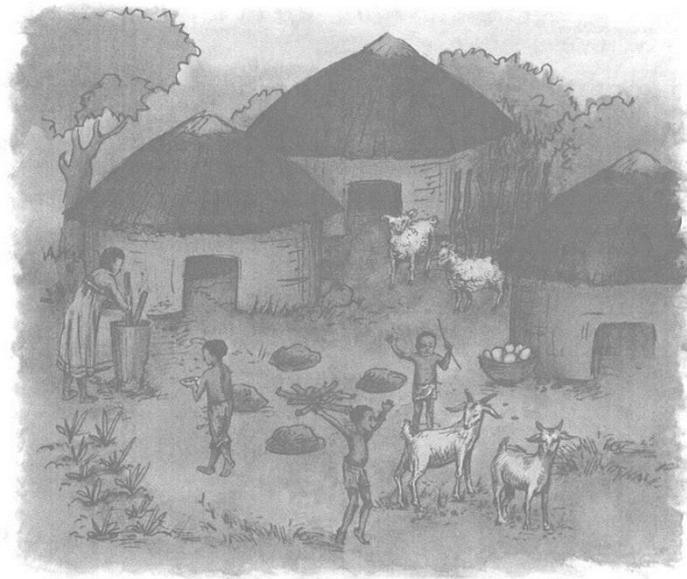


## C. Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela is a leader who fought against **apartheid** in South Africa. He went to jail because he stood up for what he believed was right. He became South Africa's first black president.

### **The story of Nelson Mandela's life**

Nelson Mandela was born in the Eastern Cape on 18 July 1918. (This was nearly 100 years ago!) He grew up in a small village where he looked after the family's sheep and goats. He slept on a mat on the ground and ate food that his family grew themselves. They cooked their food in a pot over the fire.



Nelson Mandela grew up in a small village like this one.

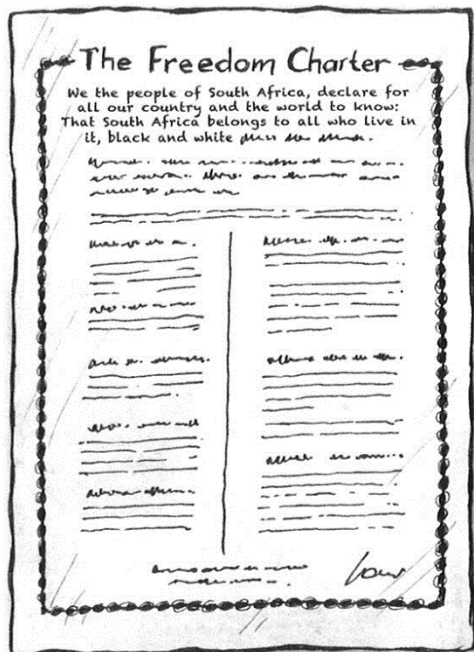
Mandela saw that life in South Africa was not fair. The government had divided South Africans into groups. During apartheid, a South African was called either 'white' or 'non-white' or 'black'. White South Africans were treated better than any of the other groups. They lived in the best houses and got the best jobs.

Black people and white people were not allowed to sit together on the train. They had to catch different buses. Black people were not allowed to vote for the leaders of South Africa.



Mandela travelled by train when he left the Eastern Cape and went to Johannesburg. During apartheid, black and white people were not allowed to sit on the same train carriage.

Apartheid was not fair. Mandela and his friends wanted to change South Africa. They led **protest** marches through the streets. They wrote a **charter** called 'The Freedom Charter.' It said: 'South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white.'



### The Freedom Charter

We the people of South Africa, declare for all our country and the world to know: South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white ...

The Freedom Charter is a written list of things that every South African should be allowed.