



Why is Nelson Mandela famous?

Nelson Mandela became famous for his long fight against bad government and racial prejudice. He became a hero to people all over the world. As South Africa's President, he was respected for his courage and wisdom (*sagesse*) in bringing people together to live in peace.

Nelson Mandela was born in 1918 into a South Africa that was divided along black and white racial lines. He said he had a wonderful childhood – but his father died when he was only 9 years old - and he loved running and boxing. He learnt more of the terrible apartheid system when he studied to become a lawyer (*un avocat*).

He became the leader of the African National Congress (ANC) in 1950. The ANC wanted black South Africans to have the same human rights as whites. In 1948, the South African government made laws (*lois*) to keep white people and black people apart. The new system was called '**apartheid**'.



The South African government did its best to keep Mandela from spreading (*l'empêcher de propager*) his message of equality for blacks and racial unity. In 1962, Nelson Mandela was arrested again. He was accused of sabotage and plotting to overthrow (*renverser*) the government. In 1964, aged 46, he was given a life sentence. He stayed in prison for 27 years. Mandela spent 18 years on Robben Island. He had to do hard labour. He was allowed one visitor every 6 months. He was later moved to another prison.

He became famous around the world as an icon of the struggle for freedom in South Africa. Rock stars, actors, politicians and ordinary people campaigned to free him and end apartheid.

On February 11th 1990, South Africa's new President De Klerk set Nelson Mandela free. Mandela and De Klerk agreed: no more fighting. Mandela asked all South Africans, of all races and colours, to work together in peace.



What was apartheid?

Apartheid forced white and non-white people to live in separate areas. Non-white people meant black people, people from Asia and people of mixed race. A white person and a black person could not marry. Black people and white people could not share (*partager*) a table in a restaurant, or sit together on a bus. Black children and white children went to different schools. Sports teams were all-white or all-black, never mixed.



ROBBEN ISLAND



MANDELA'S PRISON CELL



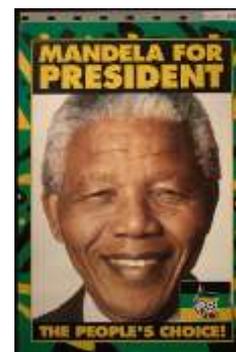
PRISONERS CRUSHING ROCKS AT ROBBEN ISLAND

He won the Nobel Peace Prize, in 1993.

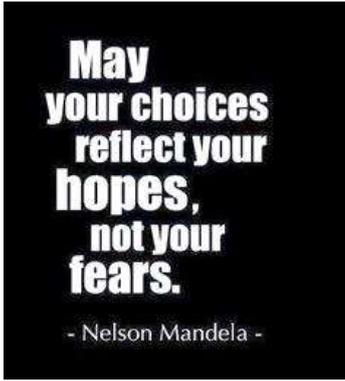
In May 1994, Nelson Mandela became South Africa's first black president.

He retired as president in 1999 and, from 2004, he gave up (*arrêta*) politics, in order to enjoy a quiet life with his family.

He died on the 5th of December, 2013, aged 95.



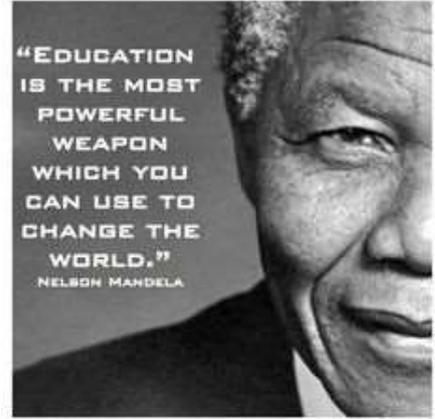
MANDELA'S WORDS OF WISDOM



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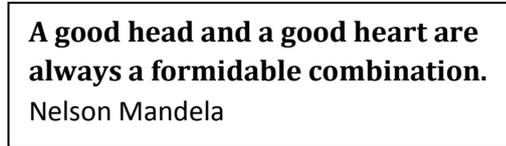
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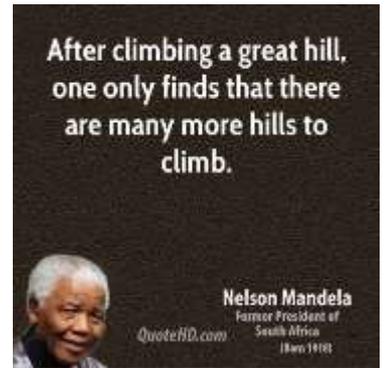
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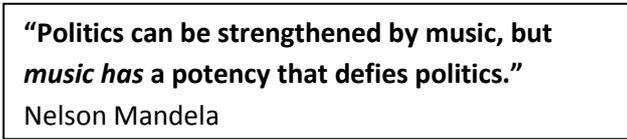
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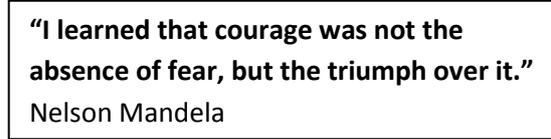
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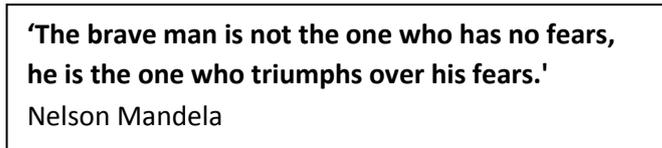
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- « Cela semble toujours impossible, jusqu'à ce qu'on le fasse. » Citation n° ____
- « J'ai appris que le courage n'est pas l'absence de peur, mais la capacité de la vaincre. » Citation n° ____
- « La politique peut être renforcée par la musique, mais la musique a une puissance qui défie la politique. » Citation n° ____
- « L'éducation est votre arme la plus puissante pour changer le monde. » Citation n° ____
- « Un cœur bon et un bon esprit forment toujours une formidable combinaison. » Citation n° ____
- « Dans mon pays, on va d'abord en prison puis on devient Président. » Citation n° ____
- « Que vos choix reflètent vos espoirs et non vos peurs. » Citation n° ____
- « Après avoir gravi une haute colline, on découvre qu'il en reste beaucoup d'autres à gravir. » Citation n° ____
- « L'homme courageux n'est pas celui qui n'a pas peur, mais celui qui surmonte cette peur ». Citation n° ____
- « La plus grande gloire de la vie n'est pas de ne jamais tomber, mais de se relever à chaque fois que l'on tombe. » Citation n° ____