

Name: _____

Period: _____

Date: _____

Apartheid Introduction

Directions:

1. Watch the following brief clip on [Apartheid](#)
2. Complete the reading below and answer the questions that follow.

Apartheid

Background

In 1910, former British colonies and two Boer (Dutch) republics formed the Union of South Africa and received dominion status from England. Although whites composed less than 20% of the population, they held all the power, and ruled the country. *Apartheid*, or racial separation, was a common practice in South Africa, but it did not become the law until 1948. When the National Party came to power in 1948, it set up a system called apartheid. The word *apartheid* is from the Afrikaans language of South Africa's Dutch settlers and literally means "apartness." This system kept advantages for white people while limiting those for nonwhites. The policy provided for separate development and eventual independence of the African homelands. The homelands consisted of overpopulated regions with few resources, reserved for 74% of the total population. Independence meant that black Africans had no voting rights in South Africa.



Nelson Mandela

Apartheid Policies

Daniel F. Malan of the National Party became Prime Minister of South Africa in 1948.

His government defined apartheid policies and divided the population into four groups: whites, people of mixed race, blacks, and those of Asian origin. Public places had separate sections for whites and nonwhites. White students attended separate all-white schools, and railways reserved some first-class coaches for whites only. A later bill required all applicants of color to prove their qualifications in order to vote. More restrictive measures were eventually passed.

ANC

The African National Congress (ANC) began in 1912 as a nonviolent civil rights organization. Its purpose was to change the social conditions in South Africa through peaceful protest, dialogue, and education. When more blacks entered the urban work force and apartheid became government policy, membership in the ANC increased, and it became more militant. Strikes, demonstrations and, in some cases, attacks on whites followed. For their part in the uprisings, many ANC activists were imprisoned or executed. One prominent ANC leader, Nelson Mandela, served almost 30 years behind bars for his "crimes."

Second Half of the Century

As more African countries joined the British Commonwealth, they pressured Great Britain to force South Africa to abolish apartheid. South Africa refused, however, and left the Commonwealth in 1961 to become an independent republic. Faced with economic sanctions from abroad and violence at home, reform finally began in 1985. Restrictions on the ANC and other political groups were lifted in 1990, and the basic laws of apartheid were repealed in 1991. In 1992 a referendum by white voters approved the end of white minority rule in South Africa, finally ending apartheid. Nelson Mandela became the first black elected as president of South Africa in 1994.

1. Who colonized the South African people?
2. What is apartheid?
3. What was the initial aim (goal) of apartheid?
4. When was apartheid first enacted?
5. Identify the four races that South Africa was split into.
6. Give 3 examples of apartheid policies.
7. What was the African National Congress?
8. Why did the system of apartheid collapse in the second half of the 20th century?
9. Who is Nelson Mandela and why is he a significant figure?