stand up for what they believe in, are called "political prisoners."

People, both black and white, of all ages, in and out of South Africa protested against apartheid. Many years later the government decided it was time for apartheid to end. All the political prisoners were let out of jail. Mandela was freed after spending 27 years in prison.

Apartheid ended in 1994. Every South African, 18 years and older, could vote for a new government. Nelson Mandela became the country's first black president.

### Activity

1. In your opinion, list five qualities that you feel a good leader should have?
2. In your own words, write a short description about Nelson Mandela's childhood.
3. What is the name given to people who are put into prison because they stand up for what they believe is right?
4. Was Nelson Mandela a good leader? Give a reason for your answer.
5. Is it always easy to be a good leader? Give a reason for your answer.
6. Write two ways in which you can follow Nelson Mandela's example of being a good leader.
7. Write a short paragraph of 3-4 sentences in which you give your views /feelings about apartheid in South Africa. Remember to do a planning in pencil first.