

Year 9 Independent Learning Booklet

Apartheid South Africa



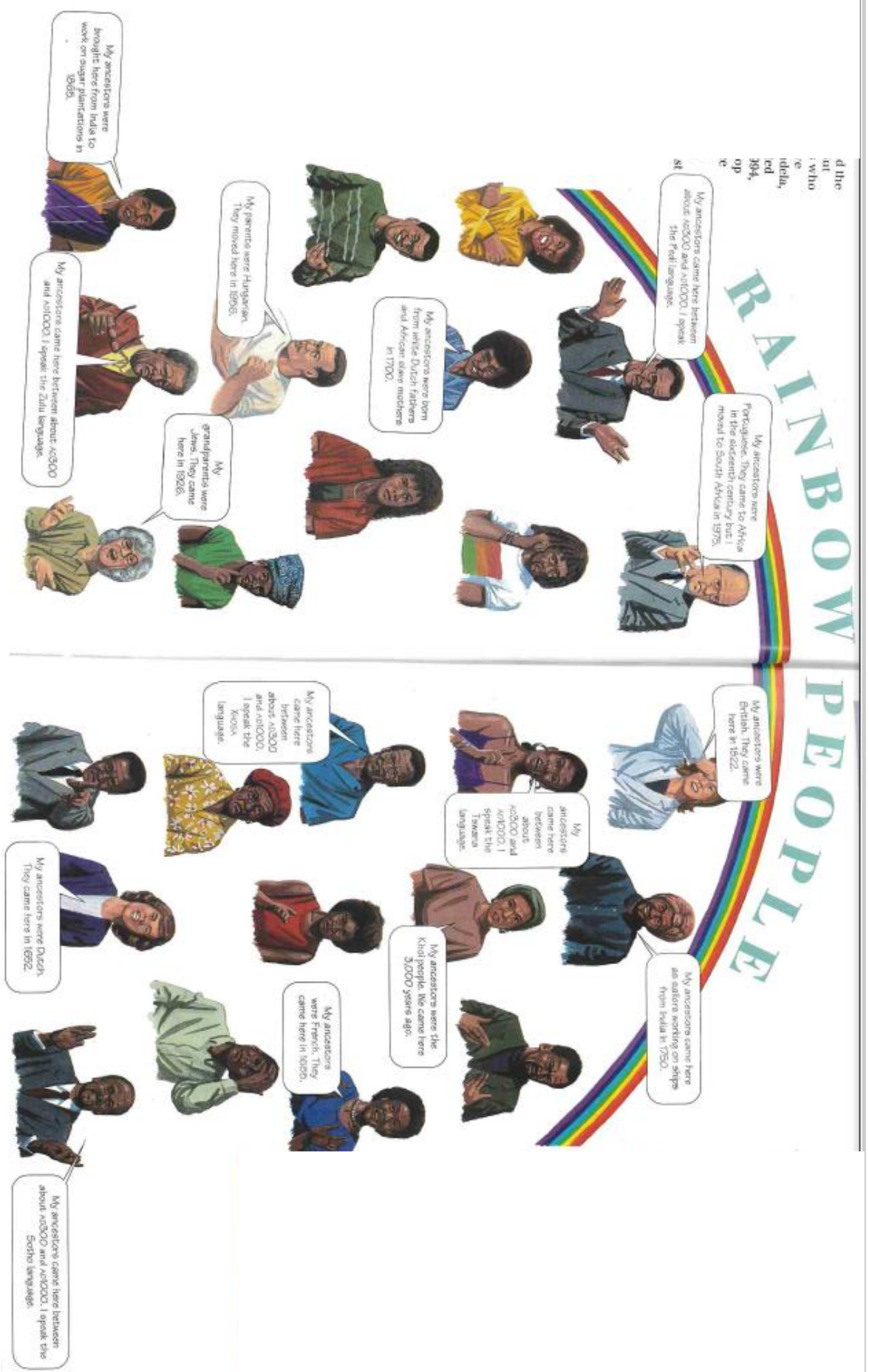
Name:

History Teacher:

Who are the South Africans?

South African is a country with a very diverse population due to migration to the country over many years. Both Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu have described South Africa as 'a rainbow nation'.

The diagram below shows just some of the people or groups who lived in South Africa.



Task: Using the diagram above complete the table below to show the different groups that arrived in South Africa

Date of arrival	Peoples who arrived
AD 300-1000	
1000-1500	
1500- 1700	
1700-1900	
After 1900	

What was life like for Black South African before 1948?

Task: read the table below showing some racist laws that were enforced between 1900-1950.

1911 Mines and Works Act and 1911 Native's labour regulations Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mines and Works Act: excluded Africans from most skilled jobs in the mines, which were reserved for white people Natives' regulation act: set down working conditions for Africans. They were to be recruited in rural areas (countryside), fingerprinted and issued with pass books which gave them permission to enter their area of work
1913 Natives Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restricted African ownership of land to 7% of South Africa. Many Africans were now forced to work for white farmers Most of the land Africans were allowed to keep was of the poorest quality – the land white people had not taken
1923 Natives (Urban Areas Act)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Africans should remain in cities only to work for white people for example, as servants Africans working industry or mining were expected to live in township - towns specially built for them on the outskirts of cities, and to leave when their contract ended
1927 Natives Administration Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up the Department for Native affairs, to control all matters relating to Africans.
1936 Native Trust and Land Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended the amount of land available to black South Africans to 13.6% of the total from the original 7%.
Representation of the Native Act 1936	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 10,000 Africans had been able to vote in the Cape on the same basis as white people, this act removed this right. This meant that only white South Africans had the right to vote.

Task: What do you think life was like for Black South Africans before 1948? Use evidence from the table above to help you answer this question

Task: Which of the laws above do you think had the biggest impact on Black South Africans? Why?

Apartheid Laws

In 1948 there was an election in South Africa which was won by a party called the National Party, they won lots of support from white south Africans whose ancestors had moved to South African from Holland many years earlier. The National Party's main idea was called apartheid, this was about separation of different racial groups in South Africa. They hoped that eventually South Africa could be split into different nations, some for Black South Africans (these were small areas of land inside the borders of South Africa) and the remainder of South Africa – all the cities and resources – would belong to South Africa a nation reserved for White South Africans.

Key Vocabulary:

Apartheid: policy or system of segregation or discrimination on grounds of race.

Segregation: Separation of races

Discrimination: treating a person or particular group of people differently, especially in a worse way from the way in which you treat other people, because of their skin colour, sex, sexuality,

Task: Write a sentence using each of the words above to demonstrate that you understand what they mean.

Task: Look at all the sources below and then create a list of the way apartheid laws affected Black South Africans.



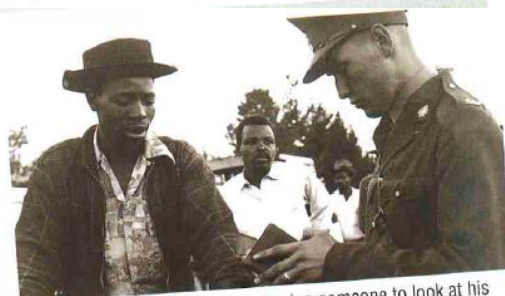
SOURCE 4 Signs in a park indicating areas people were allowed to enter



SOURCE 5 Military trucks moving people out of Sophiatown, Johannesburg, 1955

SOURCE 6 Dr Verwoerd, Prime Minister of South Africa 1958–66, speaking in 1952

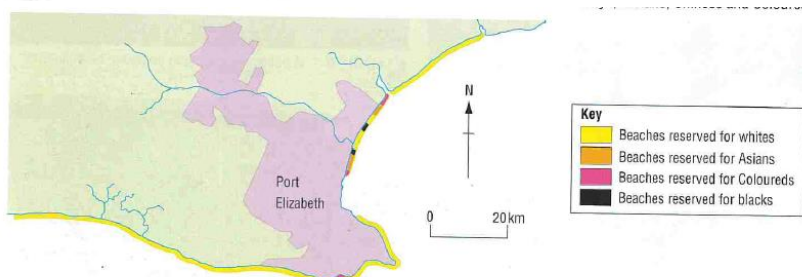
“The white South African’s duty to the native is to Christianise him and help him culturally. Native education should be based on the principles of non-equality and segregation. The native will be taught from childhood that equality is not for them. People who believe that are not suitable teachers of natives.”



SOURCE 7 A policeman stopping someone to look at his pass

f. Laws to define a person’s race and prevent any more people of mixed race being born

- **Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act, 1949:** made marriages between people of different races illegal.
- **Immorality Act, 1950:** made sexual relations between different races illegal.
- **Population Registration Act, 1950:** defined which race every South African belonged to.



SOURCE 5 A map showing how beaches around Port Elizabeth were divided into areas for use by different races

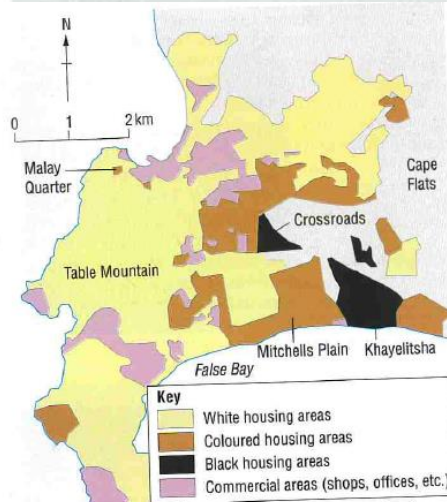
SOURCE 1 From the newspaper *Cape Times*, 13 December 1960

“At a cost of several thousands of pounds, a new subway for railway workers has been built to connect Salt River station with the Salt River Railway workshops. It will enable white and non-white workers to arrive at the workshops through different subways. But having arrived through their different subways, white and non-white workers will continue to work side by side inside the workshop.”

SOURCE 6 An extract from the oral accounts of the removal of blacks from District Six in Cape Town, collected by the University of Cape Town

Question: What do you feel about the Group Areas Act which moved you from District Six?

Answer: Oooo, don’t talk about that. I will start to cry. I will cry all over again. That’s when the trouble started ... when they chucked us out of Cape Town. My whole life ... changed ... What they took away they can never give back. I was far away from my family. All the neighbours were strangers. That was the hardest part, believe me ... They destroyed us.”



SOURCE 4 A map of Cape Town, showing how the city was separated into ‘white’, ‘Coloured’ and ‘black’ areas of housing

Ways apartheid effects Black South Africans:

[illegible]

How did people fight against Apartheid?

In 1912, in response to the lack of rights for Black South Africans, the African National Congress (ANC) was founded. It was to unite all black Africans to campaign for more equality. The ANC's founders wanted to protect black people's rights by peaceful action. Its leaders were educated middle-class men such as lawyers and ministers. However by 1939, it had achieved very little. In fact, restrictions on black South Africans had increased. In 1943, a youth league was founded, led by a young lawyer called Anton Lembede. Two years later, the ANC stated that their aim was to end the colour bar and get black people the right to vote. But when the National Party came to power in 1948, it was clear apartheid would make conditions for Black South Africans worse.

In 1949, a major split developed between the older members and the youth league. Younger members wanted the ANC to take more militant action to achieve equality. Walter Sisulu became the ANC's secretary general and the ANC adopted a new programme of action. This would involve strikes, demonstrations and other forms of civil disobedience.

Task:

1. What were ANC's aims?
2. Why did its methods change?
3. Which methods do you think would be most successful in fighting racism? Why?

The Defiance Campaign:

One of the most famous protest events organised by the ANC was the defiance campaign, this was a protest against 'unjust' laws, laws they felt were unfair.

This source is written by someone who took part in the Defiance Campaign. What can you learn from this source about the Defiance Campaign:

C Anthony Sampson described some of what they did in *Drum* (1956):

They walked out after curfew, travelled in European railway coaches, entered stations by European entrances. Everywhere they marched quietly and did what they were told by the police, singing hymns with their thumbs up. They always informed the police beforehand, to make sure they would be arrested.

I can learn

Details in the source that tell me this include...

I can also learn....

Details in the source that tell me this...

The Defiance Campaign was about deliberately breaking apartheid laws, part of the plan was to get arrested so that the police and prison system would be so overwhelmed by prisoners that they would not be able to keep up and arrest everyone.

Task: How do you think the government might react to this?

Another key event was the Freedom charter – The ANC worked with other organisations including the South African Indian congress, the coloured people’s congress and the Congress of Democrats (white) to create a document setting out their vision for the future of South Africa.

D The Freedom Charter (1955):

The People shall govern.
 All National Groups shall have Equal Rights.
 The People shall share in the Country’s Wealth.
 The Land shall be shared among those who work it.
 All shall be Equal before the Law.
 All shall enjoy Equal Human Rights.
 There shall be Work and Security.
 The Doors of Learning and of Culture shall be Opened.
 There shall be Houses, Security and Comfort.
 There shall be Peace and Friendship.

Task: What can we infer about the aims of the South African Indian Congress, Coloured people’s congress and the ANC from this extract from the Freedom charter:

How do you know this?

Sharpeville 1960

What, exactly, happened?

C *Chronicle of the 20th Century* (1988).

In one of the worst civilian massacres in South African history, 56 Africans died and 162 were injured when police opened fire in the black township of Sharpeville in the Transvaal. In other disturbances, seven died and 209 were injured at the Langa township near Cape Town.

D Douglas Brown: *Against the World* (1966).

... Sharpeville, the massacre in which 67 Africans were killed and 186 wounded, most of them having been shot in the back.

E Modiehi Mahabane was a Sharpeville resident. In 1990, she recalled:

I was standing at the door, quite nervous, when two white policemen called me. They asked me to give them water. I took a jug and took the water to them... They said, ‘You know, at two o’clock, we are going to start shooting.’

G Encyclopaedia Britannica Yearbook for 1960 (1961).

The official total was 67 Africans dead and 186 wounded, 48 women and children being among the victims. At the Langa township in Cape Town, on the same day, large anti-pass demonstrations resulted in the death of one African, the wounding of many others and the destruction of much property.

H *The Times* (British newspaper), March 22 1960.

After shooting in the morning, in which one African was killed and another seriously wounded, a crowd of several hundred Africans this afternoon began stoning the police armoured cars. Quite suddenly, there were bursts of firing, chiefly from Sten guns. The mob scattered, leaving about 80 people sprawled on the ground in a growing pool of blood.

I Joanmarie Fubbs was a white reporter (1990).

I saw a policeman taking his rifle-butt to several women who were trying to retrieve bodies. They weren’t shot down but they were rifle-butted and kicked and booted.

Task: Using all the sources above see if you can work out what happened at Sharpeville in 1960:

What happened at Sharpeville in 1960?

Umkhonto We Sizwe (MK)

After Sharpeville, the ANC were banned, and they decided to set up a military wing to organise violent opposition as they realised that the government were using violence, so they needed to respond with violence, but also that peaceful methods were proving ineffective. The ANC's military wing was called Umkhonto We Sizwe but became known as MK.

MK set up their secret headquarters in Rivonia a suburb of Johannesburg, MK bombed post offices, telephone lines and electricity stations. Mandela was working for MK secretly when he was arrested, the police could not prove any connection with MK so they charged him with minor offences. In 1963 the police raided MK headquarters and found documents make 18 people including Mandela guilty of treason. During this trial Mandela and the other defendants knew they would be found guilty and might be given the death penalty. Mandela gave a famous speech saying that they believed so strongly in their cause that they were willing to die. As a result of this they were sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labour, they remained in prison for 27 years.

- 1. What do you think the impact of the trial was on the ANC and MK?**
- 2. Why do you think the government didn't execute the accused?**

The Steve Biko story

1. Steve Biko was born in 1946. His father died when he was four and his mother struggled to bring up the family and to give her children an education.



2. Minorities were segregated. At the medical school of Natal University, Biko found himself among some of the clearest black students in South Africa. Biko soon emerged as the clearest, most exciting thinker about Black Consciousness.

If we think of ourselves as inferior to whites, apartheid will have won!

Apartheid calls us 'non-whites' - just by calling ourselves black, we strike a blow against the government!



6. Biko and his friends read the writings of Martin Luther King and Malcolm X. Black activists campaigning for civil rights in the US.



7. In 1969 Biko set up a students' union for blacks only - the South African Students Organisation (SASO). He wrote a column in the student newspaper under the name 'Frank Talk'.



I WRITE WHAT I LIKE

The black man has become a ball, a shadow of a man, completely defenceless, drowning in his own misery. I share the wonder the African has that he dares to take his heritage in his days at school. So negative is the image presented to him that he feels comfort only in close identification with white society. Part of the task is to bring back the Black Consciousness to the history of the black man and to the African background.

5. Black Consciousness was about ...

- pride in being black
- refusing to accept white superiority
- friendly whites - blacks could achieve by themselves
- knowledge about black African heros of the past.

4. Biko described watching a pair of workmen installing electricity in a house ...



The white boss was abusing the black man the whole time, calling him 'foul renner'. I asked the black man why he put up with it. At first, he said it didn't bother him, he was used to it ...



It makes me mad to have to stand there and take it, but what can I do? I read the po.

5. But once we were on our own he told me how he really felt ...



8. Biko travelled all over South Africa. He became known as a powerful speaker and someone who never let the white authorities treat him with disrespect.



It didn't matter where in South Africa, in rural areas or in townships, in towns or the suburbs, we always knew where to go, which policeman to go to. We would arrive in a place, someone at three in the morning. We would knock, the person would say no, but as soon as they heard it was us they would open and we would get six boxes of beer and two quarts of whiskey and a gunba (a party) started. ... We would all be used and I would fall asleep and wake up and Steve would still be in his chair, talking and drinking. And the thing that struck you was the great joy at being among people.



Wally Serote, a friend of Steve Biko in his student days, describes what it was like to hang out with him



9. In 1972 he was thrown out of Natal University for neglecting his studies. Biko began to work for the Black Consciousness Movement, which set up self-help projects for poor black people, but he was banned in 1973.

10. He helped to set up a health centre called Zanenphelo (which means 'The one bringing health'), run by Dr Ramphela, his lover.



11. The Black People's Convention also helped to set up Nyaxa, a cottage industry in which unemployed blacks produced leather goods.



This centre will be run by blacks, for blacks!

12. In 1976 the school pupils of Soweto started an uprising which spread to other townships. Biko had had no contact with the pupils but the students were inspired by Biko's ideas.



Steve Biko is a dangerous man! Arrest him!

13. Biko was arrested in September 1977. He was kept naked in a cell for eight days, beaten up and chained to a grill. He was then tipped into the back of a Land Rover, and driven 1,600 km to hospital, where he died. He was 30 years old ...



Task: What was Black consciousness?

Task: Record below:

- 1. Three things about Biko's personality**
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
- 2. Three things about his view on Black consciousness**
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
- 3. Three things he was good at in the Black consciousness movement**
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

Task: Why did the South African government regard this young student as such a threat to apartheid?

<i>Biko was regarded by the government as a threat to apartheid because he...</i>

Ending of Apartheid:

During the 1970s and 80s problems in South African continued, violence on all sides increased and other countries started to take more action against South Africa to convince them to change their policies. The country became almost ungovernable by the late 1980s as who towns broke out into violence, including black-on-black violence. The prime minister Botha brought in a series of reforms during the 1980s, but this had limited impact, in 1989 Botha resigned and F.W De Klerk replaced him as President of South Africa. De Klerk then worked with Mandela and other opposition groups to bring an end to apartheid and bring in a new democracy society.

The cards below give some of the reasons why De Klerk was forced to abandon apartheid

Why did de Klerk abandon apartheid?

1. He had to do something to bring South Africa back to a situation of law and order. It was on the verge of civil war and the government could not regain full control.

2. The South African economy was in deep trouble and would only get worse if things just drifted.

3. The National Party was losing support. It won a majority in the 1989 elections, but got less than 50 per cent of the vote. The Conservative Party, which opposed Botha's attempts to change apartheid, was the biggest opposition party.

4. De Klerk was very religious and believed God had called him to lead South Africa to a new future.

5. The Cold War had ended with a peace treaty between the USA and the USSR in 1987 and the destruction of the Berlin Wall in 1989. There was now no danger from an international Soviet threat.

6. National Party officials had had secret meetings with ANC leaders in England and Switzerland. They were impressed by the people they met and reported that the ANC was willing to talk.

7. The ANC might not do that well once it had been unbanned. Perhaps the National Party could hold on to power by working with other black organisations such as the Inkatha Freedom Party.

8. A power-sharing arrangement might be made, in which whites hung on to power, rather than elections on a one person, one vote system, which would leave the National Party in a minority.

9. Nelson Mandela had met with de Klerk. De Klerk respected Mandela and knew he needed Mandela's support to work out a solution to their country's problems.

TASK

The cards show some of the motives that people have suggested for de Klerk's extraordinary concessions in February 1990. Sort the cards into categories by listing:

1. Factors that were to do with the situation already existing.
2. Factors that were beyond de Klerk's control.
5. Factors that were to do with de Klerk's hopes for the future.

(Some factors may fit into more than one category.)

Task: Rank the cards above 1-9 to show how important you think each factor was in De Klerk's decision to abandon apartheid.

What do you think was the main reason that De Klerk abandoned apartheid? Try to compare different factors and explain why one is more important than the others.

[illegible]

Free election of 1994

For the first time in April 1994, 16 million black people were allowed to vote. About half of them could not read. They were given voting slip which offered 19 parties to choose from. Each party was shown by its official logo, its name and a photograph of the party leader.

In rural areas, voters walked up to 60 miles to cast their vote. People feared riots in the townships if people had to wait too long. In fact, white and black people patiently waited in line, sometimes for hours, and the election went peacefully.

The ANC won the election easily gaining 62% of the vote, the National Party achieved 20%. If the ANC had won 66% of the vote, they could have changed the structure of the government immediately, but they would have to wait until 1999 to do this.

In May 1994 Nelson Mandela became president, with De Klerk was second deputy president.

Task: Why was this election and Nelson Mandela become president so significant?

Task: Why was the ANC so significant in South African history?

Extension: Do some more research in actions taken by the ANC and other groups to protest against apartheid.