

Nelson Mandela

“South Africa’s First Black President”

- *Nelson Mandela was a black South African born on July 18, 1918 in Qunu, Transkei.
- *He was a member of Tembu- a royal tribe in which his father was a chieftain.
- *Mandela went to a British boarding school and then to Fort Tale University, where he was expelled for leading a strike.
- *Mandela went back home for a while, but decided to move to Johannesburg to run from an arranged marriage.
- *He turned down the opportunity to be a chieftain, because he wanted to become a lawyer.
- *In 1941 he received his law degree from Johannesburg, and then set up the first black law firm with Tambo and Walter Sisulu.
- *Tambo, Sisulu, and Mandela also formed the African National Congress Youth League, which Mandela became the president of in 1950.
- *In 1955, Mandela was arrested for treason and acquitted in 1961.
- *He traveled the country and formed an underground military wing for the African National Congress.
- *In 1962, he was arrested again, was in prison for 5 years, and eventually sentenced to life in prison.
- *Mandela was in prison for 27 years, while his people still continued to fight.
- *In the 1980’s many national governments refused to trade or buy anything from Africa because of the apartheid, which caused them to lose large amounts of money.
- *In 1984, there were so many mass revolts against apartheid that Mandela’s captors offered to release him from prison on the condition of stopping his people from using violence. He denied this offer twice, because they did not offer to put an end to the apartheid.
- *For many years Mandela had private talks with government ministers and eventually was freed from prison on February 11, 1990.
- *After Mandela’s release, in 1992, the whites voted against the white minority rule.
- *In 1994, the national assembly chose Mandela as president, in which he served until 1999.
- *Currently, Mandela is resting from public life in his home town- Qunu, Transkei.